

MAY 11 1959

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT

MESSENGER

VOICE OF THE WEST AFRICAN UNION

MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

VOL. 13

APRIL—1959

No. 4

WEST AFRICAN CONSTITUENCY MEETING *Special Issue*



*Delegates and Visitors to Constituency Session and Council at Ihie,
Nigeria, Jan. 7—18*

“The church of God below is one with the church of God above. Believers on the earth and the beings in heaven who have never fallen constitute one church. Every heavenly intelligence is interested in the assemblies of the saints who on earth meet to worship God.”—“Testimonies,” Vol. 6, page 366.

Reports

from The Biennial Constituency Session

At the time of our constituency, so many interesting reports as to the progress of the work in the West African Union Mission were given which we wish to share with our readers.

Surely God is holding His hand over the work, and such encouraging reports help to stimulate each worker and each layman to greater service in soul-winning.

UNION DEPARTMENTS

President's Message
Secretary-Treasurer's Report
Ingathering
Sabbath School
Voice of Prophecy
Publishing

President's Message

Taking as his text, Isaiah 60:1, 'Arise shine, for thy light is come,' Pastor H. J. Welch, President of the West African Union brought to our notice what a wonderful thing light is. This light is needed to lead men and women home. We cannot arise and shine, unless 'this light' is come into our lives. Jesus is the light of the world. We are to be sure that our lamps are trimmed and burning, otherwise the glass of our lamps will be smoked up.

Selfishness, racialism and kindred things can creep in and prevent our light from shining. Our one aim is: **EVANGELISM**, and all sections of our work should contribute to this end.

Our lights may be small, but God can use them, if each of us will let his light shine, we can make West Africa glow. God has His great lights, but we are His 'lower lights.' Let us make sure that they are burning, thus warning mankind of the perils around them.

Pastor Welch then asked those assembled to join him in the re-dedication of their lives to the fulfilling of the work in West Africa. All responded by standing while Pastor N. B. Nielsen offered the dedicatory prayer.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Pastor N. B. Nielsen, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union presented his report. In this encouraging report, we can see that progress within this Union is being made. On the matter of membership, we find that this now stands at 19,870, which shows an increase since the last session of 2,716 souls.

The graph showing the tithe comparison indicates continued progress. The total tithe income for the period being £83,795.

It requires large sums of money to carry on mission work in West Africa, the same as it does everywhere in the whole world. It is only by the grace of God and by the work of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of God's children, that the funds needed from year to year are being freely and gladly given by our church and Sabbath School members, as well as by our many friends in all lands.

It may be seen from the summary of the financial statements for 1955-1957 that there has been a substantial increase in our annual income and expenditures. This, in itself, is a good indication of increased and extended activities, and is as it ought to be, so long as the funds available from year to year are carefully handled and wisely ad-

ministered for the steady and solid advancement of God's work.

As we review our activities as a mission society in this part of the world field for the past three years, there are so many things for which to thank and praise God. Let us take courage and press forward in the good work so well begun by God's workmen who have laboured before us, and who have opened the way for the great Advent Movement in West Africa.

Ingathering

Brother F. C. Barfoot had been asked to take over the 'Ingathering' branch of the Home Missionary Department, and it was an inspiring report that he had to give. As a result of his visit with Brother Robert to business premises, the North Nigerian goal was raised by 500%, and mention was made of the fine contribution of £600 collected by the Ife Hospital. Brother Barfoot encouraged us 'To raise our sights and climb the heights in 1959.' No comparison was given with the previous period, but the total Ingathering raised in the period under review amounted to £22,226.

Sabbath School

In his report on the Sabbath School Department, Brother F. C. Barfoot told us that the membership of the Union now stood at 52,328 which is 6,505 more than at the end of September, 1956 and 11,140 more than at the end of September, 1955. We can rejoice in the fact that in the three-year period 1956-1958 a total of 4,302 Sabbath School members were baptized.

Voice of Prophecy

In presenting his report, Pastor D. H. Hughes said that, had it not been for the providence and leading of God, the progress and accomplishments of this department would have been impossible. We were encouraged to learn that for a number of years the West African branch of the Bible Correspondence School has held first place in most phases of this work in the Division. It also accounts for 65% of the total graduates for the entire Division. The staff of 17 Nigerians in the Ibadan office is serving up to 6,000 active students in the constituency. During the period 1955-58, a total of 36,453 students have graduated from one of the four courses offered. In the same period the total number of baptisms reported was 152.

APRIL 1959

Brother Hughes appealed to all to continue to hold up their hands in support of this important phase of God's work.

Publishing

The Publishing Department report brought to us by the Secretary, Brother F. C. Barfoot was one of progress and encouragement. We now have 85 Literature Evangelists as compared with 53 in 1957. The literature sales for 1958 amounted to £24,872, showing an increase of £5,985 over the previous year. The total amount of sales for the period under review being £63,607. Surely God is to be praised for this achievement.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

*presented by the Ihie Village
to the West African Mission of
Seventh-day Adventists at the
Union Constituency Meetings
held in Ihie, Nigeria,
from 7th to 18th January, 1959.*

"Pastor H. J. Welch, the West African Union President of the Seventh-day Adventists, his Associates from the Union Office, our West African Mission Presidents and their own Associates, the Principal-Manager of the Nigerian Training College and the Adventist High School and his Associates, the Heads of our Medical and other Institutions here in West Africa, visitors from the General Conference and the Northern European Division of the Adventist Organization and Delegates from the various Adventist Churches throughout West Africa.

"We the Citizens of Ihie are happy to present our Welcome Address to you and to say in our own dialect *Unu Abiala*. We are pleased to have you in our midst today. It seems that since you have been having your conference at Ihie we have not been playing an active part, but by God's Grace we have been warmed up to present our address of welcome to you. We are thankful to God for the travelling mercies which He has bestowed upon each of your groups represented here."

