



JAN 12 '84

# Messenger

GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN WEST AFRICA

## Single Campaign Nets In 609 Souls ... And A Church Building

By Pastor M. I. Harding

Evangelists J. J. Rodriguez and J. Ward arrived Thursday January 6, 1983 in Liberia for the Great Better Living Crusade held from January 16th through February 26th, 1983. On Sabbath morning, January 8th, Evangelist Ward visited the Paynesville Church to explain their evangelistic mission and made an appeal to all members for voluntary workers such as Bible Workers, Ushers, Music and Special Number Choir, Helpers, Tent Builders, Security for the tent and other Mission properties to be placed at the tent site. On that same day, Evangelist Rodriguez carried out similar duties at the Logan Town Church. The Better Living Crusade consisted of two (2) Teams:

### TEAM A Members from the US

1. Joseph J. Rodriguez  
Evangelist and Main Speaker
2. Jonathan Ward  
Associate Evangelist

### TEAM B Members from Monrovia

1. Pastor M. I. Harding  
Acting Mission President/  
Monrovia Church Pastor,  
Co-ordinator & Associate  
Evangelist
2. Pastor D. Z. Whea  
Departmental Director  
Associate Evangelist
3. Pastor D. Mayson  
Paynesville Church Pastor,  
Associate Evangelist
4. Pastor J. A. Gibson  
District Pastor,  
Associate Evangelist
5. Pastor R. J. Wright  
Associate Union Evangelist.

At 11.00 a.m., both team members arrived at the Monrovia S.D.A. Church and performed the same duty with Evangelist Rodriguez presenting the message at the 11.00 a.m. Divine Service.

Sunday January 9th through Sabbath January 15th, several workshops and seminars were conducted by the two evangelists. Plans were discussed in detail for the six weeks Better Living Crusade.

On Wednesday January 12th, the tent was erected. As the tent was being pitched, we encountered our first problem. We were requested to cease operation on the site which was given to us by the owner because the piece of land on which we were erecting the tent had been leased to the Cameroon Embassy.

The second problem was that we received word from the Office of the City Mayor of Monrovia to cease all operation at the site until we obtained permission from his office to erect the tent. However, after regular and cordial visits and letters forwarded to each organizational head as they requested, work commenced immediately, erection of the tent completed, crusade banner mounted and the crusade started as scheduled. Because of the site on which the tent was erected became very spectacular, it captivated all passers-by's attention and curiosity thus, inviting them to attend the meetings.

At the opening night, Sunday January

16th, members of both teams were seated on the stage, and were introduced to the large audience by Pastor M. I. Harding. Evangelist Ward further introduced Evangelist J. J. Rodriguez, Main Speaker for the Crusade. The subject for that night was "The Day When Money Will be Thrown In The Street of Monrovia and No One Will Pick It Up." 1,500 persons were in attendance. Attendance for the First Big Week was as follows:

January 16th - 1,500; January 17th - 1,500; January 18th - 1,700; January 19th - 1,700 and January 21st - 1,800. (There was no meeting on the 20th; that night was used for counseling and over five hundred persons attended.)

Counselors at the Session were:

a) Three church pastors; b) the two evangelists; c) one Adventist Medical Doctor. The Session lasted from 7.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. Average attendance during the entire crusade was:

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### THE BETTER LIVING CRUSADE TENT AND ITS HEAVY ATTRACTION





# Whose hand is on the wheel?

By Theodore Carcich

## Troubled times lie ahead. How will we meet them?

Four months after our marriage in 1926, my wife and I joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She had been a Lutheran and I a Roman Catholic. As new believers we enthusiastically embraced our new-found faith and its religious activities. Ridicule and bitter opposition from relatives and former friends failed to dampen our ardor. Neither did we allow a lack of money to be an excuse to compromise our loyalty to Jesus Christ and His commandments. The beauty and strength of the Bible's true teachings in Christ Jesus motivated us past every crisis that assails anyone who makes a commitment to the platform of "the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

A half-century later, is our trust in the ultimate triumph of God's remnant church as firm as it was in the beginning? Does the same blessed truth of God illuminate our pathway to the heavenly home? Naturally, our muscles and reflexes are not as nimble, but our love and confidence in God's cause have deepened through the passing years. Our only sadness has been occasionally to see fellow believers become discouraged and drop out because of vicious attacks and slander against the church.

During the years, first as laypersons, then as denominational workers in various capacities, we have witnessed every type of assault, libel, and innuendo intended to stall and splinter the remnant church. Using individuals from without and at times from within, the enemy of God has sought to weaken confidence in the doctrinal pillars of the church, its appointed leadership, and especially in the Spirit of Prophecy. As each attack arose and subsided, another took its place. In time, all attacks sputtered and faded.

## Refuses to abandon diversion tactics

But the enemy refuses to abandon his attempt to divert the church from its divinely appointed task of taking the everlasting gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. He seeks to arouse suspicion and confusion by spreading and magnifying rumors about differences and divisions, hoping by this to set brother against brother. But this too shall pass.

How can I be sure, you ask?

My confidence that the church will not be sidetracked from its mission is not based on inherent or acquired wisdom, but on the certainty of Bible prophecy.

