

West African Advent

# messenger

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

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## CO-OPERATION

### A MESSAGE

to all Mission Workers & Church Officers

By

Pastor H. J. Welch

President, West African Union Mission

Everybody believes in co-operation. We all surely believe that others should co-operate with us but sometimes we forget that co-operation is a two way road. Jesus went even farther than that for He said, "Whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." Matt. 5:41. This seems difficult, indeed almost impossible counsel to follow. Experience teaches however that if one wants real joy in service, he must go farther than any one has a right to demand of him. It is this 'extra' service that counts the most. It is this willingness to do a little more and to expend a little more energy that marks most successful men and women. Especially is this true of those called to leadership in the work of the church.

Co-operation means too that we yield to the wishes and decisions of our brethren. One of our great Adventist leaders was quoted

*(Continued on page 2)*

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*Co-operation in the home develops the family members in sharing life's responsibilities, so each is trained and ready to do his part and to make his contribution to society wherever he may be.*

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# LOVE

by

Esther Bryner

Love is such a wonderful thing,  
But do we know it really is?  
Have we a love deep in our  
Hearts like Jesus had in His?  
When an unkind word to us is said,  
Do we smile and go our way?  
And are we ready to forgive,  
Every minute of the day?  
When we learn to forgive and forget  
Like Jesus our Lord up above,  
Then, dear friend, we can truly say  
We know the meaning of love.

## CO-OPERATION (From Page 1)

as saying, 'It is wonderful how often God blesses the plans of my brethren that I didn't think would work.' Too many otherwise capable workers have fallen into difficulty because they insisted on disregarding the counsel and advice of their brethren. Dictatorships, even benign ones, have no place in the church of God. 'In the multitude of counsellors there is safety.' This is the reason for church and institutional boards and mission committees. The wise leader may lead and influence his committee but never ignores or sidesteps its decisions. Neither will he try to bring pressure upon the members to vote his way by any means other than by reasonable persuasion.

Co-operation means being willing and alert to comply with the requests of committees and of officers whose authority we should respect. God works through the organized programme of the church and failure to co-operate with the decisions thus made brings confusion and weakness to the church and is a dishonour to God. 'For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace as in all churches of the saints.' 1 Cor. 14:33.

Let us note some specific activities in which we can co-operate. Special days and offerings are set in the church calendar. These are determined by careful study on the part of responsible committees and are designed for the building up of all the work. The co-operative mission leader, district leader or church leader will plan to promote these activities. He will think of the welfare of the work as a whole. He will avoid the narrow sectionalism which selfishly cen-

ters all activity on his own community or district and forgets the needs of the great world wide field. He, like the apostle Paul, will be quick to heed the call, 'Come over into Macedonia and help us.'

Reports! How they trouble some of us! But here again is an opportunity to show our co-operative spirit. One man's failure to report accurately and on time affects the whole programme of reporting designed to keep God's people in touch with the needs and progress of the work. Colporteurs, get your reports in regularly and on time. Church officers and district leaders, make it a studied practice to get your reports in on time, and make them as accurate as possible. Mission Secretary-Treasurers and Departmental Secretaries, do your best. Most of us do not enjoy the detailed work of compiling reports, and I fear we often lay them aside for 'a more convenient season' but this only makes the task more unpleasant. Tackle the job with dispatch and get it done and enjoy the good feeling that comes with a task finished right. Yes, co-operation involves reporting accurately and on time.

Co-operation simply means working together in harmony. The task of the Seventh-Day Adventist church is a mighty one. The persons of the Godhead and the holy angels co-operate together and with consecrated men and women to prepare for the climax of earth's history. Let us be sure we fit into that programme by yielding ourselves fully to God and to His work, and then some day we can enjoy fellowship in the land of perfect harmony and peace.

# Juju

## PRIESTESS



### REPUDIATES HER GODS

By M. U. Adiele, Evangelist  
East Nigerian Mission

Ekeoma Igwe — about 75 — juju priestess was married in a little village called Elehia in Ogba District. She had nine children, eight of whom have since died; her husband also is dead, leaving her a son who has been in bed for three years.

Ekeoma has since her life devoted her strength, money and all her belongings to the worship of her gods, but the gods have done nothing good for her.

