

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT

# MESSENGER

VOICE OF THE WEST AFRICAN UNION

MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

VOL. 11.

JUNE 1957

No. 6.

## NIGERIA HEARS THE ELEVENTH-HOUR MESSAGE

By Pastor David H. Hughes

Nigeria! With its population of 31,500,000, and its 13,655,000 Moslems and 6,371,000 Christians has been invaded by the 20th

Century Bible Lecture Crusade. Evangelist C. D. Henri and his evangelistic team have raised the standard high in Lagos. Multitu-



Pastors Welch, Henri and Hughes together with the evangelists who have assisted in this campaign

des have been attracted to God's Message for these last days and many have made and are making decisions for eternity.

It was on the night of January 13th that stirring tones began to fall from the lips of Evangelist Henri in Glover Memorial Hall. Tones that had that certain sound; tones expressing and revealing the way of Christ for these times; tones that were sooner or later to bring many to the cross roads of decision for Christ, for the Sabbath and for the Remnant Church! Over 800 persons sat and listened with keen interest only to return night after night to satisfy the hunger and thirst of their souls. After 85 days and nights of preaching and teaching and reasoning from the scriptures; after 85 days and nights of visiting and praying, there are over 150 interested souls and over 90 attending the Sabbath services in Lagos! God has blessed and is blessing the efforts being put forth by His servants.

Among those that have made the three-fold decision for Christ, the Sabbath and the Remnant Church are Mr. E. G. Sadare. Mr. John Bandele Ogunbadejo, and Pastor David Oni Oguntade. Mr. Sadare, a printer, had a knowledge of the Sabbath truth from childhood. His father was a minister and taught and preached the sacredness of the seventh day Sabbath although he was not a Seventh-day Adventist. After attending the meeting nightly and inquiring in private conversation about different truths presented, he is now a faithful Sabbath keeper walking in

the truth that his father once preached. Mr. Ogunbadejo is in the postal service for the government and has been for 21 years. He holds a supervisor's position at present. He has not as yet received his Sabbaths off but is nevertheless keeping the Sabbath, losing four and five days of work out of each month. His case is now under consideration by the postal authorities. Mr. Ogunbadejo knew much about the truth for these last days through the reading of books written by Seventh-day Adventist writers. He was the husband of three wives but now the husband of only one wife for he was convinced that a Christian should follow the teachings of Christ fully and completely. Pastor Oguntade is a minister in the Faith Tabernacle Church. He holds the position of Sunday School Superintendent for his church in all Nigeria. After attending the meetings faithfully with his family, he and family are now Sabbath keepers. He has given up his position and former church to walk in greater light. A great work is yet to be accomplished for many are still groping in the dark valley of indecision. This is the challenge the evangelist faces after the sound of the preaching and singing have died away.

The evangelistic team is a cosmopolitan one. The members of the team come from Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia and from all corners of Nigeria. These evangelists, which are ten in number, attended a Field School of Evangelism every morning from 9.30 to 11.30 four days per week. The following subjects were presented:

- Bible Doctrines
- Practical Evangelism
- Music and Directing
- Homiletics
- Denominational History

The evangelists proved to be good students with a grade average for the class of 80 per cent. The instructors were Evangelist C. D. Henri, Evangelist D.H. Hughes and Mrs. Hughes.

Due to circumstances the meetings were held in two different halls per week. Tuesday and Thursday night meetings were held in St. George's Hall and Sunday night meetings in Glover Memorial Hall. At present a third hall is being used for Sabbath services (Forester's Hall) due to the fact that neither of the other two halls could be secured for Sabbath services.



A section of the large audience who listened to The Eleventh Hour Message.