Christ's statement is "that the gates of hell shall not prevail against" the church (Matt. 16: 18). As the church moves through the turbulent waters of the last days we might well ask, Whose hand is on the wheel? The following is Ellen White's heartening, convincing answer.

"The enemy will set everything in operation to uproot the confidence of the believers in the pillars of our faith in the messages of the past, which have placed us upon the elevated platform of eternal truth, and which have established and given character to the work. The Lord God of Israel has led out His people, unfolding to them truth of heavenly origin. His voice has been heard, and is still heard, saying, 'Go forward from strength to strength, from grace to grace, from glory to glory.' The work is strengthening and broadening, for the Lord God of Israel is the defense of His people." — *Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 388.

## Pillars of human devising

To alert God's people to the enemy's tactics, the servant of God spells out how pillars of human devising will be suggested as substitutes for the genuine pillars of faith.

"The truth for this time is precious, but those whose hearts have not been broken by falling on the rock Christ Jesus, will not see and understand what is truth. They will accept that which pleases their ideas, and will beging to manufacture another foundation than that which is laid. They will flatter their own vanity and esteem, thinking that they are capable of removing the pillars of our faith, and replacing them with pillars they have devised." — *Ibid.*, p. 389.

In plain words we are told that the enemy will continue his assaults against the church and its doctrines to the end of time. Will he succeed in diverting the church from its divine purpose and objective? Whose hand is on the wheel?

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## SINGLE CAMPAIGN from page 1

Second week	two thousand five hundred persons
Third week	two thousand two hundred persons
Fourth week	two thousand three hundred persons
Fifth and final week	one thousand eight hundred persons

On Monday night, January 17th over seven hundred students enrolled in Bible Classes. These classes met every evening from 6:30 to 7:15 before the message of the hour. Because of the very large number of participants attending the Bible Classes, they were divided into six groups. During the first Bible Class Graduation, over four hundred persons received certificates for completion of the first eight series of the "Real Truth Bible Lesson," whilst three hundred and fifty received certificates during the second graduation ceremony.

### PREPARATION FOR THE CRUSADE

- Six hundred handbills were printed and distributed during the first week; also one hundred posters were printed and distributed;
- Crusade Banner printed and mounted in front of the site;
- Seven full days Radio Announcement of the meeting;
- One full week Newspaper coverage of subjects, place, time and picture of Evangelist J. J. Rodriguez;
- Seven thousand Bible Lessons were printed and distributed during the two last weeks in December 1982.

On the night of January 23 when the Sabbath Truth was presented there was full Television coverage.

During the first and second Big Weeks of the crusade, sailing was excellent, calm and peaceful, even when the Sabbath Truth, which drew the largest crowd of over 2,500 people was presented. On Wednesday, February 2nd, the tide suddenly changed. The word of God pierced hearts. Fears, disgust and disappointment crept into the meetings. Evangelist J. J. Rodriguez, the Small Man with a Big, Big, Message began to preach on the topic: "The Father Didn't, The Son Wouldn't, The Holy Spirit Couldn't, The Disciples Didn't, Who Did it"?

As he continued his sermon and wrote on the blackboard the word "POPE", there was a moment of perfect stillness, then came a sudden uproar, a great pandemonium, chairs were thrown all over the tent, people confused, running out of the tent, shouting and yelling, some lost their eye glasses, pocket books, Bibles, watches etc. Others obtained wounds, some had sprained ankles, a girl's eye

glasses got broken on her face. Evangelist J. J. Rodriguez left the stage in a hurry, seeking refuge in a car. Evangelist Ward kept Evangelist Rodriguez under cover for about fifteen minutes. Fifteen persons were rushed to the hospital by our members. After a while they appeared on the stage, and Evangelist Rodriguez announced, "Ladies and Gentlemen, May I have your attention, please, the show will go on, don't go away, the show will go on." He left the stage again and went back into the car to be covered. Evangelist Ward returned the second time and offered prayer. During the entire episode, the writer stood firm as the Rock of Gibraltar on the stage watching every action, protecting the sound system and was preparing to ward off any further trouble. The man from the street who created this scene was apprehended, over powered and arrested by our tent security who were all church members. After a period of twenty minutes, the crowd returned into the tent, seats re-arranged, all were seated, and the meeting continued as planned. Indeed, the show went on and to crown it all the audience was by far larger than the audience before the incident occurred.

At the close of the meeting that night, response from the audience was unbelievable. Eyes of the people were opened, which resulted to the fact that many accepted the Bible Truth without any reservation. Strange to say that there was wide spread and popular demand for a repeat of the message.

Up to late hour that night there were groups of people seen gathered around the tent discussing said topic. At one stage there was a heated session between two men. One man who did not believe the Truth, rather condemned and offered abuses to the Evangelist and the Church. The other man believed and accepted the Truth. Throughout the week, the Sabbath topic was the talk of the town, even in government and private offices among workers and professional people. After this unpleasant event, life became normal once again for a while until on Sunday, February 6th, rocks were thrown on top of the tent by two men, in so much that a hole went through the canvass.