MISSIONS

Sierra Leone Mission
Liberian Mission
Ivory Coast Mission
Ghana Mission
West Nigerian Mission
North Nigerian Mission
East Nigerian Mission

SIERRA LEONE MISSION

Annual Report 1958

By A. M. Moyer

Sierra Leone, the oldest Mission in the West African Union, looks forward to a new day. Our motto as Pastors, Evangelists, teachers and workers is "Forward With Christ." God has richly blessed us this past year. In the absence of the President, the Secretary-Treasurer with his co-workers carried heavy responsibilities. The tithes held their own contrary to the fact that there has been a serious recession. The Ingathering goal of £450 was reached and exceeded by £150 making a total of £600. A goodly sum was raised by the harvest festivals which a number of years have been neglected by our Churches.

A number of evangelistic efforts were conducted during the year. One of our young evangelists prepared 22 souls for baptism. Our total baptism reached 104 and according to the number in the preparatory classes we should have a considerable increase of baptisms in 1959 over 1958. One of the big problems is lack of workers. The Church out of which the above 22 candidates were prepared will be without a worker for the next two years at least while the evangelist is receiving further training.

The educational work has shown good increases in number of students, teachers and schools. All of our schools had to add teachers except two. One new school which started at the beginning of the second term with one teacher closed the school year with 52 pupils. This school built at Samuel-Town, near Waterloo, by the Rural Education Authority was turned over to the Mission at the request of the citizens of the community. More than eighty percent of our teachers are trained.

The Sabbath School department has shown good gains under the leadership of a part time assistant Departmental Secretary. The Sabbath School offerings have

shown a 10 percent increase over 1957 and the 13th Sabbath offering for just 3 Sabbaths of 1958 was 10 percent more than for 4 Sabbaths of 1957.

The Missionary Volunteer, under the leadership of the Assistant Departmental Secretary, to our active part in the Ingathering and 37 were baptized into the Church. A small but interesting Youth Camp was conducted at Yele. One of the highlights of this Camp was the Sabbath afternoon uncitation programme which created good publicity for the camp and good-will for the community. One group entered the court and a member addressed all present concerning the objective of our Youth organization.

With confidence and faith in God we the members of the Sierra Leone Mission, move "Forward with Christ".

LIBERIAN MISSION

By M. T. Battle

We are grateful to our heavenly father for the blessings He has bestowed on the Liberian Mission during the past three years. We have earnestly endeavoured to proclaim the soon coming of Jesus in all of our activities. We shall not burden you with many words but shall attempt to outline very briefly some of our many accomplishments during the past three years.

The Facts

Opening of the first Medical Unit in the Liberian Mission Konola Clinic—Supervisor—Mrs. F. Cantrell R.N.

Two new primary schools opened with plans for two more in 1959.

Purchased land for new headquarters in capital city of Monrovia. Added two additional years to Konola Training School making it a full 12 grade Secondary Institution with the first 12th grade graduation class in November 1958.

IVORY COAST MISSION

G. Gutekunst, President

Highest Ingathering in History of Mission (1958) nearly £1,000. Largest baptism in history of Mission (1958) 195, total membership 1205. Four new churches added. Total baptized membership 115. Sabbath School membership 210. Eight new Sabbath Schools established.

First class of laymen completing training course as offered by the H.M. Department.

In 1958 we completed the first unit of our new headquarters in Monrovia. (On behalf of the workers and the constituency of the Liberian Mission we wish to express our sincere gratitude and grateful appreciation to the Northern European Division, to Pastor Tarr and to the West African Union Mission for the 13th Sabbath School Overflow which has helped to make this accomplishment possible.)

Completion of Konola Training School and Administration Class room building—Dedicated November 1958. Guest Speaker, His Excellency Richard L. Jones, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia.

First Industry started at Konola—Cabinet and Furniture making, rubber plantation—12 acres—more than 1,000 trees.

Evangelistic course incorporated in the Konola curriculum with 5 young men definitely preparing for the gospel ministry and who will qualify to enter our new Union Theological College.

City Evangelism—Onward march L. E. Daniels, Evangelist for the Mission just completed an effort in virgin territory—results 37 converts (Harding and 5 students)

Nearly 50 persons baptized as the result of our active laymen. (New church Zoehgeh membership 28)

Three active Dorcas societies.

Under energetic leadership of M.V. Secretary, M.I. Harding, this branch of service has witnessed its greatest period of development. (Largest number in the history of the Mission completing various stages of the M.V. classes in 1958 including more than 25 Master Guides.

Public Relations Department—Excellent success during this three-year period. Full news coverage in our daily papers. One example: During the recent visit of Pastor V. G. Anderson to Liberia, two audiences with His Excellency Dr. W. V. S. Tubman, President of Republic of Liberia, and on the latter visit presenting him with volumes one and two of "Footprints of Jesus".

Eight new workers added making total working force including teachers 43.

THE LIBERIAN MISSION SHALL CONTINUE ON THE "FORWARD MARCH" TO FINISH THE GREAT TASK BEFORE US!

APRIL 1959

G. Gutekunst, the President of the Ivory Coast Mission gave an oral report on the progress of the work in his field. Although this is one of the smaller fields in the Union, the work is moving forward. There are now two foreign families in the field, and a good school has been established at Divo, which will train workers for their field, and this is one of their greatest needs. A primary school at Divo is crowded to overflowing, and still the children come seeking admittance.

During 1958, the Harvest Ingathering work went very well with more than £700 being collected. The church membership is now 193, and of that number 58 were baptized in 1958.

GHANA MISSION

Triennial Report 1956 — 58

By W. J. Newman

"I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe though it be told you." Thus spoke the Lord to the prophet Habakkuk 1:5. How true this has been during the last three years in Ghana. Without faith it would have been impossible to see God's hand leading and guiding in the "strife and contention." Hab. 1:3. Praise and honour is due to our Creator for the souls saved and the progress made.