On April 7th the last meeting was held, but it was no less spectacular than the opening night. As usual the question and answer period began at 6:00 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m. sharp with a fifteen minute song service the regular service began. Something unusual took place in this particular meeting. For weeks many of those who regularly attended the meetings were also taking the 20th Century Bible Course. On this the last night of the meetings, 30 diplomas were presented to the students who had successfully completed the course by Pastor Welch, president of the West African Union. It was on this occasion that Evangelist C. D. Henri expressed his gratitude to his evangelistic team for their faithful co-operation and energetic service during the campaign. The members of the evangelistic team are as follows:

Singing Evangelist, Pastor David H. Hughes - Liberia  
Organist and Pianist, Mrs. Jane H. Hughes - Liberia

#### Evangelists:

Mr. S. K. Boamah - Ghana  
Mr. M. E. Ampate - Ghana  
Mr. M. Boimah - Sierra Leone  
Mr. S. A. Sessay - Sierra Leone  
Pastor W. Limejuice - East Nigeria  
Mr. G. I. Dickay - North Nigeria  
Pastor J.N. Imebuagu - East Nigeria  
Mr. J. E. Adewoye - Lagos, Nigeria  
Mr. G. A. Solademi - Lagos, Nigeria  
Mr. J. D. Owolabi - Lagos, Nigeria

#### 20th Century Quartette

Mr. C. Adeogun - Nigeria  
Mr. N. Gibson - Liberia  
Mr. J. G. Chinwah - Nigeria  
Mr. Z. S. Awe - Nigeria

Evangelist C. D. Henri realizes that this campaign is only the crossing of Jordan, for there now lies before him in area 373,250 square miles containing over 31,000,000 souls to present the Judgment Hour to during these last days. This is the great Nigerian challenge, but with it comes the words of promise, "... as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Deut. 1:5. With this thought in mind Evangelist Henri will begin another series of 20th Century Bible Lectures early in May May the great challenge of Nigeria find a place in your daily prayers.

## Thrilling Experiences in Spear-head Campaigns in Oyo Province

By Evangelist D. K. Omoleye,  
West Nigerian Mission

At the beginning of 1957 an arrangement was made by the President of the West Nigerian Mission, Pastor G. M. Ellstrom, for me to conduct several evangelistic campaigns during the year in the Oyo, Abeokuta, Ijebu Ode, and Benin City areas. During formulation of the plans, it was decided that the first meetings should be held in the town of Oyo, and also in the suburban adjacent communities.

Prior to my arrival in Oyo, letters of invitation were sent to all the V.O.P. graduates in the area, informing them of the meetings to be held especially for them, and also for the public. As a result, many were expecting my arrival for the meetings: not only in Oyo, but in the surrounding towns of Awe, Fiditi, Ilora, Iseyin, and Shaki.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to gather all the V.O.P. Students in the area into one place; therefore, separate programmes were arranged in several different places.

On March 8, we visited Awe, a small town only 2 miles from Oyo. The first meeting was held there, and the students were encouraged to come to Oyo for the other meetings.

We held several meetings in Oyo township: the results appeared to be insignificant, but we were grateful to God who gave us the opportunity to witness for the Truth.

March 11 was one of our busiest days in Oyo. The V.O.P. students in Oyo Baptist Boys' High School were visited. The Principal of the School, a kindly Christian Yoruba man, received us cordially. We introduced ourselves and explained the purpose of our visit to the School. He arranged one classroom for us in which to meet the students. About 32 former and present V.O.P. students gathered together.

The students were resident in the School and were not permitted to go off the campus to attend public meetings. Fortunately, there was a farm-house located close by the High School, and negotiations were undertaken with the owner to make the building available for the holding of our meetings. The Principal agreed to permit his students to attend our services there.

On March 12, we visited the oldest teacher training College in West Nigeria, St. Andrew's College, Oyo. We approached Prin-

principal Kale, who appeared very friendly. He gave us permission to contact the students at 1 p.m. or their lunch break.

However, he objected to our holding any religious meetings on the College compound, and would not allow the boys to leave the school premises because of a current outbreak of a smallpox epidemic in the town. Despite all these restrictions, we found time to hold two private meetings with the five students in this educational institution.

As a result, two of them told us that after finishing their period of training they will follow the right course in serving God. One of them was Mr. Afuape of Ibadan, who during School vacations had attended many of my private Bible studies at Ibadan in 1956.