One of the men, a crazy man, was apprehended and taken to the Police Station, and was placed into custody during the crusade period. The other individual escaped. This incident however, created no scene and was unnoticed.

### SOULS IN A CHURCH

During the second Big Week of the crusade, a Prophetess by the name of Mother Nora Panto was touched and moved by the messages presented each night by the Evangelist J. J. Rodriguez. She requested that the Adventist Church take over the administration and operation of her church and teach the congregation

the Real Bible Truths.

On Sunday January 23rd, Evangelist Rodriguez, Pastor David Mayson, the writer and full representation of the Paynesville Adventist Church, then a company, worshipped with Mother Panto and her members in their church for the very first time. The new church edifice is located about a hundred yards from the Public School building where our Paynesville members usually worshipped every Sabbath. After the worship service, we met with Prophetess Panto, her two assistant pastors, three Elders, and some of the church members who were present.

Cost of the church building is US\$40,000.00 (forty thousand dollars), built within seven months. Windows of the church are of stained color glass, beautiful pulpit, wall to wall carpet alter, light, water, telephone installed, and choir stand.

As Sister Panto and her group regularly attended our Bible Classes, and all crusade meetings, great changes were seen in her life, attitude, and plans which were all in our favour.

Finally, on Sabbath February 12, 1983, Mother and Prophetess Nora Panto, her two assistant Pastors, and Senior Elder were all baptized along with four hundred sixty two other souls into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. What can we say to this but Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.

Today, Mother and Prophetess Panto says, "I am no more a mother or prophetess Panto, but I am now Sister in Christ in the Seventh-day Adventist Church." AMEN!

On March 24, members of the Paynesville Company marched through the streets singing as they finally moved from the former place of worship, the Public School classroom, to this new church edifice, located about one hundred yards away from their former place of worship. At the church to welcome and open the church doors of the church members to enter, were the Prophetess, now known as Sister Nora Panto and the Liberian Mission Legal Counsellor, Elder J. E. Berry of the Monrovia S. D. A. Church. Sister Panto also turned over all keys for the building to the Senior Elder of the Church, Elder J. L. Carter. From that day on, Midweek Prayer Meetings, the regular church and Sabbath Services have been held in the new church building.

On April 16 the first fruit of eight members from the new Paynesville Church were baptized. Among the group of eight who were baptized, was a father and his two sons and two sisters.

It was a happy day to see these souls baptized in their family groups. In this report we are happy to mention that the wife and mother of the father and his two sons was later baptized.

(Continued on page 6.)





## CENTRAL GHANA CONFERENCE

### 1000 Days of Reaping - Sabbath School Visitors' Day - 10 Souls Won

The Sabbath School Department of Amakom S.D.A. Church in Kumasi has adopted "Community Guest Day," a kind of Sabbath School evangelism two times every month and Children's Day to win more souls to uplift the 1000 Days of Reaping. The Sabbath School Department of this church runs eight Branch Sabbath Schools.

On one of her recent Visitor's Day that I attended, it was quite an interesting and encouraging atmosphere to see about 60 non-Adventist visitors stood up to be welcomed and received gift of books by the Sabbath School Department.

The President of the Central Ghana Conference, Pastor H. V. A. Kuma preached a wonderful sermon about a very rascal and naughty son of King David - Absalom by name. Because of bad counsellors young Absalom, planned a rebellion against his father and wanted to kill him. His father, an experienced warrior counselled his soldiers to deal leniently with his son and not to kill him, but David, on hearing his son's death wept bitterly for him. What a great love the father had for his disobedient son. What great love God has for all the sinful beings like me and you. An appeal was made and 10 souls responded to God's love for them.

Sabbath School Visitors day is always a soul winning occasion. As a result, I wish to advise all the various Sabbath School to use these tools of Sabbath School evangelism; Visitors day, Children's day, Branch Sabbath School day and etc. to harvest the grains for God and so make the 1000 Days of Reaping become a success. Even it is advisable that every Sabbath day should be guest days at every Sabbath School. For a very special guest will be present - the greatest guest of all - Jesus himself. (Matt. 18: 20). May God Bless you all.

by J. K. Mensah (Sabbath School Director)

# NEWS FROM

## SIERRA LEONE MISSION

### MID YEAR REPORT OF THE SIERRA LEONE MISSION

Since last we met in December 1982, the Lord has been pleased to bring us again to this Mid Year meeting, and we praise His name and give Him glory for the wonderful things He has done.

#### EVANGELISM

Evangelism continues to be the watch word of the Sierra Leone Mission. We are happy that we too can play a small part in the 1,000 Days of Reaping.

Since January 1983 there have been a number of efforts conducted on large and small scales in the mission. The work has resulted in 417 baptisms. The baptisms have come from all areas, from the Mende tribe, the Temne and the Krio tribes. Two of our ministers have already baptized more than 50 souls and many are nearing their half century.

1st Quarter	157 souls
2nd Quarter	260 souls

On Sunday May 7, a number of us as workers started an evangelistic campaign at Kissy on the spot where we expect to build a church and community centre. The opening night nearly 1,000 people came to listen. During the campaign until we kept the first Sabbath, the crowd was good indeed.