In a dream last year she found herself in a church and on coming out she wore a white garment and had a book in her hand and was accompanied by many church members until she got to her house. It was at this point that she awoke from her sleep, not understanding what she had dreamt. A few weeks later she fell ill and no one cared for her — no, not even her juju.

Our Dorcas Society near that village heard this and hastened to help her. They fed her, supplied wood for heating the house, water for washing her clothes and for her bath and, most important of all, they prayed with her until she became well again.

Soon after her recovery she thought, "Since I became a juju priestess I have given all that I have — goats, sheep, chickens, colanuts — to the juju but it has never done me any good. All my children have died; no one is caring for me except these good Sabbath women who have been feeding and taking good care of me. I would have died of hunger." After mumbling these words she

got up and went straight to the apartment where lay her gods and said in anger, "I am going to serve the God of these Sabbath women who helped me when I was ill; I will serve you no longer." The following Sabbath day she came to church.

The Ogba District Dorcas Society bought new clothes in addition to other gifts to this old juju priestess. After the church service the worker in charge of that area and the laity marched to the woman's home where she turned over the juju to the Church of God; the Church of God presented the juju to the flames! O! how the jujus burnt!

Today, Ekeoma Igwe is enjoying attending Sabbath School; she is very happy and, looking forward to being baptized and received into fellowship in God's remnant church.

The trees and flowers, like acolytes,  
Will fling their incense sweet;  
The feathered friends will join in song,  
And make the day complete.  
The flowing stream whose melodies  
Are ever known to cease;  
The giant crags that tow'r above  
Bring quietness and peace.  
The wind will whisper through the pines,  
The sky will smile above,  
And everything seems unified—  
Enshrined in God's pure love.  
Whoever walks a mountain trail,  
Or kneels upon the sod,  
Has been so near to heaven's gate,  
He touched the hand of God.

# CALABAR CHURCH

## Service of Organization

By R. E. Hulbert

On Friday, November 27th, Pastor Dickay, President of the East Nigerian Mission, and Pastor Nzotta, the Home Missionary Secretary of the Mission, arrived at Calabar for a double event. After a short meeting on Friday evening to outline the meaning and purpose of the Organization of a church, we were all out to a bright Sabbath School on the following morning.

At the close of the Sabbath School, Brother and Sister Usun brought their son, Asuquo Usun, for dedication. This service was performed by the writer.

During the service of Organization, Pastor Nzotta read to us the principles of faith which are the foundation of the Adventist family throughout the world. Pastor Dickay then led out in the forming of the church. Brother and Sister Usun and Brother Ekanem, were chosen as the nucleus of the church, having been associated with it from its beginning. As other members were voted into the church, they signed their names to the Covenant of loyalty to God and the church, and a total of 34 members comprised the membership of the newly formed church.

After the lunch hour, the Nominating Committee presented their report. The elders chosen were R. E. Hulbert and Mr. Usun, both of whom have already served as elders in other churches. At the ordination service therefore, it was only necessary to ordain the two deacons, Mr. C. Chucks and Mr. S. Akpan.

The following day, Sunday 29th, saw us all gathered at the waterside early in the morning as Pastor Nzotta baptized a total of 13 new believers, 2 of whom came from Oron company. Thus the Calabar church, the day after its organization, increased its membership by over 30 per cent. We pray that our future increases may be even greater.

We would express our thanks to Pastor Dickay and Pastor Nzotta for making this week-end such a memorable occasion.

GOD EXPECTS each member of the church to be a living saint in this present world. In *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 145, we read: "If you are to be saints in heaven, you must first be saints upon the earth." That is the clear and express command of God to His people. Sainthood is to begin right here on this earth. As members of the church, we are to treat one another the way we would expect saints to treat one another. We are



to manifest love regardless of what the problems of life may be, regardless of how others may have treated us. Here, on this earth, is where saintly qualifications are really needed.

We cannot expect to be living the normal life of sinners—falling into temptation day after day, succumbing to the power of the devil, rising once more, expecting to fall again. This is not the life of a saint.

A saint depends upon the power of God to see him through every experience of life in order that he may remain calm and sweet, and he responds, no matter how he is mistreated, as a saint should respond. When we, as members of the church, have learned this, we will be ready for the latter rain. We will be ready to finish the work God has given us to do. We will lay aside petty problems, petty misunderstandings in the church and in the home. We will move forward in the unity for which Christ prayed — that



# SAINTS ON EARTH

From *REVIEW & HERALD*

we might be one even as Christ and the Father are one. This is the goal of the Church.

