

MAR 14 '60

West African Advent

messenger

Voice of The West African Union Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists

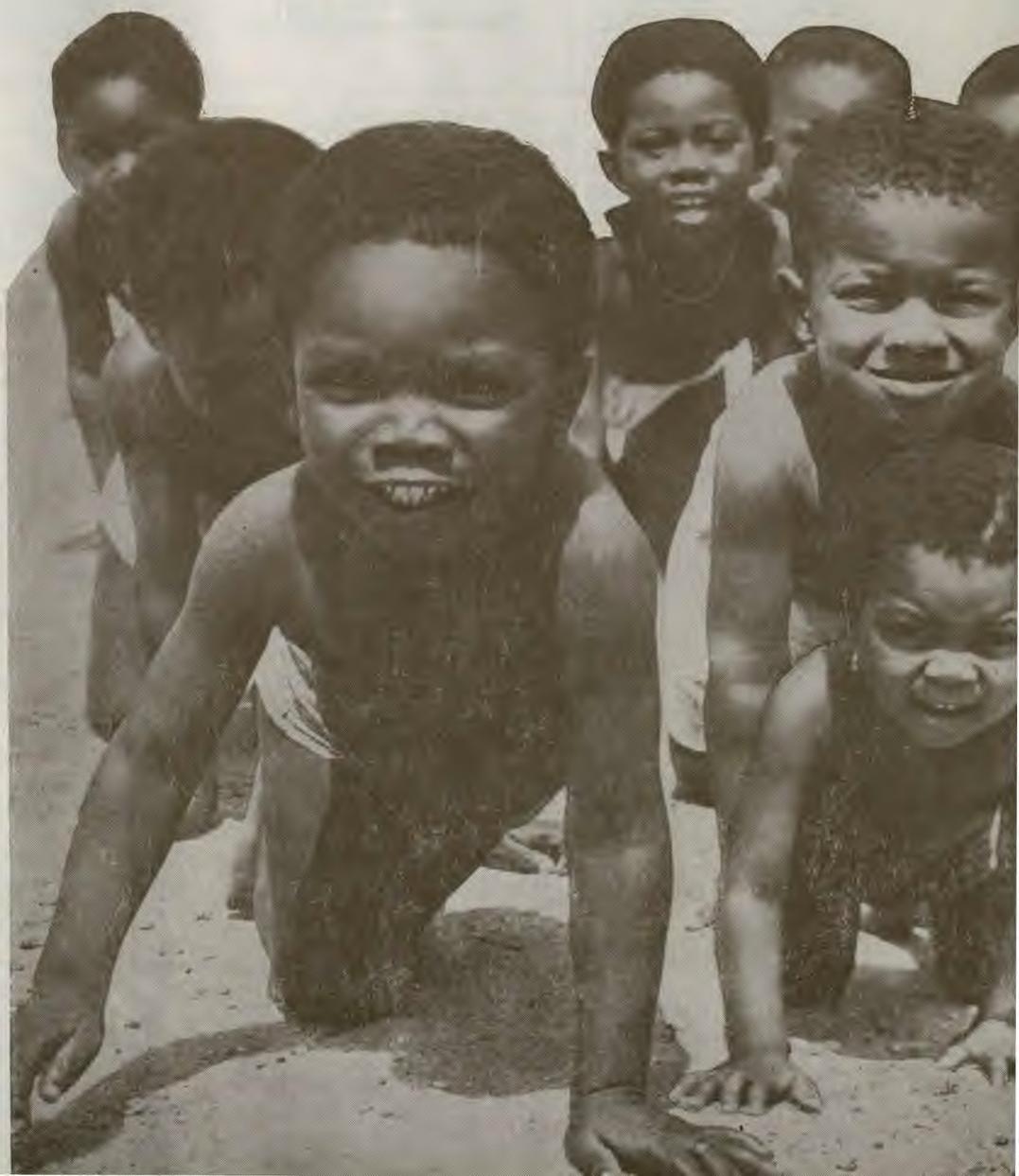
Vol. 14. — JANUARY — 1960 — No. 1.

We wish you all

A HAPPY NEW YEAR 1960 !

The clear eyes,
and smiling faces
of innocent
children look into
the future
confident and
unafraid.