However, tragedy befell us. The Wednesday following the first Sabbath we spent under tent, a strong wind came and badly damaged the tent, blew it down. The tent is almost if not a total wreck. We prayed and summoned our will and the Lord provided us a school room at the Police Barracks where we could continue the meetings. This incidence greatly diminished the crowd. However the team worked and as a result 87 souls are now rejoicing in the Lord.

Among these baptism were two Police Officers, including the Officer in Command, five teachers, Civil Servants and Business people and Students. They came from all religions. About 10 Moslems are now rejoicing in their new found faith.

To date since September, we have baptized so far 726 souls. We hope by the end of the quarter, we should have baptized our first 1,000 souls.

<b>TITHES AND OFFERINGS</b> are moving but not with the growth that one would expect.	
Jan — June 1982	Tithe were 23,568.50
Jan — June 1983	Tithes were 27,603.30
	Increase 4,034.80

We wondered at times because of our financial position how we would pay our

workers, but the Lord has always come to our aid. Just two weeks ago when we were desperately in need of money to pay our workers, three men walked right into our office to return their tithes of Le4,000. We in the Mission believe that with faith, hard work and prayers funds will be realized.

#### LITERATURE EVANGELISM

Early this year, we were privileged of having Pastors Dale Thomas and Japheth Agboka, again from the Division and Union respectively visiting the field. They gave valuable instructions and helped us to recruit men and women. We now have 15 colporteurs.

The Mission Committee has voted to ask Brother J. M. Danquah to be the Publishing Director. He is doing a good work and is very cooperative. I believe with his leadership and if we get the supply of books, we will see great things happen in the Publishing Ministry.

#### SALES

JAN — DEC 1982	Le 6,757.75
JAN — JUNE 1983	Le 18,831.28
Increase	Le 12,073.53

We are very happy to have visiting our field Pastor John Collins from the Pacific Union Conference. His work is in the area of Personal Ministry. In this area he trains the laity how to give Bible Studies and lead souls to Christ. He is now with us and we are going through many series with him. He is expected to train men in Magburaka, Yele, Bo, Freetown and Waterloo. His visit has been through the help of Brother Lindsay Thomas and he is of no public charge to the Sierra Leone Mission.

Again we thank the Pacific Union for kindly loaning us brother Collins. There are many other things to say but since I was asked to give a five minutes report, I will leave the rest, if God wills, until the end of the year.

Remember us in your prayers.

J. A. ALLEN.

## NORTH GHANA MISSION

### "HITHERTO HATH THE LORD HELPED US"

#### Report of North Ghana Mission, July 11, 1983

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" is a very fitting caption for our report because it sums up our experience in this vast Mission. As Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpeh and Shen and called the name of it Ebenezer, so we in North Ghana must look back to January and forward to December and set a mark at



July to indicate the progress the Lord has helped us to make.

**Workers:** Eleven of us are actively engaged in the work of the Mission while six are actively engaged in their studies at Bekwai and ASWA. There are two laymen assisting us in pastoral and Voice of Prophecy work.

**Membership:** Because of the 28 persons who were baptized on Christmas day 1982 our membership stood at 1,046 at the end of December. By the end of January 1983 there were two more baptisms. These with other baptisms have brought our membership to 1,066. As a result of evangelistic campaigns the Lord has brought our membership to 1,256 at the end of June. Because of migration the number that is supporting the Mission in the two churches, 17 Companies and 6 branch Sabbath Schools is 1,174.

**Sabbath School Department:** We have a total of 22 Sabbath Schools and 6 Branch Sabbath Schools. Our total Sabbath School membership is 1,147 which shows that our Sabbath School attendance is as large as our church membership. The Lord has helped us to reach this healthy state.

**Lay Activities Department:** Our laymen, motivated by the spirit of God, have contacted 3,105 persons, distributed 665 pieces of literature, given 1,129 Bible Studies, helped 2,554 persons, given away 460 pieces of clothing and spend 1,246 hours helping others. It is estimated that the cash value of food and clothing given away is ₵18,329.00. Anxious to help their church to grow, the laymen held an evangelistic campaign in an area of Tamale and had the joy of seeing 9 of their interests baptized some time after that effort. There are 76 lay preachers who have helped to win 168 souls. A Layman's Council was held in Tamale in connection with the 1000 Days of Reaping and over 100 laymen attended.

### Youth Department

The membership of the Adventist Youth Society is 218. There are 139 seniors and 79 juniors. Effort is being made to train the youth up to the standard of Master Guide. The junior youth meets every Sabbath afternoon for nature study, story hour and Bible doctrines. We believe the Lord will continue to help us so that we have a rich harvest of young people into the church. Youth make up the majority of the membership of the North Ghana Mission and if their energies can be harnessed there will be a large army of youthful soldiers of the cross to help finish the work.