We held only two meetings at Ilora, a town 2 miles from Oyo, because the students there frequently came to Oyo to attend other services. The students here were greatly interested. After each meeting they eagerly asked, "When are we going to have another meeting?" As a result, one young man decided to keep the Sabbath, and we left many other interests there.

On March 17, we visited Oyo General Hospital where Dr. Humphrey Kinman, an S.D.A. physician and surgeon, is serving as the government medical officer. Although he was not well during our stay at the town, yet he invited me, through Mr. Timothy Ajai, one of his qualified nurses (a Graduate from Ife S.D.A. Hospital), to address the patients on the Wards.

I accepted, and spoke twice. They were happy to hear the message of Truth, and, told us that it was quite different from that which they usually heard from other denominational bodies visiting the Hospital there from time to time.

I twice travelled to Fiditi, a town about 10 miles from Oyo. On the first visit we conducted a large scale house-to-house visitation campaign, and met many notable persons who told us that they had much interest in the teachings and activities of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission. Several of them enrolled for the V.O.P. Bible Correspondence Course.

The second meeting was held in the town's Court Hall. We had a gratifyingly large audience who eagerly listened to the Words of truth. Many present came from Fiditi Grammar School, and from other High Schools in the town. We enrolled a large number of individuals in the Bible Correspondence Course. Some of them were Headmasters of various Schools in the community.

Prospects of excellent future results from such places as Fiditi are bright and encouraging.

On the 19th of March I travelled over 30 miles from Oyo to Iseyin, where I had the most thrilling experience and greatest success of my entire itinerary.

I went to Iseyin to meet some 17 V.O.P. students, all of whom attended the Oyo/Iseyin Divisional Training College. Upon arriving I went immediately to the College, and was directed by a student to the Principal's Office. The Principal, a broad-minded, godly man, received me with Christian Courtesy.

I introduced myself, and explained my purpose for visiting the School. He welcomed me cordially, and after a few moments of friendly talk, he permitted me to contact the students who were then in their dormitories after a short recess from physical training.

The students expressed their joy at seeing me and indicated that they had been waiting and expecting my visit for some time. In a few moments I was surrounded by a group of fine young men who were eager to hear what I had to say to them. After a brief explanation of my purpose in coming, they all said with one voice, "The Principal will not allow us to go out to attend any meetings, unless you can convince him to do so."

I hurried back to the Principal immediately, and explained that I would like to hold a special meeting with these V.O.P. students who were only 17 in number. The Principal voiced his objection to their attending any meetings outside the College premises, giving his reasons.

Then he suggested that if "I would not mind," he would arrange for a meeting in the College Hall, and he asked me not only to address these 17 V.O.P. students, but also the entire College student body numbering more than 250.

He requested the senior tutor to make necessary arrangements for this meeting, and these were completed with dispatch. When every thing was ready, the tutors, the Principal, and I entered the Hall, and I was introduced to the assembled students.

God was with me, and I delivered my message tactfully, explaining many details about the operation of The Voice of Prophecy at Ibadan.

I had opportunity for giving a forceful testimony on the changes, and transformations that the Course has been accomplishing in the lives of many people all over the

(Continued on page 5)

# THE GIFT OF GUIDANCE TO GOD'S PEOPLE

By G. D. King, Secretary,  
Northern European Division

"And by a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved."—Hosea 12:13.

It is a firm belief among Seventh-day Adventists that God has greatly blessed the Advent movement through the manifestation of the gift of the Spirit of prophecy. In the providence of God this gift came at a time when guidance and preserving power were most essential if the cause of God was to triumph and to fulfil its God-given purpose. Naturally, many influences were brought to bear upon the young church as it built up its theological teaching and its organizational framework, and throughout this growing and developing period the personal presence of the servant of the Lord, with her clear and practical counsel, meant much to the establishment of the firm foundations upon which the church has been built.