With a strong
faith in God and
our hands tightly
clapped in His we
too, can face the
challenge of 1960
hopeful, happy
and unafraid.
In God we trust.



AS THE SEASON is going to an end, time for Camp meetings are due. This brings a great manifestation of interest in the Advent Movement here in Ghana because old friends are going to meet together to shake hands and embrace themselves, while new friends too are going to be formed and to know each other from time to time.

New churches opened and new converts won during the year are going to be introduced for joy and to mark a good work each individual member has been able to do in the year.

"Likewise, I say unto you there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth". Luke 15:10.

Our first Camp Meeting attended this year was held at Kwapong in Bibiani District. With pomp and pageantry all churches in the district brought in their Singing Bands, Singing and paraded the village which every soul was bestirred to give himself or herself to Christ to be saved. In fact the village was moved with great inspiration to make their decision, many responded to the call we extended. As a result of laymen's work twenty-one precious souls were buried by baptism with their Lord in this Camp Meeting.

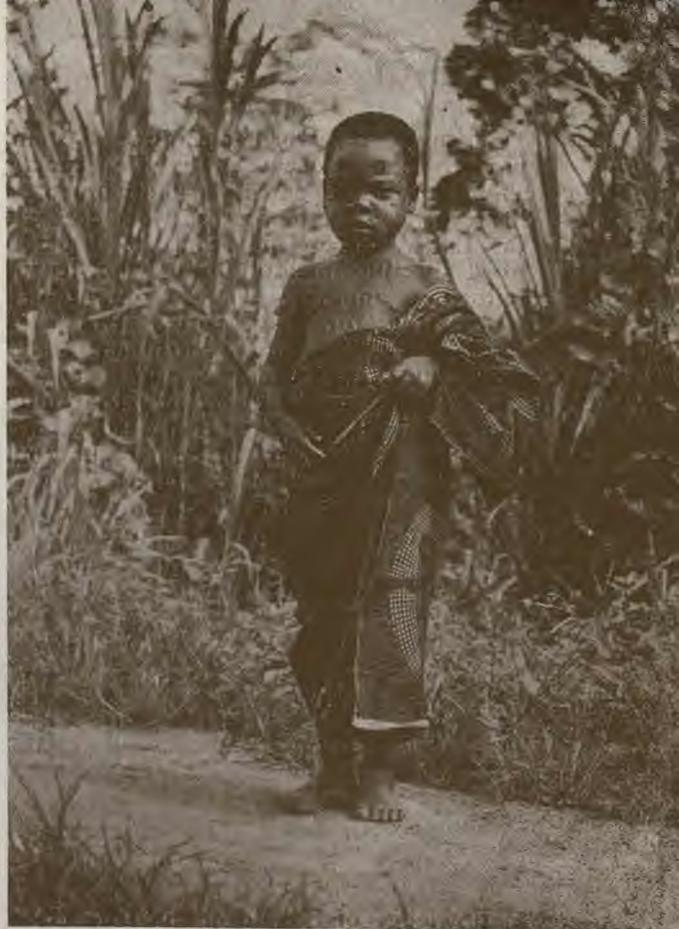
In the evening of Friday 27, the Ghana Mission President, Pastor C. B. Mensah, demanded from the members "Presenting mine in 1959." New converts won and number of churches each Company has been able to open. On the 28 night the programme was,

Chinese proverb: The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.

"Recitation of Texts on Doctrines". A little boy of about five or six years who has now started schooling, prepared to give answer to Bible Games Cards of about 80 questions. This little boy answered every question accurately with exception of three.

The congregation who witnessed the little boy's answers to the various questions gave applause which we were unable to control. Many presented him with cash amounting to a guinea. The little boy's father who is not a member gave him 20/- currency note, because of the achievement of his son. The mother is a member as a result of laymen's work. What the aged and grown ups found difficult to do this little boy made it possible, surely "a little child shall lead them."

JANUARY 1960



A Little Child

shall

LEAD THEM

By Pastor I. A. Benson

Home Missionary Secretary, Ghana Mission

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To many the word 'discipline' has an unpleasant aspect because it is often thought of as meaning the same as punishment. Such however is not true for the word comes from the Latin 'discere' meaning 'to learn.' Our word disciple, meaning one who learns by following another, comes from the same root. It therefore deals with learning, leadership, cooperation and punishment is only a small but sometimes necessary part.