### Stewardship and Temperance Department

The Lord has helped our members to grasp the principles of stewardship and temperance in various churches, companies and Branch Sabbath Schools. Effort have been made to educate the members of the Bolgatanga and Tamale Churches about the various aspects of stewardship and temperance. Voice of Prophecy Bible School continues to grow, as well as the work of the Book and Bible House. The number of Literature Evangelists is two and for the past six months they have worked 510 hours, sold literature to the value of ₵54,980.80 having taken orders to the value of ₵11,624.00. One person has already been baptized and others are preparing. There are over 30 attending meetings and 20 have enrolled for Bible Studies.

### The Communications Department

This department has tried very hard to keep communication between us and the public. Nearly all of the officials have had contact with the church through this department.

### Education

The educational work continues to grow and is bringing many into contact with the church whom we would not have been able to contact otherwise. There are 135 pupils in the three classes. In the nursery and kindergarten sections there are over 200. There are two S.D.A. teachers and we are hoping to have two more join us at the end of the long vacation. The Accounts Clerk of the school has been baptized. About 50 of the children are Moslems.

### Income

The income of the Mission shows how much God has been leading our members in the path of faithfulness in supporting His work. At the end of June our total tithe income was ₵115,181.47 and the total for last Quarter was ₵65,944.33 as compared with ₵49,237.17 for the first Quarter of 1983.

This increase is due to the 170 new members who have been added to the church as well as the determination of men and women to be faithful to the Lord in these difficult times. The total contribution of our members to tithe, World Missions Funds, Intra Union Funds and Local Funds is ₵113,264.82. We thank God for His blessings and pray that one day North Ghana will be self-sufficient.

### Evangelism

No where is the help of God so evident as in the area of Evangelism. A total of four evangelistic campaigns have been held since January. Seven souls have been

baptized in Boafi from Pastor Asante's effort, 20 in Yendi from Pastor Asareh's campaign, 22 from the Kitari and other efforts. At least 101 souls have been baptized as a direct result of Pastor R. J. Wright's campaign in Tamale. Mention must be made about the Tamale laymen's campaign which has seen over 8 baptized. Conserving the new members and joint the follow-up work is difficult, but we are trying. We hope to have another baptism in September, and we are sure that the Lord will be our helper.

### Agricultural Project

Construction of the Zangum Dam for the SAWS project had to be stopped because of heavy rains. However, our project leader, Brother Saaka has been at work with the villagers. Work is being done on the growing of tomatoes, egg plants, pepper etc. Attendance at our church has shown a marked increase. The new church building is now too small. Many are waiting for baptism, and are attending adult education classes.

Though this project is not completed, it will be done in the near future. It will greatly add to the growth of the church in this village and surrounding villages. There is great need for other areas to benefit from this kind of project. It is my prayer that soon we will be able to say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." (1 Sam. 7:12).

L. G. A. Antonio

### HANDS ON THE WHEEL from page 2

"The coming of the Lord is nearer than when we first believed. . . . In the closing work we shall meet with perils that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His purposes to pass. He will gather from the world a people who will serve Him in righteousness." — *Ibid.*, p. 391.

In view of such a declaration, what should be our attitude? For one thing, we need not panic when the lion roars and the critics rage. Let the doubters doubt and the skeptics question. Let the detractors fume and detract, for they and their kind will have an open field till the end of time—then their reward.

As for us, we should plan to go beyond the end of time and, by God's grace, "enter in through the gates into the city" of our God (Rev. 22: 14). Heaven is our goal. Let us keep our confidence in God, His truth, and His church. Let us stay with the ship. The church of the living God is going through and will surely drop anchor on the "sea of glass" because a "divine hand is on the wheel" —the hand of Christ!



Results from the thrilling and Spiritual Six Weeks Better Living Crusade were as follows:

- First baptism Sabbath February 12 - four hundred and sixty two souls held at the Adventist Youth Camp.
- Second baptism Sabbath February 19 - one hundred and nineteen souls held at the Monrovia Church.
- Third baptism Sunday February 20, twenty-eight souls held at the Monrovia Church.

Grand total baptism - six hundred and nine souls.

Associate Evangelist Jonathan Ward returned home on February 23, and Evangelist J. J. Rodriguez left March 2, 1983 after returning to Liberia from the Division office in Abidjan where he gave his report to the Brethren.

After the tent was taken down the new converts began worshipping in one of our Public Schools, the G. W. Gibson Elementary and Junior High School Cafeteria.

Pastor R. J. Wright, Pastor David Mayson and Brother Charles Menjor readily took over the care of these new converts. On May 28 the Better Living Crusade Company was officially organized into a church. On that same day after the organization ceremony, ninety precious souls were baptized into the Better Living Crusade Church. It was more than a joy for us to see the Better Living Crusade Company organized into a full church and ninety souls baptized the same day. The Better Living Church is a growing church. It has embraced the Thousand Days of Reaping concept. May the Lord's name be praised.

## University accommodates SDA's beliefs

Georgetown University, a prestigious Roman Catholic institution in Washington, D. C., broke with 184 years of tradition in allowing Adventist Patrick Ethan Crarey to receive his medical degree on Friday, May 27, in a special awards ceremony, instead of at the regular commencement service.

Timothy S. Healy, president of the university explained that Patrick's religious convictions had led him to choose not to attend the graduation services scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 28.