In the last days of earth's history the attitude of the true Christian will be manifest. There will be no half way point at which we can find security in the thought of the frailness of our humanity. There is no salvation in consoling ourselves that falling into temptation and sinning is the normal way of life—that we can excuse ourselves for not having gained the victory. No, in these last days of earth's history God calls us to come apart from the world.

In *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 87, we read: "The eternal God has drawn the line of distinction between the saints and the sinners, the converted and the unconverted." In other words, if we are truly converted, we are going to be classed with the saints. There is no halfway point. As we read further, we find the servant of the Lord saying that the two classes do not blend into each other imperceptibly like the colours of the rainbow. They are as distinct as midday and midnight. God expects His people to be that distinct from the world. Of the abiding influence of the Spirit of God in a saintly life, we read on page 88 of the same book, "When the truth abides in the heart there is no place for criticism of God's servants, or for picking flaws with the message He sends. That which is in the heart will flow from the lips. The things that God has prepared for those who love Him, will be the theme of conversation. The love of Christ is in the soul as a well of water, springing up into everlasting life, sending forth living streams, that bring life and gladness wherever they flow."

When Jesus comes in the clouds of heaven, what a great and happy day that will be for those who have chosen to be on the right side of this special line of distinction between the saints and the sinners. How happy this day will be for those who have chosen to be saints of the living God, rather than sinners, to whom the day of God's wrath is a day of shame. This will be the day when the saints will rejoice in the power Jesus Himself gave them here on this earth, that they might live saintly lives in preparation for the saintly life of eternity.

We are called to live soberly, righteously, and godly, not when we get to heaven but in this present world. The greatest need of the world today is to find in the Seventh-day Adventist Church men and women who are living godly lives, lives that can be an inspiration to those who are walking in darkness.

# Agona District Dorcas Society

presents Gifts to the



## KUMASI CENTRAL HOSPITAL

By J. E. Gyimah

Assamang-Ashanti

"I was sick and ye visited me" Matt. 25: 36. This is a pronouncement from the Lord Himself to those who by practical Christianity will inherit the Kingdom. This statement and similar others recorded in Matthew 25 have been the canon by which the Dorcas Society of this District measures herself.

The District Leader, Pastor Sam. Appiah-Dankwah, rightly described by many as progressive, has so well organized the Dorcas Societies that they can all be made to offer concerted services. Thus all the societies met at Assamang one Sunday morning to plan a "visit with alms" to the patients of the Kumasi Central Hospital. Things to be offered were to be provided by the societies according to their sizes. But on the Collection Day at the Pastor's house, the writer was surprised to see each society gone beyond her allotment. What a generous offer! I could understand love for the brotherhood better as I watched brother Jonah Appaw of Bipoa sit at the gate all day long receiving and storing goods from the societies. What a selfless example!

On Sunday, July 19, a big lorry started off to Kumasi. On it were the smartly dressed Pastor and the representatives of the societies. The larger space of the lorry accommodated 73 Pine-apples, 60 cones of bananas, 2 bags of oranges, 1½ bags of palm-nuts, 1 basketful of Avocado pears and 300 eggs. "Not for Money but for Mercy" these articles seemed to be whispering to the bystanders all along the road to Kumasi.

Before 11.00 a.m. Pastor I. A. Benson, Home Missionary Secretary, had been picked from the Mission Headquarters to join Pastor Appiah for the presentation.

In the absence of the Hospital Matron, the Catering Officer, Mr. R. J. Blacthford was approached by Mr. S. E. Opam and two others to be ready to receive the gifts on behalf of the Matron. This officer seemed reluctant to walk over to where the lorry was and asked that the lorry be brought to stand by his office. The message was carried to our two Pastors and the lorry moved gently to the place, drawing behind it seven Pressmen. But as soon as the Catering Officer saw the personalities occupying the front seat and the size of the gifts, he humbly walked out of his office and gave a warm handshake to our leaders.

The unloading and carrying of the goods into the Hospital Kitchen did not escape the journalistic eyes of the reporters and cameramen; for click went the cameras and scribbles on papers.