The art of discipline is one that must be learned by all teachers and leaders of people. It is not the art of punishment but rather the ability to get cooperation and exert intelligent sanctified leadership. It is an art greatly needed in the church. Without

ged in by a teacher or leader, reveal his unfitness for the work of Christian discipline and leadership. Jesus drew all men unto Him. He was a 'persuader of men' not a 'forcer of men.' Persuasion based on truth and love rather than on fear of punishment is the better way to discipline.

Let none think, however, that true government and discipline is based on weakness or that punishment is not sometimes an essential feature of it. Within the church and its institutions are often unconverted persons who must be restrained lest they bring disgrace upon the Cause of God. When they reject the restraint of persuasion and love it is sometimes necessary to bring other means

DISCIPLINE

A Message
concerning
and De

a knowledge of how to obtain true discipline no teacher can hope to succeed. It is equally essential to all who are called to leadership in churches, institutions or missions for such leaders must deal with people and must find a way to get people to work together and to follow wise leadership within the framework of the church organization. When discipline fails the church or organization tends to fall apart and break up into factions. While individual liberty and initiative must be respected, yet no man is to be a law to himself or to consider himself above the discipline of the church.

Discipline is an art because it not only follows well defined principles but in addition is dependent on the personal touch. No two persons are exactly alike. Teaching, guidance and correction must fit the individual. Age, temperament, sex, education, experience, all combine to make human beings what they are and must be taken into consideration by those responsible for government in any organization. Government is set as one of the Gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:28), and well it is, for a man greatly needs the power and guidance of God's Holy Spirit when he is called upon to lead others. Love, implanted in the heart by the Spirit of God is the most essential element in good discipline. Loud bluster, threats or rough abusive talk are not the way of love and when constantly indul-

to bear and at times even to the last drastic step of expulsion from the church, the school, or other organization.

There is also another reason for penalties or punishment. It is by this means that the organization makes clear to the world its attitude towards certain great truths. If the Seventh-Day Adventist church continued to retain in fellowship those who flagrantly break the Sabbath by secular labour on that day, it would soon lose the very reason for its existence. If church members are allowed to violate the seventh commandment by fornication and adultery without fear of censure and dismissal, the purity of the church would soon suffer loss and the church no longer be a bulwark of purity and truth in a morally corrupt world.

There are connected with the church immature persons, including not only children and youth but older ones who have not yet grown up to the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. Perhaps many of us are included in this class. Like children we must sometimes suffer chastisement (Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth). Often God does this by circumstances, but sometimes He expects His church to let the wrong doer feel the sting of its disapproval.

If then punishment is sometimes necessary, how is it to be administered. Let us note a few general principles:

Christian punishment is corrective, not retributive

Never should it be administered in anger or in a spirit of revenge. It seeks always to restore the person concerned to good standing and fellowship as soon as possible.

Punishment should be consistent and fair

Whenever possible the one dealt with should be helped to see that the discipline was necessary, reasonable and without partiality.

Punishment of a serious nature should never be subject to the whims of one person

Dismissal from the church is *not* in the hands of a pastor, elder or even of the church

**to Teachers and all Workers
with Administration
nel Relations**

board. The church board should recommend, but under no circumstances may a member be put under censure or dismissed without a majority vote of the church. In schools, no teacher or principal should dismiss a pupil without an action of his staff, or a representative discipline committee of the staff. This policy serves as a protection to the principal as well as the pupils. In all matters of serious discipline there should be counsel. In institutions and missions, regularly employed salaried workers may only be dismissed by board or committee action. In cases of serious moral wrong such as adultery, theft, or deliberate refusal to obey, the administrator may suspend the one concerned subject to committee or board confirmation.

Discipline should be administered as far as possible without undue publicity

We should avoid bringing public disgrace upon the one concerned. An attempt to humiliate a worker or pupil in a public way often does great damage to the personality of the one concerned, and also very often results in arousing sympathy for the wrongdoer. Public floggings in school are an outmoded form of punishment, and are contrary to the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy as well as modern educational practice. If corporal punishment is needed it

should be administered only by action of a discipline committee and never in the presence of the student body. Any laws of the land on this matter should be scrupulously observed.

Disciplinary punishment once administered should be positive and remedial, but should not be forever after held against a person. A church member restored to fellowship has all the rights and privileges of the church regardless of the past. A pupil in school should not be constantly reminded that he once did wrong.



