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GREETINGS - TO THE CHURCH IN WEST AFRICA

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

It is always a joy and privilege to visit in West Africa and to see the leadings of God in the upbuilding of His Cause in this important field.

We are living in days of rapid developments in the affairs of the world and in the accomplishment of God's purpose for and by the church. As I have visited again throughout North and West Nigeria and in Ghana during the past six weeks I have naturally been impressed with the changes that are taking place and which will of necessity affect various aspects of our Denominational work. I am particularly impressed with the courageous and forward looking way in which the leaders here, both African and Overseas Personnel, are approaching the problems that always beset a progressive programme, whether it be in Medical, Educational or Field Evangelism.

The Institutions I have been privileged to visit indicate that God is blessing the leadership and those associated with them and I am confident that God has great things in store for you all in West Africa as you move forward together with Him.

The Workers Meeting I attended in Ibadan was a time of spiritual refreshing and inspiration and the spirit of consecration manifested at that gathering should mean much in the soul saving plans of each worker.

The recent Union Committee meetings also were impressive by means of the

breadth of the problems and the spirit in which they were approached by the Committee brethren. The goodwill and fellowship that prevailed throughout the week that we were together in session was a most happy feature of the meetings. Pastor Welch and his associates reveal a dedication to the task here in West Africa which will surely continue to be a source of strength to the work throughout the whole field. As I now leave for visits in other fields of our Division territory I want to send to all our believers in West Africa my personal greetings and assurance of my prayers on your behalf. May your faith in God and His Cause be continually strengthened and your hope and courage never fail. "Hope and courage are essential to perfect service for God. These are the fruit of faith. Despondency is sinful and unreasonable." (Prophecy and Kings p. 164.) "Cast not away therefore your confidence." Hebrews 10:35.

With sincerest
Christian greetings.

Pastor
G. D. King



A Statement Regarding Seventh-day Adventists and Politics

Editor's note: For some time there has been a call for a statement as to what attitude Seventh-day Adventists should take in regard to political activity. The emergence of a spirit of nationalism and the consequent development of new nations in West Africa have raised questions in the minds of some of our people. The following statement is a resolution passed at the time of the full West African Union Mission Executive Committee held at Accra July 16 to 23. It will be noted that the statement deals first with the situation as regards the laymembers of the church and then proceeds to lay down principles to guide the worker who is in the employment of the church.

Resolution

Whereas the Scripture teaches that we are to "... render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's," Mark 12:17, and "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. . . ." Romans 13:1. Seventh-day Adventists hold that every Christian has an obligation to be a good loyal citizen of his community and of his nation, faithfully obeying the laws of the land and contributing by his influence and his means to the welfare of the community and state. He will recognize however that he is also a citizen of the kingdom of God, and that where there may be a conflict of claims that his duty to God (the highest power) takes priority over all other claims as is indicated by the words of Acts 5:29 "We ought to obey God rather than men."

In accordance with these principles the church urges all its members to conduct themselves as exemplary citizens of their community, paying their taxes and obeying its laws in as far as they do not conflict with the laws of God. Whether to vote or refrain from voting is a matter of individual conscience to be determined by the nature of the issue. The right of each member to hold opinions concerning political matters and to express these opinions in a peaceable and proper way is respected by the church. The church does however recognize that the aligning of one's self with

partisan politics may weaken the witness of the one so doing as he endeavours to win souls for Christ, and although it does not legislate concerning this matter as far as lay members are concerned it does strongly advise every member to use great caution to avoid becoming involved in such activities as may weaken his opportunity to proclaim the Bible Message for this generation. It is of course understood that a member must avoid any activity that involves physical violence, rioting, dishonesty or other transgression of the law of God. Certainly the Seventh-day Adventist will not partake of any form of political activity which causes him to desecrate the sacred hours of the Sabbath.

The case of our ministers and teachers, and indeed of all regularly employed Mission workers, is quite different.

It is a widely accepted political principle that the nature of their employment prevents some men from actively participating in politics. It has always been the mind of our Church that its representatives suffer this same disability. A man or woman whose primary objective is to seek the salvation of all men cannot permit himself to participate in any practice, or to form any association which will certainly separate him from many other men and women and so render more difficult the carrying out of his God-appointed task.

Politics is a full-time occupation when actively pursued. And so is the work of God. It therefore becomes an obligation upon every Mission worker who is urged to enter politics to choose which of the two activities he will pursue. In the case of the ordained minister he will have to consider his answer to God if he chooses to devote himself to the work for which he was not ordained. It is Jesus his Lord and Master who says: "No man can serve two masters. . . ." Matthew 6:24.