The Secretaries will report on their departments.

Financial Report

By John Rigby, Secretary-Treasurer

When making a report on the finances of the Mission and on comparing the figures for the relevant period we look for and expect to find progress. The financial thermometer usually indicates the physical and spiritual condition of the Mission membership. It is gratifying therefore to report progress even though it is not spectacular.

Page 5

Tithe Income

Regarding the Tithe it has been felt for some years that the income has been far below the potential for the membership and our workers have been encouraged to educate the members more fully on the matter. We can now see the results in the increase of Tithe of 28%.

Sabbath School Offerings

In reviewing the Sabbath School Offerings for the same period we find that there is a 30% increase over the 1953-55 period. In spite of this we are sure that our membership could do even better.

Harvest Ingathering

The period under review, 1956-58 has been one of consolidation and we are confident that our faithful members under the blessing of God will see in the next triennial period, should time last, a rapidly expanding work built on a firm foundation.

Education

By J. Akumanen Mensah

Education Secretary

It can easily be gathered from the table below that progress in the numerical strength of our Educational Unit in Ghana is not in any way outstanding. We thank God, however, that we can still be held responsible officially for the satisfactory management of 57 schools out of the 4,432 Primary and Middle Schools in Ghana. In addition to these 57 Public Schools we are helping to run over a dozen Private Church Schools which are serving as evangelistic spearheads. In all we are directly influencing over 7,000 boys and girls in Ghana in Primary and Middle Schools alone. To be added to this number are the products of the S. D. A. Seminary at Bekwai-Ashanti.

Home Missionary

1956 to November 1958

C. B. Mensah

Home Missionary Secretary

Do you know that the majority of souls won during the last 3 years in the Ghana Mission were won by the laymen? Yes, they go out, into villages and towns, public places and the homes of the people, during the day and early mornings, individually and collectively these noble men and women are witnessing for their Lord. It is no wonder that their labours were rewarded with 730 souls.

Dorcas Society

The Dorcas Society has taken a new impetus. It is just interesting to observe one of the Societies going out one day with their head loads of various gifts of food baskets, firewood, clothing and First Aid Kit.

They do not confine themselves to inside programme but they believe in practical work, helping their neighbours in caring for the children, cleaning their homes and treating simple ailments.

Harvest Ingathering

"Sunday is the day. Come in every one of you. We are going to storm the town. We will not leave any stone unturned. Do your best and the Lord will bless your efforts." That was the challenge of the Ingathering Promoter.

£178.13.11d. was realised from house to house collection.

S.D.A. Teacher Training College — Bekwai

By R. D. Jordan, Principal

In reporting the activities and growth of the teacher training college at Bekwai, during the past Triennial period, one would be pleased to paint a rosy picture of progress and achievement beyond all expectations; and in many respects one can report satisfying results from the efforts of the staff. It would be decidedly unrealistic, however, to suggest that this has been a period free of problems, without setbacks and disappointments. But the most gratifying aspect of the report is that the problems have been met without defeat or surrender, the setbacks reversed and the disappointments well nigh forgotten. This makes it possible now to report only progress and development not only in the teacher training department but in the institution as a whole.

As for the teacher trainees, there has been an increase of 6 in certificate 'A' candidates and there will be an increase of several in the certificate 'B' group in the coming year. Last year 21 certificate 'A', and 28 certificate 'B' students were graduated and in the school year of 1958 which has just closed 32 certificate 'B' students were graduated. The evangelistic students number at the present 13, a figure which has necessarily been kept small because of the plans for the evangelistic training centre in the immediate future. For this reason only four evangelists were graduated this year the last such exercise to be held at Bekwai.

There is a current drive afoot, sparked by the tireless efforts of Pastor Louis Nielsen, to raise funds for an adequate and representative chapel on the compound for use by both the students and the community members.

The boundaries of the compound are being extended; 40 more acres have been added in the forest north of the school site and are being cleared for agricultural expansion. It is hoped that income from farming endeavours will grow to a profitable level for the improvement of the school in general.

S.D.A. Secondary School — Bekwai

By I. H. Dunton, Headmaster

The two years under review have seen considerable growth.

In January, 1958 enrolment climbed to 130. The School population is becoming more stable.

The twin problems of securing Adventist pupils and Adventist staff are not yet solved, but over two-thirds of the new Form One are from Adventist homes. We shall have two Ghanaian Adventists on the staff this year (1959).

1958 was the first year of operating under Government 'encouragement,' an arrangement whereby the Ghana Government pays the salaries of teachers. This has meant the dilution of our Board with non-Adventists, but no clashes of principle have yet occurred.

There is a tension between our church responsibilities and academic standards. While we wish to help Adventist young people to gain an education, we do them no service if we encourage them to stay in School when they have no aptitude for the course, which is academic and not vocational.

We may close on the optimistic note that the school is gaining the confidence of the public and more important, of the Ghana constituency. We hope that the membership will take increasing advantage of the School so that it may serve and be served by Adventists.

Sabbath School Report 1956 — 1959

By J. A. Boateng

Sabbath School Secretary

The importance of the Sabbath School in the denominational programme cannot be

APRIL 1959

overemphasized. The express purpose of its existence still continues "to seek and save that which was lost" (soul-winning agency). This fact makes the position of the Sabbath School a unique one in the church, and in the world work.

It is always a cheering thought and a delight when a report on the Sabbath School is called for. In it one sees increases and accomplishments as a result of combined efforts in fulfilling its objective.

Publishing Department

By Israel Ampofo, Secretary

The steady growth of our Colporteur Force for the past three years has been very encouraging. Like Esther and other holy women of old, some of our women have caught the same vision of sacrificial life and the Lord is using them miraculously.