By
Pastor
H. J. Welch

Do not be too hurried about punishment

Take time to counsel with all concerned. Talk quietly and kindly with the wrong doer. Let kindness and love characterize every dealing; on the other hand do not wink at sin or unduly delay correcting a situation that may bring reproach on the church or institution or open the way to disorder and lack of respect for authority.

Discipline is the supreme test of administrative procedure. As mission administrators, let us check ourselves to see if we measure up our God given responsibilities. Let us pray for wisdom, patience and love in all our contacts with our fellow men.

The following counsel from the Lord's Servant applies not only to teachers but also to all who lead in the Lord's work:

"Dealing with human minds is the most delicate work ever intrusted to mortals and teachers need constantly the help of God that they may do their work aright." — *Counsels to Teachers*, page 267.

"Healed to Save"

By Pastor J. O. Olomjobi

"IF MY PEOPLE, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn away from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chro. 7:14.

A member of our church was seriously sick, lying on a sick bed for a number of days. Receiving this sad news, I paid him a visit, he was questioned as to why he could not attend the hospital which was just some twenty miles away, in reply he said, "I was kept down by this ill health so I cannot ride in a motor, I cannot stand or sit up, I have no good nights rest." I retorted, "Do you have any tablets to use, so as to release some of your pains?" He replied, "All first aids I had have been tried and failed." For a moment I became puzzled, as there were no means of a near by transportation.

The call of the heavenly physician was needed and as we prayed, I felt the hand of God administering; for with Him all things are possible. Prayer is the souls uttering desire.

Like Darius of old, king of Media, "I arose very early in the morning and went in haste into the den of lions", that morning of my next visit was a joy to me, meeting the brother in a cheerful mood, sitting uprightly in a chair, he said to me, "Pastor I am healed, our prayer has been heard."

Prayer, that human heavenly agent of communication is a complete shield or armour, a key of faith in time of despair, that opens the store house of heaven. I wonder how many souls like faith is in hearts of men of today.

No sin, however great, cannot be forgiven by God. For the Prophet Isaiah says in the 18th verse of the 1st chapter, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Yes in the hours of visitation, prayer should not be unlooked; as ministers and witnesses of God, let us pray daily for our members, that they be strengthened in the love, and light of God.

For God "hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities: for He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust." Ps. 103:10-14.

COUNSELS

from

The Spirit of Prophecy

"Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work." — "Testimonies," Vol. 9, page 27.

"So vast is the field, so comprehensive the design, that every sacrificed heart will be pressed into service as an instrument of divine power." — "Ibid.," page 47.

"Wherever a church is established, all the members should engage actively in missionary work. They should visit every family in the neighbourhood and know their spiritual condition." — "Ibid." Vol. 6, page 296.

"The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them. Give each one something to do for others." — "Ibid." page 49.

"Everyone who is added to the ranks by conversion is to be assigned his post of duty." — "Ibid." Vol. 7, page 30.

"The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be labourers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not labourers together with God." — "Christian Service," page 253.

"The minister and the church members are to unite as one person in labouring for the upbuilding and prosperity of the church. Every one who is a true soldier in the army of the Lord will be an earnest, sincere, efficient worker, labouring to advance the interests of Christ's kingdom. Let no one presume to say to a brother who is walking circumspectly, 'You are not to do the work of the Lord; leave it for the minister.' Many members of the church have been deprived of the experience which they should have had, because the sentiment has prevailed that the minister should do all the work and bear all the burdens. . . .

"The burden of church work should be distributed among its individual members so that each one may become an intelligent labourer for God." — "The Review and Herald," July 9, 1895.

We would see Jesus

"THE SAME CAME therefore to Philip which was of Bethsaida of Galilee and desired him saying, Sir, we would see Jesus." John 11:21.

The celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in Israel brings all Israelites together, wherever they be; but at this occasion certain Greeks accompanied them to taste of the Feast. "Baden Powell Centenary Memorial Hall" a magnificent building situated in the capital town of Ghana, was the temple where the trumpet was sounded, bringing in the sheepfold of the saved and unsaved.

Nights after nights crowds filled the hall to the uttermost, to receive the gospel truth propounded by Pastor E. E. Cleveland, an Associate Secretary of Ministerial Association, from U.S.A. as he breaks the bread of life.