The Church therefore calls upon all its agents to use all their time and talents in carrying out the single task to which God has called them and to which they have accepted appointment. "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve . . ." Joshua 24:15.

Blind Old Juju Man Surrenders To Christ

By B. C. Bamfo Debra

District Leader, Ghana Mission, Accra

Do you know what the power of the Gospel is doing in Ghana?—Well, come with me to Abiriw, near Akropong in the Akwapim hills, a distance of about 36 miles from Accra.

It happened one fine Sabbath afternoon. I visited the Company of our believers in this Town. After the Sabbath Service, Brother Agyakwa the Church Leader and I went out from house to house visiting.

In a certain house, we saw an old blind man about ninety years old. I approached him and greeted him, giving him my hand. He pressed me warmly and asked me the object of our visit.

I told him we have come to tell him the story of Jesus, His love for him and His promise to come again to redeem the world from the shackles of Satan domination. I told him something about the New Earth, in which the eyes of the blind like him will be opened. . . . Isaiah 35:5, 6.

The old man gave a deep sigh and after a long pause, told me he would think of what I told him. I prayed with him and left.

Sometime later, word came to me from the Church Leader that the old man wanted to see me. I went up immediately to see him. This time, it was a very happy experience.

The old man brought out an old raffia made hand bag, pulled out something from it saying:—“Take it, this is my juju. I don't want it. There is no power in it. I want Jesus to open my eyes when He comes. Pray for me that the Lord may forgive me my past sins.”

With faces beaming with happiness and hearts filled with joy, we led him to the Throne of Grace.

Papa David Kwafo (for that is the name of the old blind man) was among the ten candidates who were buried with their Lord in the watery grave by Pastor E. Keslake, on that memorable day of June 22nd, 1957.

The progress of the Advent Message in this part of Ghana looms high in the horizon. There are more and more souls ready to be gathered in. Pray for us that Papa

David Kwafo will remain faithful to the truth, for by his conversion, many more souls will be brought to Christ. Already his eldest son has accepted the message.

“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.” “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest.” Matthew 9:37, 38.

Editor's Note: On August 2, Papa David Kwafo passed away and was given a Christian burial by the church at Abiriw assisted by the Editor and the author of the above article. We are glad that our brother sleeps in Jesus. What if some one had not taken him the message of Jesus?



District Leader Debra and Papa David Kwafo

Covetousness Abhorrent To God

“It is the spirit of covetousness which leads men to keep for gratification of self means that rightfully belong to God, and this spirit is as abhorrent to Him now as when through His prophet He sternly rebuked His people, saying, ‘Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me.’”—“Acts of the Apostles,” page 339.

Come with me for a while to places you have been before or perhaps contemplated to be there sometime. How thrilling it is to sit back and relax, and with the mind's eye view the distant glories of unfulfilled dreams. By the way, how would you feel, when after leaving school for 24 years the call comes to you to study at a higher institution and to sit together behind the desk with students fresh from Grammar School? Yes, that was my experience, but I was not dismayed.

Saying "farewell" to Gold Coast on the 15th of August 1956, I went on board of the "Aureol" for England to study at Newbold. It was one of the adventures and milestones in my Christian experience and a further preparation for the Master which I will not easily forget.

The voyage was a pleasant one, and a relaxation after several years of service with few holidays, but it was also one full of mixed feelings, feelings of excitement, of expectation and of high hopes. Now and then a thought would arise within me as we sailed on. What and how is Newbold? How can I adapt myself to this new home? What would be the attitude of the students and the faculty towards a foreign and black student? What about the climate, the so much dreaded winter?

You will see with me my anxiety and yet my determination, too. At last the voyage was over, customs and immigrations passed through I was on the train from Liverpool to London, now a 'would be' student.

During the waiting time for the opening of the College, I stayed at Stanborough Park at the Hydro. My first appointment for Church Service was at Walthamstow Church on the Sabbath of September 1st, which was later followed by similar appointments in the churches of Southampton, Reading, Worcester and Birmingham.

At Newbold activities and tension increased as students began to arrive at the Binfield Hall, men's residence, and at Moor Close, administration building which also is the girls' residence. Small boxes, big boxes, flat boxes, boxes like African coffin, caught the view of an observer, as the eager students made their way to their assigned dormitories.