Evangelism General

Brother G. Q. Bonsu was stationed at Bibiani in 1956 where there was no church. He courageously organized a Branch Sabbath School. As a result, the Mission has stationed a District Leader there.

Press Relations

By R. D. Jordan, Secretary

The press and radio have been generous in coverage and fair in their treatment of the activities of the Ghana Mission during the past year.

Most of the publicity centred in the activities and events of the Seminary at Bekwai.

Missionary Volunteer

By J. A. Boateng, Secretary

Early this year the Advent Youth Society was admitted to the full membership of the Ghana National Youth Council. There are many advantages we shall enjoy. We therefore look into the future with eyes full of hope for the Advent Youth work in Ghana.

We need not feel complacent about the results so far, for there remaineth yet more to be done. And because "we are living in a time of special peril to the Youth" we will continue to enlist more youth under the banner of Prince Emmanuel. May we all consolidate all our energies and forces for the finishing of His work in Ghana.

WEST NIGERIAN MISSION

Progress Report 1955 — 58

By G. M. Ellstrom, President

For West Nigeria 1958 has been a banner year, the biggest year we have ever had. God has been good to us and we wish to thank Him for His protection during the last three years since our last Constituency meeting, for the many blessings He has given us and for the results we have realized from our labours. As this was my furlough year and I was gone about seven months I lay claim to very little credit for what has been accomplished this last year. I feel also very free, therefore, to praise my fellow workers and our faithful members for what has been done. Under the leadership of Pastor Adeogun, who was Acting President for seven months, and the able support of Brother Gustavsson, our Secretary-Treasurer and Educational Secretary, problems have been solved, goals have been reached and the work has gone forward in West Nigeria. Now let us scrutinize the achievements more closely as we study separately the different phases of our Mission work.

Evangelism and Baptisms

Our Field Evangelist was out of the field for a large part of the year, so we had no large city effort which we are hoping and planning to have this coming year. We were happy to have our Field Evangelist from West Nigeria selected to represent West Africa at the General Conference. Pastor Adeoye has been visiting many churches and giving a good report of what he saw and heard while he was overseas. This has been an encouragement to our people and we hope it will give them a vision of the great responsibilities that are theirs in preaching the soon coming of Jesus.

For the first three months of the year we had Pastor Henri and his family with us. He conducted a large effort in Lagos with good results. We were glad that he could return and reap some of the fruit of his labours. He met me at the ship in Lagos and told me there were to be twelve baptisms in Lagos that day. He then took me to Abeokuta where I witnessed his own baptism of five. The Henris were appreciated in West Nigeria and their stay did the field a great deal of good.

Brother Adewoye and his evangelists have continued this programme of evangelism in the Lagos area with good results.

Voice of Prophecy

The Voice of Prophecy, now under the leadership of Brother T. K. Olufemi, is continuing to function as a separate department in the Mission.

Sabbath School

In our field, as I believe is the case in all the world, the Sabbath School department functions well with the least promotion. There are many things which we can improve, but our people do attend the Sabbath School. During the year we have increased our Sabbath School groups, including our Branch Sabbath Schools to 74.

Missionary Volunteers

Brother Adewusi, who is our Sabbath School and also our Missionary Volunteer Secretary has been working hard to make these two departments advance in membership and activity. We have many Junior Societies that are active because of our Schools, but there are only a few Senior Societies functioning well, so there is still much to do. For the last few weeks especially Brother Adewusi has been busy holding Investiture Services throughout the Field. The year ends with a total of over a thousand children and young people invested.

Literature Evangelism

It is written "the Ministry of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church has faced many problems in other parts of the world." This is true and the problem is not less in the Western Region of Nigeria. However, we have contributed to the preaching of the true gospel through the printed page in Nigeria. By this and other efforts we have disturbed Satan in his evil plans.

Some years ago, there was fear among the brethren regarding ordering of subscription books because of want of men to sell them. I believe today that fear has melted and the leaders order both Spirit of Prophecy and subscription books without fear because the number of our colporteurs has risen from two to twelve.

There was no year as you have seen that we did not add success to success. The Lord is blessing us. We have contributed much to keep the Voice of Prophecy working by enrolling many students.

Missionary Activities

"The Lord calls upon our youth to labour as canvassers and evangelists, to do house-to-house work in places that have not yet heard the truth."

Educational Secretary's Report

By Sievert Gustavsson

There is hardly any other department of our Mission that has developed so fast as has the Department of Education. We have during the last five years more than doubled our teaching-staff and the number of children enrolled has an increase of about 150%.

We are so thankful to God for this wonderful progress. We believe that we in our children have a precious material to mould for the church. We believe that the church will grow stronger as these thousands of children, who have had a sound Adventist Education, will take their places of leadership. Knowing our responsibility towards the church and God we realize the importance of making our schools to be real Adventist Church schools, as far as this is possible with the present set up with Government Grant and no financial support from the Mission.

As the College at Ihié seems to develop to an East Nigerian Training College, we

members in West Nigeria strongly appeal to the West African Union to grant us sufficient funds to develop our Grade III College to a Grade II College. We already have a qualified staff at Otun for that purpose. The present Principal of the College has been accepted by the Government as a Principal of a Grade II College. We need only a couple of buildings more and we will very likely receive permission from the Government to up-grade the College.

Our greatest problem still is the lack of a Secondary School in West Nigeria.

We are, however, very grateful to the West African Union, who in the recent years has taken such a positive outlook to the possibilities for West Nigeria to start their Secondary School. We have a beautiful piece of land of about 107 acres. We have electricity and water at the compound.

Our members in West Nigeria have now raised more than £3,700 - - and I hope we will reach the £4,000 mark just about the same time as we are ready to receive another appropriation of £2,000 - - from the West African Union.