Today we do not have the personal presence of God's servant through whom the gift of the Spirit of prophecy was manifested, but the gift of prophecy is with us as much as ever in the great heritage of her writings which have been left to us for guidance and preservation. A new generation of workers has arisen, our membership has vastly grown in recent years, and it is more than even essential that the blessings which have come to us through the Spirit of prophecy be known and experienced in these modern days. Mrs. White herself, writing in *Life Sketches*, page 196, makes this remarkable statement: "In reviewing our past history, having travelled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

Looking back over the leadership of God in the Advent movement we are made constantly aware of the fact that the Lord's overriding providence has meant much to the movement and its leadership, and reliance upon the guidance of God, as revealed through the gift of the Spirit of prophecy, has always brought strength and

power in the midst of perplexity and difficulty. In the first exodus movement counsel was given which must always be remembered by the church of God today: "Beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage." (Deut. 6:12.)

Upon this special Sabbath, when study is given to the blessing that has come to us as a movement through the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy (Rev. 19:10), we should renew our own personal confidence and belief in this outstanding blessing, and reaffirm our denominational position relative to its importance. In our own personal relationship to the counsels of the gift it is well for us to remember the word which has come to us through Sister White herself in *Gospel Workers*, page 289: "Those who are under the influence of the Spirit of God will not be fanatical, but calm and steadfast, free from extravagance in thought, word, or deed." May we all in our service and our personal experience realize more and more the blessing which can be ours in the acceptance of this great gift of guidance to God's people.

## Thrilling Experiences in Spearhead Campaigns in Oyo Province

(Continued from page 4)

world. At the close of my talk, the students vocally expressed their appreciation for the message.

Then Mr. Ibok-ete, a senior tutor, gave a stirring speech in support of what I had just said. He declared to the assembled student body that he himself had taken the V.O.P. Course a few years ago, when he was at Ibadan. He added that the Course was very helpful to him, and to others who sought for the salvation of their own soul. We advised the students not to miss this golden opportunity, but to enrol at once if they had not done so before. He paid great tribute to the work of Seventh-day Adventists on this unusual me-

(Continued on page 7)

## Our Supreme Hour

T. L. Oswald, Secretary

Home Missionary Department General Conference

All over the world the cry of a child sounds the same. Who asks the nationality of a hungry child? Or a child that mourns for a mother that has been swept away forever by a disaster or an epidemic? Human suffering observes no boundaries; neither does mercy or generosity. That is why when the cry of those who are not as fortunate as we are comes to our ears it touches our hearts, and we respond to that need.

Each one of us will answer humanity's cry for help in an hour of need such as we are facing in so many lands. The hungry person anywhere in the world needs food. He needs friendship. He needs to know that someone cares. The individual or family that has lost all in a disaster, and receives help from the Adventist Church, has a kindly feeling to the people of the church. He knows that he is not alone, that he is not forgotten.

More than two million people received help in 1956 from the Seventh-day Adventist Churches. What joy that has brought to those in need. And in return for what we have done for others, God has blessed us. Last year in our Disaster and Famine Relief Offering the members of our churches responded in a most liberal way. In North America alone, over \$171,000 was given by our people. We say, "Thank you for what you have done!"

With part of that money, food and clothing was sent to the twelve orphanages in Korea. Ten thousand dollars came from that fund for the refugees of Hungary. The flood refugees of India and Pakistan were shipped food and clothing provided from the 1956 Famine Relief Offering. Haiti, Colombia, and the people of the Caribbeans in the hour of their disaster and persecution all received food and clothing provided for from the offering. We could go on and mention other countries to whom we have sent relief in the time of disaster.

Hungry people need not only food, but also the hand of friendship. They need to know that someone cares. In our Famine Relief Offering that will be taken this year we hope to receive in the North American Division \$200,000 with which to help those that are in need. We appeal to every member of the church and to all our friends to make the offering a very liberal one.

## What My Eyes Have Seen

By H. E. McClure

Secretary, Far Eastern Division

During the last few months of 1954 and the first part of 1955 one million refugees left North Indo-China in search of liberty and to escape persecution. These refugees poured into Saigon, port of entry to south Vietnam, by the shiploads. Every available inch of space on the ships was utilized. I happened to be in Saigon at the time of the arrival of the "General Brewster", U.S. naval transport vessel.

