

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

December 26, 1914

A WAR TIME CALL

Relief of the African Missions of the
European Division

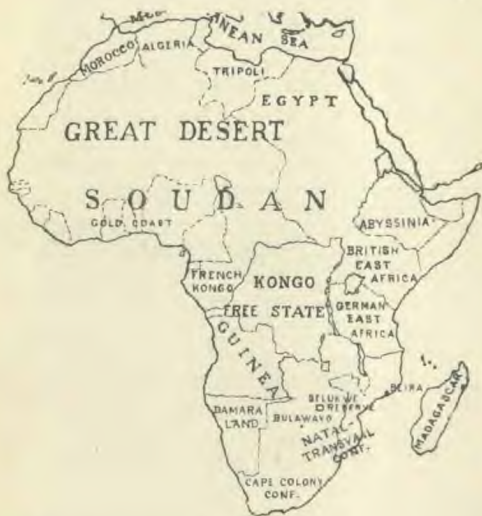


"RING AROUND A ROSY"—SISTER OHME AND THE GIRLS OF HER SCHOOL AT PLAY. VICTORIA NYANZA, GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

ISSUED BY THE
SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
TAKOMA PARK STATION - - WASHINGTON, D. C.

WE MUST MAKE IT DOLLAR DAY

Map of Africa



THE European Division missions are: Algeria, Lower Egypt, Upper Egypt, Abyssinia, British East Africa, German East Africa (Pare Mission and Victoria Nyanza Mission), Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and the Canary Islands, the health base for the West African workers on short furlough.

The Official Notice

MRS. L. FLORA PLUMMER,

Secretary Sabbath School Department.

Dear Sister Plummer:—

This time we are passing to you an emergency call indeed, the General Conference Committee, realizing that in making the call they are enlisting in the keenest way the sympathies and the activities of many thousands in the vast army of Sabbath-school members. In recent councils it has been pressed more and more upon the committee, that the Mission Board must plan to stand by the mission fields of the European division with very substantial help in these trying times. Here is the action of the Committee:—

In view of the fact that the war in Europe has interrupted communications between the European Division Treasury and the outlying mission fields of the Division, and in view further of the fact that the abnormal conditions must certainly take away the ability of thousands of our brethren and sisters in Europe to give for missions as they have in the past been so liberally doing:—

“Voted, That we appeal to the Sabbath School Department to make the object of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, for December 26, the support of the African Missions of the European Division Conference, comprising the Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and Nigeria missions in West Africa, the Pare mountain and Victoria Nyanza missions in German

East Africa, the British East Africa missions on the Victoria Nyanza, the Abyssinian mission and the mission fields of Upper and Lower Egypt, and Algeria; further that in order to give this special relief in time of the world's great war we authorize the Sabbath School Department to postpone the offering appointed for this quarter in behalf of the Malaysian Mission until later.

Just a further word in explanation of this emergency need. It is not supposed that these African missions will be operated full strength in these troublous times. The last word sent out from the Division office to the fields by the president of the European Division, just before the breaking of communications, called on the missionaries to cut down everything to bare living expense, so that they might weather the storm. We may depend upon it the missionaries are doing this. Therefore, the General Conference Committee hopes that the amount of this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering may supply a sufficient fund to tide these African missions over the crisis and keep the missionaries hard at work in the winning of souls until the longed for end of the war shall come. We all want them to keep the work going. Even if the war should be ended by the time of this offering, our funds for this purpose would be needed just the same, for all the time advances will have to be made from general funds during the whole of this last quarter, and for months to come. Every forecast seems to tell us, our European brethren will need help to keep these large Af-

rican interests from suffering, even though the conflict is brought to a close.

Of course the schools understand that our brethren and sisters in the churches and at camp-meeting last summer made special gifts to the emergency fund in order to help generally in the work in Europe. There are the yet larger mission fields to be helped from the general emergency fund, in Latin Europe, in Syria and Turkey and the Balkan States, in Persia, and Central Asia, and Siberia, beside the relief that must surely be given to brethren in the churches in Europe where great loss and suffering has been caused by destruction of homes and church buildings. So the Sabbath School Department will clearly understand why it is that in this unforeseen emergency,—the greatest war of history, raging in fields where we have thousands of brethren and sisters,—the General Conference Committee asks the Sabbath-schools to take on the burden of rolling up one of its largest offerings for the relief of these African missions. The exact amount needed cannot be forecast, but the mission treasury looks certainly to have to supply from \$14,000 to \$18,000 for these African missions during the winter and spring.