Greetings, handshakes, laughing and 'hello' resounded through the halls over and over again as friends met friends and new acquaintances were formed. The new student lost in such an atmosphere of excitement could easily be made out as he or she looked

My Experience And Norv

By C. B. Mensah, Associate

Ghana Mission
Part I

bewildered at the old students, some of them had been there for almost eight years. Good John Batts who probably knew Newbold better than any one of the students was very busy as he tried to help and cheer the 'hommos' to find their way and to know what to do.

That was not the end of the rustling and bustling, for Wednesday and Thursday, the 12th and 13th of September brought their long remembered activities, the "Registration." Long queues had already been formed before 9.00 a.m. and the questions could be heard: "Please, where is the Business Manager's office?" "Can you show me the Palm Court?", "Excuse me, where can I find the Principal's secretary?" "I say, do you know Room 43 where I can get an interview with the Principal?" Why were all these questions being asked? Because a pink coloured paper with the following instructions were given to every student.

1. First of all call at the Business Manager's office. The Business Manager will arrange what work you should do and will indicate the hours of work required to meet your financial obligations to the College. Hand to him your National Health Insurance Card and Income-tax Form if previously employed.

2. Then proceed to the Palm Court where the Registration Committee will arrange your programme of studies and give you your class cards and schedule. If you are a new student, bring to the Registration Committee any school records and examination certificates in your possession.

3. Take your class cards and schedule to the Principal's secretary in Room 42 (First Floor).

4. Then go to the Principal in Room 43 for a personal interview and chapel seat assignment.

The full programme of classes and chapel exercises commenced on Friday and continued until the Christmas holidays. Realizing that this was a great opportunity for

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ident,

me to study I registered in nine subjects, for looking through the list of them I said to myself 'I need this one here and that one there, and oh, how useful that one over there will be to me in my work', I therefore wrote them down not knowing what a heavy burden I was going to shoulder. I was enjoying my studies and time seemed to pass very quickly. The Spirit of Prophecy and Daniel and Revelation subjects were very dear to me, and I was careful not to miss any class period of these important subjects.

Then came the time for assignments, followed by tests and examinations and at last I found that I had made a mistake. I had taken too much but with the encouragement of the Principal and the teachers, I pressed on and ever since I have learned by experience that perseverance overcomes difficulties.

Games and Social Evenings

The college life at Newbold is a busy one. Starting at 6.30 a.m. with Chapel exercises, it continues till the lights are out at 10.00 p.m. Between the classes and private study periods, washing up of plates, domestic and outdoor work is done by some students. But in spite of the congested programme, there is time for games and social evenings.

First Year's Entertainment

It was a memorable time, the night for the First Year Students to display their talents before the College and the Faculty. There was a Sing-Song, a recitation, an organ recital and games from the different nationalities represented there. "Come to Newbold" a song which related the College life and had not been well practised was mumbled with great fun for the audience.

Boys and Girls Nights

A time to invite the forbidden girls to the rooms of the boys as well as the boys to the girls' dormitory. The theme of the boys night was "Noah's Ark." Fancy dresses in

the costumes of pigs, gorrillas and cats were displayed. What the powers of the world had not been able to bring about, only Christianity has been able to do, as it was evident at Newbold College. Different nationalities, but all lived together in unity. Hand in hand, with one mind, one heart, everything was done. It was the first time the boys tried their hands in cookery for the entertainment of their guests. Some of their rooms were decorated to resemble the dens, sty and folds of the various beasts which went into the ark.

Dressed in the finery of Elizabethan costumes, the girls and the boys made the evening of the "Girls Night" a picturesque one. The Town Crier with her antique bell announced every item of the programme which included recitations, dialogues and concerts.

Arts and Craft Night

Every student was anxious to master at least one vocation when the arts and crafts were introduced. Woodwork, barbering, baking, cooking and photography were some of the hobbies but I wonder how many of the students were adept in any as the enthusiasm with which they started died away before the close of the year.

Masters as Servants

Not quite a small commotion was noticed amongst the students as one Sabbath evening, the Principal, the Dean and all the Faculty dressed in the white jackets of the college dining-room waiters came with trays at tea time and served. What a sensation it was as these masters became servants and responded speedily to the request of their disciples. It brought to mind the words of Christ which say: "I am among you as He that serveth." Yes, example is better than precept. These faculty members did not only come to serve in the college dining-room but twice during the college year all the students were invited to their homes and were entertained with light refreshments and games.