After the presentation ceremony, the Society members were allowed to visit the kitchen and inspect some of the wonderful cooking inventions. As they went, from place to place they nodded at the fulfilment of the prophecy of Daniel that "knowledge shall be increased"—Dan. 12:4.

This over, Pastor Appiah took leave of the Catering Officer and his staff and the return journey home was started, every member feeling happy for having gone on God's errand. At about 1.30 p.m. these daughters of Dorcas of old arrived safely at Agona and their leader offered a dispersing prayer for the safe journey in and out and every member went peacefully to her station, exulting over the promise, "and their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13.

## A BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOL

*Grows*

### *Into A Full Church*

*By E. T. Wilson,*

*Sabbath School Department Secretary*

*Sierra Leone Mission*

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, August 2, 1959, it was the privilege of Pastor C. D. Henri, the Union Ministerial Association Secretary of the Seventh-Day Adventist Mission throughout West Africa, to dedicate the Seventh-Day Adventist church at Samueltown, three miles from Waterloo where our work once prospered.

Although it was a sunny-rainy noon, yet people came from all walks of life to join in the ceremony. The little chapel, capacity of about 120, was crowded to the very isle and overflowing.

A branch Sabbath school had given birth to a church of 66 Sabbath school members and 28 baptized members. We long for the days to come — days not too long in the future, when we hope that chapels shall be dedicated in all places where we now have Branch Sabbath schools.

The story takes us back to the days of Miss A. S. Nuka, who, during her first season of labour here in Sierra Leone, at Waterloo, (1931-1939) where she was the Secretary-Treasurer and Principal of the Girls School, one Sabbath afternoon asked for suggestions from some of the students then in the Training School as to where they thought she could start a Branch Sabbath school. One of the students led her to Samueltown where they had their first Branch Sabbath school meeting at the verandah of a willing friend.

With the co-operation of students then and workers down through the years, we say: "Thank the Lord" for the humble chapel which has been erected to His glory and honour. Paul may plant and several Apolloses water, but we know that the increase does come from the Lord.

The District Leader, Pastor J. B. Leigh, together with his willing assistants — teachers and local members — all did their best to see this building through. We trust that the Lord will continue to shower His blessings upon all those who labour for Him in His vineyard.

May I also add that as a result of the impression which the early pioneers and present workers have created, the people of

this town have given us the opportunity to staff their Rural school with our own teachers, over a trial period. We do hope that we can be of real physical, mental and spiritual help to them all till Jesus comes.

Let us all who read this article not forget that: "One of the most effective means of evangelism for non-believers is the Branch-Sabbath-School." If indeed our Light should shine in 1959, then the Branch Sabbath school evangelism programme is one of the most powerful beams which our Light can ever hope to emit; for here the Pastors, Teachers and all Laymen can really join forces to become successful partners in soul-winning.

When will your Branch Sabbath school grow into a full Church?

## A HAPPY DAY

### *Pioneer Students Wed*

*By Ursula M. Hubbard*

On Sunday, January 3rd, 1960, the Atibie Church and Kwahu Hospital were bathed in glorious sunshine as friends and relatives gathered for the very happy occasion of marriage. This was a very special marriage, that of our first graduate lady nurse, Miss Elizabeth Konadu, who was united to Mr. Isaac Winfred Boateng, our first male graduate nurse.

The pretty bride in a full length dress of figured ivory brocade with head dress and veil carried a spray of red bouganvillia and white frangipani. She was attended by three bridesmaids, Miss Paulina Antwi, a student nurse, Miss Margaret Pomah her sister and Loraine Hubbard. They were wearing pale yellow and green figured satin and carried posies of bouganvillia and frangipani. The bride's father in traditional white dress gave her away. The groom was supported by his best man, Mr. Alfred Boateng. Pastors E. Roenfelt and H. Welch, assisted by Mr. S.O.K. Onyina, officiated for the ceremony. Pastor Roenfelt's exhortations were well received by all. The beautiful and happy service was followed by a pleasant reception in the garden of Dr. Lowe's house.

Many good wishes followed our two young people as they went away to salute their relatives and friends in Agona, Bekwai and Kumasi. We pray that God's guidance will attend these young people as they build their new Christian home and like together in service to Him.