NORTH NIGERIAN MISSION

By B. A. Roberts, President

Our hearts rejoice as we see the working of the Spirit of God through our workers in North Nigeria, the tangible result of which is our increase in membership which now stands at 752.

As the membership increases, so should the tithes and Sabbath School Offerings. Offerings are one indication of an active church.

Aside from district rallies and evangelistic meetings, we had an excellent Workers' Meeting in 1958 at which time we were happy for the services of Pastor Mueller in giving counsel and guidance to our workers. We also had a Missionary Volunteer rally in October, 1958, with an attendance of well over one thousand. One hundred and forty nine were invested in the various classes at this rally, making it the largest rally in size and investiture of which we find record in North Nigeria.

Our school at Jengre has now reached its full seven classes and has full approval of the government. Approval has been requested to open a Junior Primary school at Tidere, six miles out in the bush from Jengre, and another at Gure, about forty-five miles from our headquarters.

We have been happy for the influence, the cooperation, and the help given us by

the hospital at Jengre. The medical work is the right arm of the message, but this is especially true of North Nigeria where it is an entering wedge to be followed by the message of truth.

The most recent addition to our family of companies in North Nigeria is a group of believers in Maiduguri, four hundred miles from the mission office. We are hoping that we can send a colporteur-evangelist into that area to give strength and enlargement to the work through his personal ministry and through the printed page.

North Nigeria has suffered from the loss of a valued president, Pastor J. J. Hyde, who left in October, 1957. He had laboured in North Nigeria for many years and had left many evidences of his work and love among his people. God had blessed him abundantly, but even so, much remains to be done. North Nigeria has approximately 16 million people, the great majority of whom are Moslem. The field covers an area of almost 280 thousand square miles and contains at least twelve towns with a population of over 23,000. What a challenge this is to God's people! What a challenge to the workers of West Africa, and particularly to those of North Nigeria! Through God's grace and in His strength we shall continue to move forward in faith until the glorious appearing of our Saviour.

Annual Report, 1958 EAST NIGERIAN MISSION

By A. J. Dickay, President

We enter into 1959 with courage and great hope when we look back to find that 1958 was not a bad year in the progress of the work in East Nigerian Field. All our workers have given of their best to make it possible for us to report progress during 1958 and for the years past.

Evangelism continues to be one of the most effective means of placing the knowledge of the truth before the perishing world. As usual, evangelistic efforts were held in all of our 18 districts; as a result of which 15 new companies of Sabbath Keepers were raised.

As in 1957 so it is in 1958. The number of men turning to Christ from heathenism is wonderful. Many of these converts from heathenism were juju high priests and priestesses. In one of our Districts, the leader of the Dorcas band reported that a special dance that used to be performed for noted heathen women has ceased because all such elderly women have been converted to Christianity. It is reported from the same District that the heathen are no longer able to observe their special days because most of the juju priests have become Christians. Over 170 jujus were burnt this year.

Camp Meetings

We held camp meetings in all our districts for 1958. But for the four major districts around the headquarters we had combined camp meeting. About 10,000 attended. At a special programme of introducing new interests and new converts, some of these juju priests and priestesses were introduced to the congregation.

We are still moving forward into the far ends of our field. The work in Warri, Western Nigeria, is growing with Pastor Wogwugu in charge. We have moved a worker to pioneer and work at Eha Amufu—a place about 50 miles beyond Enugu by rail and nearly 200 miles by road from Aba. Brother Hulbert is pushing on in the Calabar area. We have spread our workers so thin that we are now unable to care for the flock as satisfactorily as we should like to do.

The burden of the work that remains to be done in our field weighs heavily on our mind and it is only as we trust in the Lord do we have hope that it will be accomplished in His own way and time.

Home Missionary Department

Pastor Nzotta is in charge of our Home Missionary Department. The Lay Men Move-

ment is indeed a heaven-sent Movement. The success of our evangelistic efforts would not be possible if the lay men of this department had been left out.

It is interesting to work with enthusiastic young people. In East Nigeria we have over 4,500 young people—all belonging to the various M.V. Progressive classes. Every year, the number in each progressive class increases. As they increase, the demand for a greater number of true M.V. Leaders or, more particularly, True Master Guides also increases. Already we have 180 Master Guides in East Nigeria who are doing their best to lead the youth aright.

Medical Work

East Nigeria is operating a hospital—The Ahoada County Hospital. Dr. Harold Cherne is in charge of this work. On December 16, 1957 the hospital was dedicated and turned over to the Seventh-day Adventist Mission to operate. Patients were coming to the hospital even before the official opening date, and the trend started to grow as the people realized a proper hospital was functioning in their own area.

Educational Department

The problems we have encountered in our educational programme during 1958 have been the greatest in the history of our Primary School work. The problems were created by the failure and collapse of the Government's Free Primary Education Scheme launched in 1957 by the Eastern Nigeria Government.

It is interesting to note that our schools are fulfilling their objective as fields for successful evangelism and soul winning. Of the 8,142 pupils with which the year closed, 5,052 are in the Sabbath School (i.e. 62%) and 148 of them are baptized members. This has been due to the commendable work of our trained Adventist teachers.

Gratitude

We are grateful to God Almighty for His continued guidance and mercy towards us in the carrying out of His work in this Field. He has enabled us to overcome many problems and difficulties which the enemy of the cross has faced us with. In His strength we shall march on until victory is won. We are grateful to the General Conference, Division and the Union Officers who are continually making it possible financially for us to carry on the work in this field. The Harvest truly is great but the men and means to do the work are few indeed, but we trust the Master of the vineyard will send men into the harvest field.

INSTITUTIONS

Nigerian Training College and
Adventist High School, Ihié
Jengre Hospital
Ile-Ife Hospital
Kwahu Hospital
Advent Press

NIGERIAN TRAINING COLLEGE AND ADVENTIST HIGH SCHOOL, IHIE

*By E. B. Christie,
Acting Principal-Manager*

Another year has drawn to a close. As we look back over this period at Nigerian Training College and Adventist High School we are aware of successes and failures, of things that might have been done or left undone, and yet the composite of daily experiences reveal much for which to thank and praise our heavenly Father.