Visitors

Sermons, Mission stories, experiences and pictures from other lands are enjoyed regularly from missionaries going to and from mission fields.

Yes, Newbold seems to be the centre of a great world-wide work, and frequent calls from missionaries as well as General Conference offices are made.

A celebrated violinist in our Voice of Prophecy in France called Claude de Meyer and

his wife came and gave a recital there, and the world famous Adventist Negress Singer G. Laster charmed the College with her beautiful pieces one Sabbath evening.

Missionary Activities

The Friday nights were filled with programme of the Light Bearers which featured the soul-winning work of the Church as a whole, but the Missionary Volunteers with their motto "What will you do with Jesus" did not run a vague programme. Through dialogues, demonstrations and pictures they showed what the youth in the early ages, during the middle ages, and today did and can do for Jesus. There were illustrations of how the youth have responded to the call "What will you do with Jesus" both in the Mission lands and in the home base.

With such worthy ambition in mind the Big Day and the Harvest Ingathering found the energetic youth all out for greater work for the Master, passing the goals of previous years. The crowning event of the College was the graduation service. Feverish preparations were made for this dignified occasion in spite of toil and strenuous studies for the final examinations which meant sleepless nights and hours of earnest concentration, and revision of all the lessons learnt.

The large tent was built and words got round that about 2000 visitors were being anticipated. June 2 was the memorable day. The visitors began to arrive in cars, buses, on bicycles, motor cycles and others by trains. New faces, old faces, workers, laymen, white, black, young and old, almost from all over the British Isles they came in numbers, and the College ground was filled all over with people. Dining rooms were not needed as here and there groups of people sat and enjoyed the food from their food boxes, waiting patiently for the decisive hour. At last it was 2 p.m., the long waited for hour, and people began to take their places according to their cards. The spacious tent was filled to overflowing but still there were others who wanted sitting accommodation, and thanks for foresight and planning an extra small tent raised in case of insufficient sitting place saved the situation. The attendance was 1800 strong. All was hushed. It was the time of the marching in. Headed by the maintenance official, the faculty with the Division President and the General Conference President marched through the aisle in their gowns, hoods and caps to the platform while the congregation stood

up. Then followed the Graduation Class who also marched to the tune of the organ and took their seats at the front of the congregation. After the honourable guest speaker Elder R. R. Figuhr had given the graduation sermon, touching on the points of sincere living and earnest service for God, one by one the class was called up to the platform for their diplomas. The solemn and impressive occasion came to a close after a response was made by one of the students to the challenge.

Thus as it were the activities of Newbold for the year came to an end, but Newbold with its Sabbath afternoon activities, a walk, Bible games, sweet fellowship and hard studies will ever remain an unforgettable experience in my life. I am glad I was sent to Newbold. It has been a blessing to me and I thank all those who contributed to make this possible for me, and I pray that this investment in my life may be a means of useful service in the Lord's vineyard.

Tomorrow Never Comes

TODAY is here. I will start with a smile, and resolve to be agreeable. I will not criticize. I refuse to waste my valuable time.

Today has one thing in which I know I am equal with others—time. All of us draw the same salary in seconds, minutes, hours.

Today I will not waste my time, because the minutes I wasted yesterday are as lost as a vanished thought.

Today I refuse to spend time worrying about what might happen. I am going to spend my time making things happen.

Today I am determined to study to improve myself, for tomorrow I may be wanted, and I must not be found lacking.

Today I will act toward other people as though this might be my last day on earth. I will not wait for tomorrow. Tomorrow never comes.

Selected from **Sunshine Magazine** July, 1957.

Ibadan Workers' Meeting

By G. M. Ellstrom, President,
West Nigerian Mission

It was with a note of courage, great faith in the Message and a determination to put forth greater efforts than ever before to finish God's work that we closed our Workers' meeting in West Nigeria on the 3rd of July. We had spent a wonderful week together discussing our problems and laying plans for greater and more effective evangelism throughout the field.

The forbearance and fellowship that prevailed in all the meetings made one feel that the Lord was very near. The evening meetings, conducted by Pastor G. D. King, Secretary of the Northern European Division, were a challenge to all of us to become mighty men for God. This with the Lord's help we intend to do. Pastor C. D. Henri, who was with us the last three days of our meetings gave us some inspiring studies and some valuable instruction in soul-saving. These, with the helpful counsel of Pastor Coon, Brother Gustavsson, our local Pastors and other workers filled these meetings to the brim with good things.