Before conferring the degree, Matthew F. McNulty, Jr., chancellor of the university's medical centre, observed that during the five years Patrick had attended Georgetown University he had demonstrated his religious convictions consistently. For this reason—and in response to the request of his fellow medical students—he was afforded this unusual privilege.

Patrick, nominated to the National Medical Fellowship as an outstanding black medical student at Georgetown University for 1983, will be doing his residency in emergency medicine, at Howard University, Washington, D.C.

## ADVENTIST MISSIONARY COLLEGE REPORT

W. S. Whaley, President

On June 5, 1983 sixteen students marched down the aisle of Bekwai Institution Church to receive their certificates of achievement. They had completed four years of study at the Adventist Ministerial College, better known as Bekwai Seminary. Behind their smiling faces were four years of frustration and relief, depression and elation, confusion and inspiration, dismay and hope.

They began their educational journey believing that at the end of the Bekwai Seminary road they would be accepted as trained ministers of the S. D. A. Church. Midway through their course the church escalated the requirements for ministerial training and the students found themselves in the uncomfortable position of having gone too far to turn back and a dark tunnel of uncertainty before them. They took the "courage overpass" and 18 months later sat for their G. C. E. examination and passed out of Adventist Missionary College. They left behind them eleven of their juniors who are to follow in their footsteps next year, bringing to a close once again the Bekwai Seminary.

These graduates of AMC took with them treasures of sacred knowledge from the Life and Teachings of Jesus, Bible Doctrines, Prophetic Guidance, Daniel and Revelation, Romans, Homiletics, and Evangelism. They also took with them the great feeling that during their sojourn in the Bekwai District well over 300 souls had been won to the Lord Jesus under their ministry. Two hundred of this number resulted from five evangelistic campaigns conducted simultaneously for three weeks during February and March of this year.

Now their books and belongings are packed to their homes. They have spent more than £10,000.00 for their training. And now the church says except you receive B.A. Degree you are really not acceptable for ministry. Tolerated, perhaps, but not really acceptable. You must spend more money. Stay away from your wives and growing children four more years. Bury your head in books four more years then the same kind of paper that says certificates now will say B. A. and you will have made it. You may then become a minister of the Gospel. Somewhere in the little books of wisdom for

these last days the counsel is given that our youth should be trained *speedily* for the work.

April 1981 - The constituency of the West African Union Mission voted that the union establish a Junior College for the training of our youth for the service to the Church.

April 1983 - The WAUM Junior College Committee met with Dr. A. C. Segovia of the General Conference Education Department, Dr. Joseph Nkou, Director of Education AID, and Pastor J. J. Nortey Treasurer of AID.

The purpose of the meeting was to survey WAUM's proposal for the establishment of the Junior College. The objectives, site, curriculum, staffing, master plan, and financial estimates were carefully studied. The recommendation of this committee was passed on to the Division and then to the General Conference. We now have the recommendation of the General Conference to proceed.

The Union Committee has indicated their intent that the Junior college should be opened for classes in October 1983. The name of the institution is—Adventist Missionary College. The site of the school is a beautiful 300 acres of fertile land facing the Aburi mountains 25 miles north of the city of Accra plains near a village called Oyibi.

The chiefs and people of the area have exercised good faith in the S. D. A. church by making this land available for the college. The clamor for land is unprecedented at this time and we are fortunate to have such a location for this important institution. It is within reach of several other institutions of higher learning whose library facilities and staff may well be at our disposal. Several Seventh-day Adventist professors are teaching in these schools and surely they will help us. Major transportation facilities such as the airport and bus terminals and railway are just minutes away. Electricity is right on the land. A stepdown transformer is already in place and functioning. Water is admittedly a problem, but a problem to be overcome. We already have assurance that the water table in that area is very high. Probes will soon be made to give us the scientific data of the availability, quantity, and quality of water that we may expect. It is a goodly land, not yet flowing with milk and honey, but that will be forth-coming with the strong agricultural programme that is planned for the school. The site recommendation of the General Conference-sponsored-survey-team is a good one.

According to the time table laid out for the operation of the college, the staff and college are to operate from rented quarters during the 1983/84 school year. Sections of buildings on the college site for classrooms and dormitory are to be

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## Adventist Ministerial College Graduation ceremony

by Emmanuel Osei, Instructor, AMC.

The about-to-be-phased-out Adventist Ministerial College - Bekwai has had its first historic graduation ceremony which came on at Bekwai Institutional Chapel on the 5th of June, 1983.

Among church dignitaries present at the ceremony were Mr. S. K. Antwi, the Ashanti Regional Manager of S.D.A. Schools, Mr. N. K. Gyimah, the Treasurer of the Central Ghana Conference, Mr. I. K. Boateng, the Headmaster of S.D.A. Secondary School, Bekwai, Madam Adwoba Arizah Erzuah, the Temperance Director, Central Ghana Conference, Pastor J. K. Mensah, the Youth and Sabbath School Director, and Mr. J. A. Manu the new General Manager of S.D.A. schools who stood in for Pastor E. O. Sackey, president of the South Ghana Mission, as the Chairman for the graduation ceremony.