The training of youth to finish the work of God in West Africa is the prime objective of this institution. Because of this, the spiritual life is stressed in the daily programme of this institution to a much greater extent than probably any other similar school in East Nigeria. The spiritual activity has taken the form of Weeks of Prayer, Baptismal Classes for non-Seventh-Day Adventist, and Bible Study Classes for members of the church in order to better prepare them to give Bible Studies. In addition, Sabbath Schools both regular and branch along with Missionary Volunteer Activities, which included an extensive visitation programme in the surrounding villages, have been regularly conducted. During the Mid-Week Prayer Meetings a study of our church doctrines was given by Pastor Mueller.

During the month of December, Pastor Mueller has been conducting a series of evangelistic meetings in a nearby village and though facing difficult conditions, has been able to develop a good interest.

During the first Week of Prayer, Brother Mueller led out in the study of the parable of the Prodigal Son and its spiritual application to us in our daily life. In the month of June, students representing both sections of the School conducted their annual Week of Devotional Meetings. As the year was drawing to a close, Brother Hulbert of the Calabar District conducted the third Week of Prayer giving study as to what type of

men and women "ought we to be." As a result of our spiritual activity we find twenty-nine (29) souls won to the Lord from among our students in 1958. For this we give our most humble thanks to God.

Not only is it necessary that a school be an example to all in religious devotion, but it is also essential that a school be able to lead in scholastic activities. We have worked toward this goal in 1958.

This year has found a total of 110 students in the Teacher Training Department. Of this number 52 are Higher Elementary Trainees and 58 are of the Elementary Training Class. Of the former, twenty-two finished the Teachers' Grade II Certificate Course. In the High School Department there was a total of 122 students enrolled. Seventeen of these were candidates for the West African School Certificate. To the best of my knowledge this is the largest enrollment we have had in either department of the institution.

A word of praise for the loyalty and cooperation of the entire staff is due. Though we have had our staffing problems in the Training College, this year has found the High School having its best year as far as staffing is concerned.

The physical plant of the college has continued to expand during the year. During this time three Senior Staff and one Junior Staff House were completed. Construction of a new addition to the Secondary Science Block has begun. This we hope to have completed by the beginning of the next school year. In addition, a Domestic Science building for the Practice School was placed under construction. Also, a much needed addition to the Girls Quarters was added.

Prospects for 1959

As we look forward to a new year we realize there are problems before us. But let us determine to go forward in faith surmounting the problems that lie ahead.

Tomorrow we may have to train our youths in times of adversity. To-day is the time to do all in our power to prepare the youths of Nigeria to finish the work.

JENGRE HOSPITAL

Annual Report 1958

By Donald I. Peterson, M.D.

The Seventh-day Adventist Mission Hospital at Jengre is one of our few lights shining in the great dark field of North Nigeria. North Nigeria is the largest mission in the West African Union and it also has the largest population. There are about 16,000,000 people in that field. Much of North Nigeria is very primitive. Most of the people there are Moslems but in our Jengre area there are also many Pagans.

Our Hospital has 36 beds. There is only one doctor there and for about two months of last year there was none.

We see many patients at Jengre that have serious and longstanding disease. Often the people do not come for treatment until their condition is serious and many times they wait until they are near death. We treat all kinds of disease but the disease for which we have the largest number of patient visits is leprosy. Last year there were 33,409 patient visits for the treatment of this disease alone. These lepers come for treatment each week so this offers a fine opportunity for evangelism. We have a worship service with them at the beginning of each day before

treatment is started. We are happy to be able to work for these unfortunate people and to be able to heal some of them of this dread disease and it is our prayer that as we work for them that they will allow Jesus Christ to come into their hearts and heal them of the leprosy of sin.

In addition to the hospital and outpatient work at Jengre, we have three other treatment centres. We go into the city of Jos twice weekly and once each week we go out on what we refer to as "bush" clinic. When we go to "bush" clinic we go to two centres of population north of Jengre and conduct both general and leprosy clinics.

The work at Jengre presents a real challenge because, even though we see thousands of patients, most of them are Mohammedans. They are friendly but it is difficult to convince them of their need for salvation through Jesus Christ even though an active evangelistic programme is conducted. The magnitude of the work yet to be done in North Nigeria is more impressive than the work we have done. From a human view point it appears almost impossible to complete the work there in the near future, but our faith is good and we know that the Lord will finish His work and cut it short in righteousness.

ILE-IFE HOSPITAL

Annual Report 1958

By S. A. Nagel, M.D.

The acute shortage of physician staff in the West African Union has kept the doctor staff of the Ife Hospital down to two since April 1958. For urgent needs by sister medical institutions within the Union during 1958 called for the sharing of one of the three doctors of the Ife Hospital in order to keep open the doors of these institutions.

But with the coming of 1959, the shortage of physician personnel becomes even more critical with Doctors Hyde, Cherne and Nagel all due furloughs within the first four months of the new year. Calls have been placed for new medical personnel as far back as January 1957. To date there is no word when this personnel will be in the field. But West Africa is not peculiar in its shortage of medical personnel, for there is a universal shortage throughout the Adventist world wide foreign mission programme. Well we might pray that whatever the root of this shortage is, that the cause may soon be removed and that suitable medical

missionaries will be coming forth to fill the vacancies in the lines, and to take up new positions in the onward march of Medical Evangelism.

Progress

But in spite of staff shortages and in spite of the adversary who never takes a holiday or slumbers when God's work is going forward, the over-all picture of the work at the Ife hospital for 1958 is one marked by progress. For this progress, our deep gratitude goes to God who made this possible and to the faithful overseas and African staff who carried not only their regular loads of work, but to those who cheerfully carried the extra burdens which vacancies produced.