Sincerely yours,

W. A. SPICER, *Sec. Mission Board.*

“THE spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven.”—*Mrs. E. G. White.*

THE MISSION BOARD'S MESSAGE TO THE FIELDS

IN order that the Sabbath-schools may have a close view of the effort of the Mission Board to establish communications with all the missions under the European Division, we pass on to you a copy of the letter which the Mission Board sent out to the missionaries.

We can very well imagine what it must mean to our missionaries away in Africa, to find suddenly that communications are broken with the division headquarters' office. Even when the money is in hand to send to the fields, it is trying enough in war time to know how to get remittances through to the workers. During these times, Elder Knox, the treasurer, has sometimes cabled money to the fields, and sometimes sent it through the legations of other governments in Washington. Again, in some cases it may be possible to send money through some of the large business corporations in New York, having international branches. But here is the letter:—

September 22, 1914.

To the Missionaries in the Outlying Fields
of the European Division Conference.

Dear Brethren and Sisters:—

In these days we can hardly depend upon the regularity of mail service in all countries, but you may depend upon it, the

hearts of the brethren and sisters in our churches in North America are with all the missionaries in the outlying mission fields in these days of stress and trial. When your communications are broken with the regular channel of mission offerings, we want you to know that the brethren and sisters of the North American Division Conference, and in other lands as well, are ready to give help as may be needed, to keep the little band of workers supplied with the necessaries of life, and to enable you to go forward with the gospel work for the winning of souls in every way possible. The missionary work must not cease because of this sad trouble in Europe. Our brethren and sisters are praying for you.

Elder Fitzgerald informs us that immediately on the outbreak of the trouble he wrote some of the near-by mission fields in order to learn how the missionaries were situated. His conference had some mission funds in hand not yet passed in to the Division treasury. His union felt also that it must be ready to share its own slender resources in cases of emergency need.

But in order to maintain the work we must make provision where necessary, for regular remittances. The General Conference Committee this morning took the following action:—

“Voted, That in harmony with the request that has come from the European Division Conference office, we ask those in charge of the mission fields of that Division to cut down all plans for new work involving increased expenditure, or for work that may demand liberal outlay, so that expenses in the field may be held to the mere cost of the necessaries of life; but in addition, in behalf of our brethren and sisters in the churches of the North American Division,

we send greetings to our workers in the mission fields of the European Division, assuring



W. H. LEWIS AND FAMILY, WEST AFRICA

them that we are not only praying for them, but that the believers are making special

gifts so that help may be extended from the General Conference treasury to keep the workers sustained in gospel service during these troublous times; and we urge all the missionaries, while cutting down plans involving general expenditures, to give themselves more actively and earnestly to the preaching and teaching of the Word of God and every kind of soul winning service. The work must not cease in these times when the hearts of men are led to turn more solemnly than ever toward God. And it is the hope of the General Conference that with the help it may supply, and with the development of every local resource, none of the evangelistic workers may have to turn to secular pursuits."

So write us at once of your mission and workers, and in order that we may keep in touch with you, send us a brief report every month. Please give us a statement, with names of the workers to be maintained, the salary that has been given, and then set down the monthly rate that is required by each worker for the bare living expense. We must try to supply this latter regularly, leaving the matter of full settlement for adjustment later. Please give us also an estimate of income from local sources, as sale of publications, industrial work, etc. Give any information you can get as to the best way for us to remit money, and whether New York or some other exchange can best be cashed. Sometimes our treasurer may be able to send money through big business houses. But that is a matter for him to deal with here.

Our greetings to you and all the missionaries. Preach the Word and push the work. May God bless you and all the people among whom you labor, and hasten the glorious coming of our Lord and Saviour.

MISSION BOARD

UP THE NILE

THIS year a new mission field has been formed of Upper Egypt. To reach it, one must travel from Cairo up the Nile, past the pyramids, to the headquarters in the town of Assiout.

At mention of this region, we think of the little basket that once floated among the rushes by this same river Nile, carefully watched by Moses's sister. We think, too, of the bondage of the children of Israel in Egypt, and of God's mighty power in leading them forth. How our work was started in Upper Egypt is told as follows by Elder Guy Dail, secretary of the European Division:—

“A Copt in Upper Egypt was convinced from a study of the Bible alone that we are in duty bound to obey the ten commandments as they were given at Sinai. He began as best he knew. There were others of his friends and neighbors who took an interest in what this man said and did, for he was a seeker after light, and obeyed as far as was revealed to him, without any idea that there was any one else on earth who observed the fourth commandment. Elder Keough heard of this case. He finally found the address, wrote the man, and was invited to visit him. At the station they failed to meet each other, but when the messenger at length did reach the home of the modern Cornelius he found friends and neighbors gathered together to hear the word of God.