This capital city of Ghana — Accra is full of world's amusements. Nevertheless earnest and honest souls sought the pearl which is of a great value to the dying needy souls.



NEWS NOTES

✕ The number of very young Overseas missionaries is greatly increasing in West Africa due to the special blessings of God. We extend a special welcome to babies Goude, Christoph and Rieseberg.

✕ Dr. and Mrs. D. H. Barham are hard at work at our Hospital at Mpraeso. Dr. Barham is a physician on the staff of the hospital and is doing splendid work. We welcome the Barhams to service in West Africa.

✕ We deeply regret that due to an oversight of the acting editor of the Messenger, we failed to report the return of Brother and Sister Frank Barfoot and family from furlough in the United Kingdom.

The Union family are happy to say "Akwarba," "akwarba" to our S. S. and Publishing Secretary and family back to West Africa.

✕ Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Streifling and four children have arrived at Ibie. Brother Streifling is eminently qualified to assume the responsibility of teaching at Ibie as he has had 14 years of teaching experience at Oshwa Missionary College in Canada, and four years as principal of an Academy.

West Africa offers a great challenge to the Christian educator, and we welcome the Streiflings to the hard work, long hours and disappointments, but also to the abiding joy of full service to God and man in West Africa.

JANUARY 1960

"The net was cast at the ... the ship, and a multitude ... caught." During rainy night ... through the rain to hear the ... words of life preached. The ... minds were filled with heaven ...

The Spirit and love of God ... all present, especially those of the ... life. "A character formed in accordance ... the precepts of God's good-will ... fast principles pure, noble aspirations ... the Holy Spirit co-operates with the power of the human mind, high, holy impulses are the sure result." — *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, page 66.

The portrait of Jesus beautifully designed was hung at the centre of the hall. This portrait snapped the mind of all present as Pastor Cleveland drove home the Divine Truth.

This August gospel meetings were attended by all creeds irrespective of denominational affiliations. Souls were won and converted into the Remnant Church by baptism.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8.

✕ Our nursing staff for the hospitals in Nigeria has been greatly strengthened by the arrival of two new nursing sisters, Miss. Margot Sponghagen and Mrs. Alma Wiles. Miss. Sponghagen is a young woman of great talent and promise and Mrs. Wiles is a veteran of nearly twenty five years service in the Australasian Division. Miss. Sponghagen comes to us from Sweden and Mrs. Wiles from the U.S.A. A hearty welcome, sisters, to the joys of service in West Africa.

✕ Pastor and Mrs. Anderson and baby have arrived in Freetown, Sierra Leone from the United Kingdom. Pastor Anderson is the evangelist for the Sierra Leone Mission and will concentrate his activities in the city of Freetown. Welcome and God's blessings, Brother and Sister Anderson.

✕ The Union family extends a sincere and hearty welcome to Pastor and Mrs. N. B. Nielsen, who have just returned after furlough spent in Denmark and the United States.

✕ The sad news has reached the Union Office of the death of Sister Winnie Pearce.

As a registered, qualified nursing Sister, who unselfishly minister to many of the sick and needy at her home, the memory of Sister Pearce will be long cherished in West Africa. She was also active in the Sabbath school, conducting a branch Sabbath school at the Advent Press and also contributed her bit to the success of the Dorcas Welfare programme.

Brother and Sister Pearce came to West Africa in 1948. Brother Pearce served as secretary-treasurer of the West Nigerian Mission until 1950 when he became manager of the Advent Press, which position he held until the illness of Sister Pearce forced their return to the United Kingdom in 1957.

The officers and constituency of the West African Union extend to Brother Pearce and the boys our heartfelt sympathy.

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The Lights of Home

By

By Pearl Waggoner Howard



We have one written promise

Of a faithful Guide and Friend

That He will stay with us always—

Yea, till the journey's end.

And dare we doubt the love so true,

Which brought us safely hitherto?

We stand upon the threshold

Of another year untried;

We cannot know what joy or woe

May in its shadows hide.

But One whose love can ne'er forsake

Knows well the way we each must take.

He knows each step we're taking,

For He trod this road before;

He knew its pain but found it gain

For it led to His Father's door.

With Him, what hope, what prospect bright,

The lights of home are just in sight!

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