Nursing and Mid-wifery Schools

Matron E. M. Rose returned from leave in the end of 1957 and with a more complete teaching staff in 1958 the nursing and mid-wifery schools are hoping for their usual average successes as far as Government Examination passes are concerned for 1958. However, it cannot be over-emphasized that with the tremendous increase in the Standard of nursing education since the establishment of the University College Hospital

in Ibadan, the task of training nurses in the small voluntary hospitals is becoming progressively difficult.

With hardly any exceptions, those of our nurses who went for their government examination in 1957 and even those in 1958 were standard six pass young men and women. Government examiners who in former years never commented on grammar, or handwriting or spelling, now that the standards of nursing have gone up, and probably because the need of nurses is not as acute as in former years, these examiners make grave comments on students who may not academically be able to handle the English Language as well as Secondary School pass students. Yes, this is one of our great Problems, getting students with satisfactory educational backgrounds.

Church and Evangelistic Activities

We try to keep ever before us that our medical work is just a means to an end. The thousands of patients who come under the influence of this hospital in a year, through the Chaplains daily ward service, the clinic worship period, through the printed page, and the personal ministry of the staff are having opportunities to know something of the love of God and His saving power.

Evangelistic Effort

It has grieved us, however, to have had to see 1958 go by with no opportunity to launch out again into a medical evangelistic campaign such as the Hospital staff and church enjoyed in 1957. In the Spring of 1957 there were four physicians on our staff, the number approved by the Union, and recommended by the General Conference Medical Department. The normal professional load, made possible with the more adequate staff gave more time for this essential part of our work, Medical Evangelism. An average of two thousand (2,000) people attended the week night services and three thousand the Sunday night meetings, which were held from March to May in 1957.

Ingathering for Missions

An enthusiastic Ingathering for Missions campaign was conducted during the months of October and November. Not all of the church membership participated, but those which God wonderfully did bless their efforts. Besides working in Ife town, communities as far as a 100 miles away from the hospital were worked by the Ingathering teams, these teams being headed by either a doctor, a sister, or one of the senior African staff members.

APRIL 1959

KWAHU HOSPITAL

By J. Ashford Hyde M.D.

Kwahu Hospital has much to be thankful for to Almighty God. As we review the happenings of the past three years since I last reported to the West African Union Session, we can but marvel at what God has done. It has been a time of great trial and of many problems, but these have merely served to bring us, nay to force us to the Source of all strength, and when we were beaten, Jesus saw us through.

Staff

At the beginning of 1956, we had two doctors, two Overseas nurses, five staff nurses, and eight pupil nurses. At the close of 1958, we still have two doctors, but have added two further Overseas nurses. We have six staff nurses including one of the original five and thirty pupil nurses.

Professional Work

In 1955, the Hospital was opened and we had an initial surge of patients to try our treatment. In 1956, this slumped and we felt that we could not begin to develop a high standard of professional work without being swamped for numbers. We are very grateful for this respite for we had no senior students to help and it was necessary for the senior staff to do much that would otherwise have been done by student nurses.

In spite of the rise in professional load carried, our reputation has never been higher in Ghana, and the Governor-General, at the end of his visit to the Hospital in December, 1958, complimented the Mission on the Hospital which he said was the best equipped and run hospital he had seen in Ghana, outside the great centres of Accra and Kumasi.

Of course, this has not been acceptable to the Enemy of truth who has stirred up to try and cause trouble in the Hospital and disgrace to the God we serve.

Future Prospects

What then lies ahead? Relations between the Hospital and People are excellent. The Government have shown their confidence in us.

We can, therefore, look forward to a time of expansion where the Hospital will increase its facilities to carry out its motto, "Serving God and Humanity."

Let us pray that plans may be laid which will enable the Hospital to grow unhampered by staff shortages, or unrest; and that from this centre streams of light may go to the ends of Ghana lighting the way for our evangelists to follow.

Page 13

ADVENT PRESS
Report for 1956 — 1958
By Glynn Meredith, Manager

The three years, since we last met in Constituency, have been years of trial and struggle and yet of many blessings for the Advent Press.

The problem of adequate supervision has troubled us greatly, as you will realize, when I tell you that of the 36 months which comprise the 3 years under consideration, only 13 months have seen the two overseas workers at the Press. We are therefore very happy to-day, to say that we now have the very much appreciated help of Brother A. Berger from our Norwegian Press. I feel sure that with his good co-operation the Press will prosper in the new year.

Over £40,000 worth of literature has been sold here in West Africa, in the last 3 years but only a very few hundred pounds worth of this literature printed by the Advent Press.

We feel that the time has come for us to find the remedy for our difficult financial position by converting a good per centage of our Book Sales into Factory Income for the Advent Press.

We hope and trust that it will be possi-

ble for us to have some new equipment so that we can produce literature which will be acceptable to our colporteurs and also to the general public of the West Africa.

One of the "bright spots" of the past three years was the installation of our new Heidelberg Platen Printing Machine, in the middle of 1957. I feel sure that those of you who have studied the work which has come from this new machine, will agree that the machine does most acceptable work.

During the past three years we have seen a steady flow of work coming from our Press, including 500,000 new style Voice of Prophecy Lessons, a 5,000 edition of Miracles of Saving Grace, 28,000 Sabbath-School Pamphlets in Ibo, and Twi, and 24,000 Week-of-Prayer Readings in Ibo, Twi and Yoruba.

Even though we have had many discouragements and disappointments during the past 3 years, we still firmly believe that the Advent Press has been established by God for the furtherance of His cause here in West Africa, and with our faith firmly fixed in our great Heavenly Master Printer, we propose to press forward with the work, to His honour and glory and for the Spiritual uplift of His people here in West Africa.