The best interest was shown from the very first, and there appeared a real desire to receive light. At the time of our meeting in Assiout representatives of the neighborhood



ABYSSINIAN MISSION HOME, EAST AFRICA

were present. Three men came to be with us. One of these had formerly been a Mohammedan, but he had become a Copt. For this he had his family taken from him by his Mohammedan friends, and was compelled to flee for his life, so that he was really living in a state of exile, not daring to return to his former home. He has thus far been a great help to Elder Keough, who is laboring in this village, and who reported to us seventeen new Sabbath keepers. We hope this may be the beginning of a great advance step in our Egyptian work. Let us not neglect Egypt in prayer."

FROM ALGERIA

MRS. W. E. HANCOCK, formerly a helper in the General Conference Sabbath School Department, now with her husband a missionary in Algeria, writes as follows under date of September 1:—

“Well, Mrs. Plummer, we can think of nothing but war over here; so if I seem to forget all else in writing to you, you will pardon me this time. All Europe is suffering, and so are the people over here in North Africa, which belongs to France. We are shocked every day by the events which are taking place. True, we have preached for years that these things would come, but it seems like a dream that they are right upon us. What our dear brethren in Germany, France, Russia, England, as well as other places, may be enduring because of the war, we can only imagine. Many of them doubtless are on the firing line. One good Adventist mother from Relizane is here now to see her sons off to war. Two of them are now in France, and the other two may be forced to go at any time. Our hearts ache for the poor men and boys who are giving their lives for their countries, as well as for the many families who are left to suffer. As we see them bidding farewell to their families, tearlessly, yet doubtless with heavy hearts, it sends a thrill through us and makes us hope that they will be as loyal to God as they must be to the nation. Thousands of

soldiers have left our little port during the last month for France, and still others are going, among them are immense numbers of Arabs and Moroccans whom they are placing on the very front row of the battle. What the outcome of this terrible European struggle may be, no one over here seems to be able even to guess. We are holding our breath these days, for all foreigners are regarded suspiciously, being kept under surveillance, some having been placed in prison.

“So far we have been unable to communicate with our office in Hamburg. We do not know where Brother Conradi is nor what our work and workers will do from now on if the war continues. However, we are of good courage, and know that ‘God always takes care of his own.’ We scarcely stop to think of ourselves these days, for there are so many about us who are suffering for the bare necessities of life that our own difficulties seem small in comparison. Our work goes slowly these days, though we have some who are deeply interested in the truth, and a few are ready to keep the Sabbath.

“We have a school twice a week for the children, besides the school for the grown people each Sabbath afternoon. In our children’s meeting, when I begin to play the little organ in our hall they come flocking in with dirty faces, dirty dresses, and many of them with a piece of bread tucked in their pockets. But they are eager to sing

our hymns and learn the memory verses and simple Bible stories which we teach them. They are not the most attractive appearing children in the world, but they have little souls to be saved and their little lives must



BUKUINE OUTSTATION, GERMAN EAST AFRICA

be made like the pure lilies which often grow in unforbidding places. Now we shall likely have to give up our meeting hall, if we are unable to receive means from the Hamburg office. We do not know how great a calamity this war is going to bring upon our treasury department.

“I know you all pray for the work and workers on this half of the world, and especially at this time, and we would ask that you remember the work among the Mohammedans also, which is so difficult.”

Oran, Algeria, Africa.

“SELF-SACRIFICE is the key-note of the teachings of Christ.”—*Mrs. E. G. White.*

ON THE AFRICAN WEST COAST

IT would take too long to give the names of the workers in all these African missions, but we can tell the names of the foreign missionaries in West Africa.

In the Sierra Leone mission are Elder R. S. Greaves and wife, formerly of British Columbia, and E. W. Myers and wife, of Oregon.

When the war broke out in Europe, Brother and Sister W. H. Lewis, who have been working in Sierra Leone, were taking a few months' furlough over in the Canary Islands, expecting ere this to be leading out in the work in the new Gold Coast mission. We are asking them to wait in the islands, helping Brother Aldrich there until matters are more settled.

Down in Nigeria, further south, Elder D. C. and Mrs. Babcock are opening a new region to our message. They are probably in or near the town of Lagos. Elder Babcock has made a trip of exploration into the interior, and it may be has already selected the site for the new mission station. With help from this side, all these missions will be able to push forward with their work.

“IF there was ever a time when sacrifices should be made, it is now. Those who have money should understand that now is the time to use it for God.”—*Mrs. E. G. White.*

IN EAST CENTRAL AFRICA

IN 1903 the European brethren established their first mission in German East Africa. The station was in the Pare Mountains, and was given the name of Friedenstal, or "The Valley of Peace." The missionaries landed among a people whose language they had to reduce to writing. Elder Conradi has told us how on his first visit accompanying the missionaries, they were surrounded by heathen, wearing only the skins of animals, living in huts with no windows or chimneys. Great changes have come. Speaking of another visit that he made to the East Central African field, Elder Conradi tells us of the changes that twelve years have wrought:—

On the Sabbath mornings, hundreds of natives, in clean, white linen, came from every direction to the Sabbath-school, having received their first impulse in our day schools.