Addressing the sixteen graduating students, Pastor H. V. A. Kuma, President of the Central Ghana Conference and the Guest Speaker for the occasion said among other things that the outgoing students should hold firm to the Faith and demonstrate, in the spirit of Joseph, a selfless and non-revengeful attitude and absolute commitment of their lives to our Lord Jesus Christ and His teachings. He told the students to be even more studious after school and plan to attain to the highest point in all spheres of life.

His address calls to mind what has been penned down long ago by E. G. White sayings, 'Young men and women should be urged to appreciate the heaven-sent blessings of opportunities to become well disciplined and intelligent. They should take advantage of the schools that have been established for the purpose of imparting the best of knowledge. It is sinful to be indolent and negligent in regard to obtaining an education. Time is short, and therefore because the Lord is soon to come to close the scenes of earth's history, there is all the greater necessity of improving present opportunities and privileges ... The world is to be warned, and no souls should rest satisfied with a superficial knowledge of truth. You know not to what responsibility you may be called. You know not where you may be called upon to give your witness of truth. Many will have to stand in the legislative courts; some will have to stand before Kings and before the learned of the earth, to answer for their faith.' *Fundamentals of Christian Education*. Pg. 216, 217.

The Adventist Ministerial College which has taken shape under the able Directorship of Pastor W. S. Whaley has

produced its first batch of sixteen students who received their certificates after four years of Ministerial training. Earlier this year, the Adventist Ministerial College students had demonstrated their evangelistic skill and enthusiasm in a split-action evangelistic thrust in Bekwai District, touching simultaneously at Asanso, Kwamang, Sanfo/Aduam, Bekwai and then a strong campus evangelism held in the Institutional Chapel. The first baptism recorded for this evangelistic thrust was 185. Later baptism at these places indicate that altogether over 250 precious souls have been baptized as a result of the three-week public evangelism.

It is not only during short vacations when the students rally together with the Director, Pastor W. S. Whaley, to evangelize places such as Techiman, but in the school term, despite the academic work piled on them, the students show the keenest interest and the love for the work for which they have been called by visiting churches at the week-ends and also by their involvement shown in the total-action evangelism.

### ADVENTIST COLLEGE REPORT from page 6

completed for the 1984/85 school year, along with staff housing.

It is therefore deemed necessary that the temporary rented facilities be within reasonable distance to the site to facilitate the use of student labour and the over-seeing of the project as it develops.

The College curriculum will begin with two areas of emphasis: Theology and Business. The intent will be to offer the first two years of college work. Our objectives also require that we implement a workstudy programme in harmony with our special counsel, the Spirit of Prophecy.

Staffing the College with qualified people should not be a problem particularly in the Accra area. The College Board will have an impressive list of potential staff from which to choose.

The present circumstances in Ghana are favourable for students from each of our constituent countries. In addition, a work programme engaging students in productive jobs could lower the cash outlay considerably. Now, is an opportune time for a strong beginning for our College.

I can envision parents in Sierra Leone and The Gambia and Liberia and other places in the world leaping for joy that they can provide for their children two years of quality College Education for Approximately \$1,000 (dollars) per year.

I can envision at least one hundred of God's people in the WAUM jumping at the opportunity to become one of the "Committee of 100" pledging themselves to give at least liberally for five years for

the development of their college.

We can envision our members buying copies of the book, *Christ's Object Lessons* - keeping one and selling one or more. 50,000 members buying 100,000 books and all the profit coming to their college. That is a real challenge. Even if only 50% of the members participate it will be a great help.

What I'm trying to get you to do, my brethren, is to dream with me. Dream of success. Dream of accomplishing this worthy task. Dream of overcoming giant obstacles like inflation, scarcity of material, and scarcity of cash. Of course there are giants in the land. There are all kinds of reasons for not making a beginning, but we must begin anyway.

We have faith in charitable organization. We also must exercise faith in the unsearchable riches of our Lord and in the Lord's people who are willing to give — if we give the leadership.

When will we send the giants crashing to the ground mortally wounded by the missile of courageous faith in crisis times?

Faith can transform our dreams into reality. If we have the will to trust in and cooperate with God and work harmoniously together, we are able to overcome the obstacles and establish this college solidly and operate it efficiently with the help of God and for His glory.

Our youth are counting on us to make wise and courageous moves. May God help us to avoid the pitfall of pride and selfishness, and timidity as we go forward in faith to bring this dream into reality this year. Let us minimize years of frustration, depression, confusion and dismay and be success-oriented from the very beginning by following His programme of Christian education.

## Adventist Missionary College

### BULLETIN

It is with gratitude and praise to God that we announce to all the churches in the West African Union the official decision of the Union Committee and the Board of Trustees to open the Adventist Missionary College in October 1983.

Temporary facilities have been secured in Accra for the institution, while a 300 acre plot of land 25 miles outside Accra is being readied for development.

Qualified students throughout the Union who would like to continue their education in this Adventist institution of higher education should write for application forms to:

Director of Admissions,  
Adventist Missionary College,  
P. O. Box 9358,  
Airport,  
Accra- GHANA.

(Continued on page 8.)



# AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ADVENTIST CONSTITUENCY

Dear Fellow Believer:

It will rejoice your hearts to know that the West African Union has given birth to a brand new baby - a junior college. The General Conference approval has recently been received and we are proud to announce this dream come true.

The name of the institution is the Adventist Missionary College. Its permanent home will be Oyibi, Ghana, a 300 acre site 25 miles outside of Accra. We intend to offer to our West African youth Christian education at its finest.

We are making a beginning this coming school year in temporary facilities with a full-time staff of three lecturers, an accountant, secretary, and cooks. We shall begin with the Theology and Business Departments.

We are calling on all members in the West African Union to give active support to this new college. Those who are especially blessed with means may wish to become members of the AMC "Committee of 100" who will assist in the capital development of the college especially in its formative years. We are embarking on a five year Capital Development programme and the "Committee of 100" could play a vital role.

Specifically, C - 100 members would be asked to pledge their prayers and financial help on a yearly basis for 5 years. They could send through denominational channels or directly to the West African Union - AMC Fund, the amounts pledged. Some may choose to contribute a lump sum covering the five years in advance.

In addition to prompt letters of acknowledgments, members would receive biannual reports of the progress of the college, the amount raised by the "Committee of 100," and the specific projects to be benefited.

I will be very happy to receive any input from our constituents on this proposal. Perhaps you have worked with such a group before and can share valuable insights on how we can be most effective.

If you are prepared to have your name listed as member of the "Committee of 100" please write to:

The President,  
Adventist Missionary College,  
P. O. Box 9358,  
Airport - Accra,  
GHANA.

Above all, we cherish your prayers and look forward to the day when the "Committee of 100" will visit Ghana for an on-site inspection of its investment in

Christian Education.

May heaven's richest blessings attend each of you. Our prayers for you and your family go with this letter.

Because He lives, I am,

Optimistically your,  
Dr. Walton S. Whaley,  
(President)

A. M. C. BULLETIN from page 7

The major objective of the two-year programme is to provide a Christcentred educational foundation for persons wishing to serve the Lord in various branches of missionary work.

Students may receive their basic course requirements at AMC and then go on to one of our senior colleges to complete requirements for their degree.

Admission for the opening year is limited. Only students who meet the requirements fully can be considered. Admission requirements are as follows:

- a) Matriculation for the Faculty of Arts in a university of the Students' home country.
- or b) General Certificate of Education (London) with five passes at "O" Level or above, including English language.
- or c) West African School Certificate with five subject at "credit" Level or above, including English Language.
- or d) Liberian National Certificate which includes four units of English supported by a satisfactory transcript of grades.
- e) Exceptional students who have completed four years of Post-Primary Teacher Training, Evangelistic Training or any other Educational programme requiring approximately 12 years of formal education (with a minimum grade point/average of 2.40) may be admitted. Grade II Teachers (from Nigeria), Certificate A Teachers (Ghana) must have the West African School Certificate with at least three credit passes or GCE (Ordinary Level) with three passes including English language. Those teachers with certificates issued since 1967 with a credit or merit in English Language are not required to present a WASC/GCE English Language certificate.

The procedure for admission to the Adventist Missionary College as outlined by the Board of Trustees is as follows:

- 1) Student requests application forms
- 2) Forms are sent and filled out
- 3) Recommendation forms are to be signed by the students Church elder, district pastor, and a Conference/Mission official.
- 4) Completed forms are to be sent in not later than August 31, 1983 for

the 1983/84 school year.

- 5) Admission Committee meets and takes action
- 6) Admission letter sent to successful applicants.

Total fees for the first academic year 1983-84 are:

Ghana ₵11,400.00 (cedi);  
Sierra Leone Le1,750.00  
(Leones) Liberia \$1,250.00  
(dollars); Gambia D1,500.00  
(dalasis)

Students from outside of Ghana are to pay their fees into their respective Missions.

Qualified students are encouraged to apply now for the 1984-85 school year if they are unable to enrol this academic year.

Church members throughout the West African Union are urged to pray much for this new institution. We shall need the constant guidance of the Holy Spirit so that we will develop a school where success will be measured not by quantity but by the virtue, intelligence and piety of its faculty and students and supportive staff.

Yours for Christian Education,

W. S. Whaley  
(President)

## OBITUARY

Pastor John P. Harris 1913 - 1983

On June 13, 1983 the cruel hand of death snatched away from us Pastor John P. Harris. He was laid to rest at his station of service, Sinyea, 125 miles from Monrovia.

Born on July 26, 1913, Pastor Harris entered the Lord's work in April 1937 as an Interpreter. He married Miss Rachel Nyanpu which union was blessed with nine children-four boys and five girls. He was ordained into the Gospel Ministry in 1974. He served in this Ministry for 35 years. He died on June 13, 1983 at the age of 70. He was a very strong pillar in his district and community.

The Liberia Mission and the whole church in West Africa regret his death. We shall miss him. He has left a vacancy which is hard to fill in his district and Mission. May his mortal remains rest in perfect peace awaiting the glorious appearance of our Lord and Master - The life Giver.

Pastor M. I. Harding  
(Acting President)  
Liberia Mission