RESOLUTIONS

Taken by the Constituency

at Ithie January 1959

Resolution on letting the Light Shine in Fifty Nine

1. Every minister throughout the Union leading out in at least two well planned complete evangelistic efforts during the year.

2. Every administrator, departmental secretary, head master, teacher and institutional leader heartily participating in at least one evangelistic effort.

3. Every Sabbath School establishing at least one additional soul winning branch Sabbath School, and conducting at least one well planned decision day during the year.

4. All Missionary Volunteers enlisted in a Youth for Christ evangelistic effort with every organized society holding a well planned evangelistic effort conducted by the youth under the counsel and guidance of the church officers.

5. A Week of Prayer revival and a carefully conducted baptismal class in every educational and medical institution.

6. Every colporteur and Voice of Prophecy interest carefully followed up by ministers or qualified laymen, and a strong programme of literature distribution be entered into by every church.

7. A special 'Let your Light Shine' rally be held in every church and company. These to be in the form of a revival and prayer service designed to inspire our members to definitely enlist for the greatest soul winning movement in the history of the church in West Africa. These rallies to be held as far as possible before *March 31*, and be conducted as far as possible by workers or delegates who have attended this conference. Where desirable several churches may visit for this service.

We further RECOMMEND as a means of carrying out this seven point programme,

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT MESSENGER

1. That the Union officers, local mission officers and district leaders take full responsibility for promoting and directing this programme and that the Union officers prepare material for the 'Let Your Light Shine' rallies.

2. That the Home Missionary Department prepare material for promoting and directing Lay Evangelism, and select or prepare a special leaflet for wide spread distribution to the public, tactfully calling their attention to the Adventist Message and leading the way to further study. This leaflet to be translated where advisable and be used in connection with evangelistic efforts, and in getting Voice of Prophecy enrolments, and further that the Home Missionary 10 minute services between Sabbath School and Divine service be used to keep up a continuing promotion of lay evangelism throughout the year.

3. That the Sabbath School Department take responsibility for promoting Decision Day and Branch Sabbath Schools and prepare such material as is needed for the guidance of church officers in carrying out these activities. It is to be recognized that the object of these activities is to bring children, youth and non-church members ultimately into the baptismal class and full church membership.

4. That the Missionary Volunteer Department promote and encourage the youth for Christ efforts and also the revival services in our schools and institutions. These revival services may be integrated with the MV Week of Prayer.

5. That a special section of the *West African Messenger* be devoted in each issue to promotion of this 'Let Your Light Shine' programme, and that Mission presidents and departmental secretaries report monthly to the Union President as to the progress of the programme.

6. That we set ourselves a goal of at least doubling our soul winning results in 1959 over any previous year and thus making it possible to baptize at least 2,500 in the following year.

7. That the Union and local Home Missionary departments co-operate with the church missionary leaders in training laymen for effective lay evangelism, including Bible studies, lay evangelistic efforts, church revival services and systematic literature distribution.

8. That at camp meetings under the leadership of the Home Missionary Department a special time be set aside for members to present the souls they have won—'Presenting mine for Fifty Nine'.

VISITORS

V. G. ANDERSON

E. B. HARE

A. F. TARR

M. E. LIND

We were fortunate in having with us two Brethren from the General Conference, Elder V. G. Anderson Vice-president and Elder E. B. Hare of the Sabbath School Department. Both made special contributions to the meetings that will not soon be forgotten by those who were in attendance.

Elder Anderson gave us much good counsel, encouraging us on to greater efforts in all lines of endeavour in this extensive West African Union Mission. Because of his own wide experience in denominational work, Brother Anderson is one who can advise knowingly, and whose counsel we do well to heed.

Elder Hare held Sabbath School Work Shops, giving to the delegates and to others in attendance, instruction in preparing materials for Junior Sabbath Schools. All were anxious to see him, hear him, watch him work, and try to learn as much as they could so that they would have something unusual to take home to their churches.

In one morning devotional study, Elder Hare brought to us a message on the Macedonian Call. In spite of the bitter experiences of Paul and Silas in answer to this call, Acts 20:3 tells us that Paul purposed to return through Macedonia. Paul had seen the vision and the Macedonian Call was a symbol. It was the Lord Jesus who was calling Paul to come over to assist Him. We are where we are because the Lord has called us to help Him.

From Our Division office, Elder A. F. Tarr, our President, and Elder M. E. Lind, Departmental Secretary were with us to counsel and help in the meetings. Brother Lind was busy with Sabbath School Rallies and conducted several in the Union after the Constituency. Our visiting Brethren conducted the morning devotionals which were greatly enjoyed by all present.

In his message to us, Tuesday morning, January 13, during the devotional hour, Elder Tarr directed our minds to the thought found in 1 Peter 4:10 '... stewards of the manifold grace of God.' We are stewards of a wonderful God. We are stewards to a world in desperate need. People in every walk of life need this message. In the book, 'Christian Service' we are told: "The greatest men on earth are not beyond the power of God." None should be neglected. Let us seek out those whom we have neglected.



THE ADVENT PRESS

Wishes to Serve



By Supplying All Your Reading Needs

- ✘ Denominational Books & Magazines
- ✘ Sabbath-School helps
- ✘ Children's Books
- ✘ Health Literature
- ✘ Gift Books for Special Occasions
- ✘ Devotional Reading of all kinds

We will be very happy to order what you need from any of our overseas publishing houses.

Contact

your local Book & Bible Houses and see what a feast of excellent reading is available for you.

But Remember,

please place all your orders with your own Mission Book & Bible House; and watch the *Messenger* for future announcements.

We Are Here to Serve!

The Advent Messenger

Editor - - - - - Mrs. N. B. Nielsen.

OFFICIAL ORGAN of the West African Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. P. O. Box 1016, Accra, Ghana.

Printed by The Advent Press