It was a touching and never-to-be forgotten sight to watch those refugees walk down the gangplank with all of their remaining earthly possessions, in most cases consisting of only a crude box, a rough sack over their shoulders or a few baskets in their hands. These refugees, of course, had no idea where they would be going when they arrived in Saigon. The government, however, had provided trucks into which they were packed, and as rapidly as possible took them to the various refugee centres in the city and its environs. I stood watching this milling throng faced with the prospect of life in a new location not knowing where the next meal was coming from, and my heart went out to them in deep sympathy.

I walked along the waterfront and a pathetic sight greeted my eyes. There I saw hundreds of little hovels and shacks which had been quickly and crudely thrown together from bamboo, tin and even cardboard. Some of these were built out over the water attached to piers. Venturing to glance into the door of some of these little hovels we saw whole families consisting of mother, father, several children and in some cases grandmother and grandfather huddled together in a little space hardly large enough for one person. Mothers were nursing their babies and here and there a sick person who had been exhausted by the rigor of this long trip on the vessel and the new life of hardship.

Walking away into the centre of the city we saw many families cluttering the sidewalk, some of them asleep, others with their hands out asking for a little money to purchase a little rice to stave off starvation. Some were lying on dirty cloths or mats which had been spread across the sidewalk. I then stood before the old Opera House in the centre of the city. It had been a magnificent thing in the heyday of French influ-

ence. Now it was packed with refugees, and the sidewalks on all sides had become the temporary home of many hundreds of people. They cooked their rice crudely over little fires set up here and there. On the outskirts of the city refugee camps had been thrown together, but the government, of course, was completely unable to cope with the situation as this seething mass of humanity with its manifold needs had suddenly been thrown upon it.

To greatly complicate matters, just about this time civil war erupted in Saigon. It involved the Central government and some of the rebel sects. Many innocent victims were killed and many thousands of homes were burned. It was reported that more than 30,000 people were in a few hours deprived of their homes.

Our hearts flowed out in pity as we watched the poor people file silently by, their meagre possessions over their backs, in their arms, or, if fortunate thrown across a bicycle. There they came—men, women, and children—the expression on their faces reflecting the agony through which they were passing. They did not know where they were going, they were simply going, hoping to preserve their lives and what few possessions they could.

A request was hastened to the General Conference for help. In response several tons of clothing and other needed supplies were quickly dispatched. These were judiciously distributed among the refugees as well as to our own people who had recently emerged from the cruel war which had taken place in the country.

I quote expressions of thanks from two of our Churches who received benefit from these shipments. From Tourane and DucMy near the seventeenth parallel, in the pastor's own English, came this expression: "In the name of the Adventist Mission in Tourane and DucMy I beg to send you my very best thanks for your gift of 15 bags of clothes. We shall be grateful to you if you could convey our hearty thanks to the General Conference and to the Dorees committee for their donation and their love to us. At first we sent five bags to each of the two churches. It remained five bags which we distributed to the poor population of DucMy and Tourane. We held night meetings in our Mission. In our town there is a 'Charity Day' for the new year. We packed our gifts in many parcels which we sent to the Town Council to give

to the poor with a notice, 'Donation offered by Seventh-day Adventist Mission'."

From Vam Nhon came this message (running translation by Pastor Wallace at that time president of the Mission): "We, the church board of Vam Nhon Seventh-day Adventist Church, represent all our members in extending our thanks to our brethren in America for their gift just received. For the past nine years we in this area have suffered very much through war and unrest. Our church members have suffered much along with the rest of the population from hunger and loss of all our earthly goods. This effort on your part to help us re-establish our homes is greatly appreciated, and will always be remembered as a token of your brotherly love."

And so from the Far Eastern Division we do indeed express our heartfelt thanks to our brethren and sisters everywhere for their generous contributions in clothing, food and money which have helped to alleviate suffering in many areas throughout our territory. We appeal to you not to forget the poor throughout the world at this time. May God give us all generous hearts in contributing to the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering so that we shall be prepared wherever and whenever emergencies may arise. We shall witness more and greater calamities as we near the end.