At the time of the sermon, hundreds of the older people, still covered with skins, would come, being influenced by their children. On my first visit, we could only make ourselves understood by signs. At the second, I could tell the people, through our interpreters, what Christianity had done for us and for other people in far-off lands. Also I could point to scores of their own sons and daughters, in their very midst, who had experienced the converting power of Christ, and who gladly arose as witnesses of the truthfulness of my preaching.

As we moved on from station to station, we would find every few miles an out-school; and from a hundred to two hundred pupils,

with their teacher, greeted us and bade us welcome. Chiefs came with their presents, and some even desired that we start schools in their villages, because their children had to go so far.

Twelve years have passed, and what a change has been wrought among this heathen mountain tribe! Four churches have been established, 225 young people have been baptized, as many more are preparing for baptism, some forty teachers have been educated, and not less than 2,300 pupils are in our schools. A number of books have been translated, and parts of the Gospels. A translation of the entire New Testament is nearly completed. Several of their young people, who had done good work as teachers and soul winners, gladly accepted a call to the Victoria Nyanza, where they have become successful helpers for our missionaries.

THE following^d inscription in ancient English style is said to be on a tombstone in Tiverton, England:—

“That wee spent, wee had ;
That wee lefte, wee loste ;
That wee gave, wee have.”

“LOVE for lost souls brought Christ to Calvary's cross. Love for souls will lead us to self-denial and sacrifice, for the saving of that which is lost.”—*Mrs. E. G. White.*

"WHAT THEN?"

"He is counting on you."

He has need of your life
In the thick of the strife:
For that weak one may fall
If you fail at His call.

He is counting on you,

If you fail Him—

What then?

"He is counting on you."

On your silver and gold,
On that treasure you hold;
On that treasure still kept,
Though the doubt o'er you swept.

'Is this gold not *all* mine?

(Lord, I knew it was Thine.')

He is counting on you,

If you fail Him—

What then?

"He is counting on you."

On a love that will share
In his burden of prayer,
For the souls He has bought
With His life-blood: and sought
Through His sorrow and pain
To win "Home" yet again.

He is counting on you,

If you fail Him—

What then?

"He is counting on you."

On life, money and prayer;
And "the day shall declare"
If you let Him have *all*
In response to His call;
Or if He in that day
To your sorrow must say

"I had counted on you,

But you failed Me"—

What then?

“He is counting on you.”

Oh! the wonder and grace,
To look Christ in the face
And not be ashamed,
For you gave what He claimed,
And you laid down your *all*
For His sake—at His call.

He had counted on you,
And you failed not.

What then?

—*Bessie Porter Head.*

TIMELY ADMONITIONS

“GOD tries the faith of his people to test their character. Those who in times of emergency are willing to make sacrifices for him are the ones whom he will honor with a partnership in his work. Those who are unwilling to practice self-denial in order to carry out God’s purposes, will be tested, that their course may appear to human eyes as it appears to the eyes of him who reads the heart.”—“*Testimonies for the Church,*” *Vol. 6, page 104.*

“WHEN the Lord sees his people restricting their imaginary wants, practicing self-denial, not in a mournful, regretful spirit, as Lot’s wife left Sodom, but joyfully for Christ’s sake, then the work will go forward with power.”—*Id., page 104.*

SUGGESTIVE PROGRAM

A NUMBER of requests have been received for a suggestive program in connection with the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering Leaflet, and in response we present the following:—

December 5

“The Official Notice.”

*Distribute Thirteenth Sabbath Envelopes.

December 12

“The Mission Board’s Message to the Fields.”

December 19

“Up the Nile.”

“In East Central Africa.”

“From Algeria.”

December 26

Review reasons for this call.

“On the West African Coast.”

Reproduce the map of Africa, pointing out the mission fields where support from the European Division Treasury has failed on account of the war.

“What Then?”

“Timely Admonitions,” and short paragraphs.

Offering.

Prayer.

*The Thirteenth Sabbath Envelopes may be ordered through the tract societies. The prices are as follows:—

1000.....	\$2.00
500	1.50
100.....	.35
25.....	.10

The envelopes may be used as a self-denial box for each member, and also for soliciting offerings. More than one may be given to those desiring them. See that the children also are provided with them. Many dollars are brought in by their efforts.

Be sure to order the envelopes in good time. Why not place a standing order for them?