Thirty-one workers, including ten teachers who spent four days with us, enjoyed the instruction given. Many took part in the discussion period after a topic had been presented which contributed much to a better understanding of these subjects. The good spirit that prevailed in all of these discussions made them very pleasant occasions.

A soul-winning goal of approximately 400 new believers was set for the next 12 months by the evangelists. May the Lord help each one to attain his personal goal.

I trust that the inspiration and the spirit of revival manifested in this Workers' Meeting will be carried to our membership, and I believe we shall see great things accomplished in West Nigeria.



West Nigerian Workers Meeting

Temperance Resolution Passed by The West African Union Committee

Whereas, Our denomination has from its beginning taught and practised the doctrine of total abstinence from the use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages, and

Whereas, We are faced with constant pressure to compromise or yield in our opposition to the manufacture, sale, and distribution of tobacco and alcoholic drinks in their various forms,

VOTED 1. That we reaffirm our historic position on these vital questions so clearly taught in the Holy Scriptures.

2. That we launch out on a stronger programme of education in our churches and institutions, reviewing our position and confirming old and young in these high and holy principles.

3. That we begin a well-organized training of promising young men and women of talent and consecration to serve as leaders and teachers in the field of Christian temperance.



West Nigerian Workers Study the Motto Board

Pastor Dickay Takes Over As President In East Nigeria

By H. J. Welch, President,
West African Union Mission

By the time this issue of the *Messenger* reaches the field Pastor A. J. Dickay will have taken over responsibility as the President of the East Nigerian Mission. When it became known that Pastor A. E. Farrow who was the President was returning permanently to the home land the Union Committee in session unanimously elected Pastor Dickay to be his successor in office.

Pastor Dickay is well qualified by experience for this office, having held various positions of responsibility in the Mission. In 1950 he was the West African delegate to the General Conference Session in San Francisco U.S.A. While in America he spent one term studying at the Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. The last two years he has served very acceptably as Secretary-Treasurer of the East Nigerian Field. We believe that God will bless his leadership and we pray that he may find strength and grace from above to carry the heavy burdens which go with the office of President.

News Notes

✱ Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Bamfo Debra on the birth of a son, Samuel Akuamoah, July 9 1957. Evangelist Debra is leader of the Accra District in Ghana.

✱ At the time this issue goes to press Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Simons and their three children will have arrived in Aba where Mr. Simons will be taking up his work as Secretary-Treasurer of the East Nigerian Mission.

✱ The many friends of Pastor and Mrs. Pearce were sorry to learn that it was necessary for them to leave Accra for their home in England. The doctors have ordered Mrs. Pearce to return to U.K. for medical treatment and it was felt wise for the entire family to accompany her. Pastor Pearce states that he hopes if possible to come back for a short time to finish up his work in the Advent Press. The entire West African Union family wish Brother and Sister Pearce bon voyage and earnestly pray

that Mrs. Pearce may be soon restored to health and strength. Pastor and Mrs. Pearce have given many years of service in West Africa. They were previously located in Ibadan where he ran the Advent Press and at various times carried other responsibility including the work of Secretary-Treasurer of the West Nigerian Mission and also Acting-President of that Mission. Since the Press moved to Accra he has had the major responsibility in building it up to its present status. We shall greatly miss Pastor and Mrs. Pearce and their family.

✱ During August Mrs. Kate Garbrah of Ghana and Mrs. J. A. Oyelakin of West Nigeria left to join their husbands who are in training at Newbold College.

✱ Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. and Mrs. Peter Lowe who were united in marriage in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Accra on July 24. Mrs. Lowe was formerly Margaret Sanders, Nursing Sister at Kwahu Hospital, Dr. Lowe is connected with the Hospital as staff doctor. Mrs. E. Lowe, mother of the groom, and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Sanders, parents of the bride, flew out from England to attend the wedding. The marriage service was performed by Pastors J. A. Hyde and H. J. Welch, Glynne Meredith acted as best man and Mrs. Elsie Farrell as matron of honour. Also attending the bride and groom were Lynette Rigby and Roy Newman.

✱ Dr. and Mrs. Paul Gensler with their family arrived to take up work at Ife Hospital during July. We welcome them to their new home.

✱ Mention should also be made of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Turnbull who have arrived at Jengre Hospital to assist in the work there. Mrs. Turnbull is to be Nursing Sister in charge and Mr. Turnbull will take over the responsibility of Business Manager of the Hospital.

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