---

### Thrilling Experiences in Spearhead Campaigns in Oyo Province

(Continued from page 5)

thod of reaching so many souls for Christ.

In bringing the meeting to a close, the Principal encouraged his students to devote much interest to gaining a knowledge of the word of God.

The students asked many questions, and I endeavoured to answer them briefly. The Principal announced that those who had personal questions should wait behind for a private interview with the visitor. More than 30 students stayed behind for further personal guidance. They asked questions on points of religious differences, and Biblical principles including the Sabbath question. Finally, three students, Messrs. Oguntona, Oladeji and Adesope promised that though they were yet under the influence of the College authority to observe Sunday as the Sab-

bath, yet, they would try to make every effort to observe the true Sabbath of the Lord which is Saturday.

When the meeting was over, the Principal took me to his house and entertained me. That occasion gave both of us better opportunity for getting better acquainted and for further spiritual talk. It was then that he told me that he had once taken the course, but unfortunately he was unable to complete it due to his sudden transfer from Ibadan to Warri. But now, he said, he would try to complete it soon.

Continuing, he said, that when he was at Ibadan he attended our Sabbath School in Oke-Bola many times. He said he really enjoyed and admired the manner in which we teach and discuss the Word of God during the Sabbath School sessions. He spoke highly of the "Signs of the Times," and requested additional copies.

On March 20, I returned to Oyo for the final farewell address, and the seeking of individual decisions. Though the success of our public efforts in Oyo appeared to be limited, yet the Lord was good to give us opportunities for witnessing for His Word. I said the success was limited, yes, limited in these respects:-

1. It was a one-man spearhead evangelistic campaign.

2. The interests aroused were too wide scattered, and as a result it was not possible to organize them into one branch Sabbath School. But, we thank God because:-

1. Many who had never known the message before have now heard it. Among them were men of responsible position and high moral standard.

2. Some have taken their stand, even, though they are far separated from others of similar convictions.

3. Finally, Mr Ajose and his family, with some other V.O.P. students at Oyo, have decided to keep the Sabbath faithfully. Mr.

Ajose has been doing so now for the past few months. His conversion was a wonderful experience. He is employed as mechanical engineer at the University College, Ibadan, and has promised to write an article about his own conversion as a result of taking the correspondence Course from the V.O.P. in Ibadan.

If a regular programme of visitation is planned for Oyo and the district, a rich harvest of souls is sure to be gathered for the Lord. We have waited too long in our old stations. Let us move and advance into new places. Let us faithfully do our individual part to spread the good news of salvation to men and women every where, for in this way we may contribute largely to hastening the coming of our Lord.

---

## News Notes

---

We have just concluded a very successful workers' conference at Bekwai. Articles will appear in the next issue. Our Motto was "Serve Jesus now."

The Headmasters from our 57 schools will study together for a few days with Elders Rasmussen and Simonson.

The Literature Evangelists then follow with their conference.

The office extension is going up rapidly. The book and Bible House needs more space for our expanding literature work.

We have been very happy for the following visitors to our field:-

Elder Rasmussen from the General Conference; Elder Simonson from the Northern European Division; Pastor Welch from the West African Union; Pastor Coon from the Voice of Prophecy.

Our tithe for the first Quarter shows an increase over the amount for the corresponding period of 1956.

Pastor Keslake's course in "Training Light Bearers" is going to increase the number of souls won in Ghana.

Pastor Coon's pleading for the Voice of Prophecy will not go unheeded, Ghana will not disappoint you.

The President has now visited 100 churches and companies checking over 2,000 baptized members.

### *The Advent Messenger*

Official Organ of the  
West African Union Mission of  
Seventh-Day Adventists.

P. O. Box 1016, Accra, Ghana

Editor - - - - - H. J. WELCH  
Assoc. Editor - - - - - H. S. PEARCE