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News from Romania and the U.S.S.R.

By A. F. TARR

IN THE December issue of the **NORTHERN LIGHT** we were happy to publish an article from the Rev. Dr. W. Bryn Thomas, a minister of the Church of England, conveying the greetings of the believers in Romania whom he had recently visited. Following the receipt of these greetings we wrote to the leader of our work in Romania reciprocating his message, and expressing our joy over the progress that the work in his field was making. We now have a letter from this brother—the president of the Romanian Union Conference—which we believe will thrill the hearts of the members of the Northern European Division. We quote from this letter as follows:

"Dear Brother Tarr: I was deeply moved by your unexpected letter in connection with the visit of Dr. Thomas, which in itself was a special surprise. Your letter did make a special impression on my life, so your thought of writing me must have been a divine inspiration. I think it was good that the two Church of England pastors paid us a visit. At first it seemed to me as though they had forgotten to convey our greetings to the brethren in your country.

"As the two guests informed you already, we are glad of the special grace of Christ, we feel He is leading us daily by His Holy Spirit. For us it is a special privilege to work without any hindrance. We did not know what it is like to be

under the protection of the government, but today the Adventist denomination that faithfully upholds the principles of their organization, is held in good repute by the Government. The printed papers, the Seminary, the continuous addition of church buildings made from material that is made available by the State, show and prove that the Government is caring for the uplifting of the spiritual life of our denomination. I am often deeply impressed of the goodness of God and it is not seldom that I have felt the nearness of God toward us. I am always very thankful to God and my desire is that I, together with my co-workers, may be found among those who are mentioned in the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:2.

"I experience such a joy in my heart when, during my weekly travellings, I face great multitudes of believers and see that every seat in our prayer houses is taken and that the believers are asked to take Jesus into their hearts through the Holy Spirit. There is a spirit of prayer among the Adventists, and at the same time a great longing to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I am convinced that you, too, are joining us in prayer, and I feel that our united prayers rise as a sweet smelling incense before our Heavenly Father.

"Dear Brother Tarr, I shall appreciate it so much if you will kindly send me

three copies of the periodical that contains the article written by Dr. Thomas. I hope you have some left. It would be such a great help to us. And maybe you may also be able to send me a new Church Manual. . . . We have written to a number of countries and we have been assured that we even can pay visits. We are hoping that we shall be a help to the Adventists in the neighbouring countries, and that we can see them there and that brethren from your country will come to see us, too.

"With kind regards to all the brethren wherever they are, from all of us, I am,
"Sincerely your brother in the Lord,
"St. Nailescu, Union President."

* * *

To this we should like to add the latest letter received from our church leaders in the Soviet Union. We quote as follows:

"Dear Brother in the Lord A. Floyd Tarr, and other dear fellow workers:

"Your letter of November 1st has been gratefully received. As we read your letter we feel more and more how the mutual unity of the brotherhood and the desire to meet you personally grows day by day.

"Until this day the Lord has richly blessed us. In December we returned from the Ukraine where we have spent seven weeks visiting the different

churches. We experienced the blessings of God both in our travels and in the meetings we had. Our fellow believers in the Ukraine, as in all of the Soviet Union, are united in the spirit and hold fast the holy truth and the hope that God gives us, ever praying for the progress of God's work as well as for peace in the world so that the days of prosperity that now exist in the world may still continue for a long while.

"We have not lost hope of personally meeting you. It is with joy that we hear you also desire to meet us. We have come to the important decision and view that this our meeting with you should first and foremost take place here with us. We shall do all in our power that this dear goal may be a reality as early as possible.

"We can inform you that the membership in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination here is a little over 20,000. We have about 100 evangelistic workers. Our Union Committee consists of 11 members. The Union Presidium (Russian for Board of Directors) is made up of 5 members.

"We ask you also to send us statistical figures about your membership for the past few years, and also other information concerning the evangelistic work in Europe, of which we have not heard anything for a long time. We shall be very grateful for such information.

"We send you our brotherly greetings and wish you and all your fellow workers and all churches in Europe rich blessings and the peace of God for the New Year.

"With Christian greetings to all of you, we remain,

Signed by the President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

We rejoice in the good tidings conveyed by these letters from Romania and the Soviet Union, and in the desire which our churchmembers there express for a personal meeting together as soon as opportunity permits. In the meantime we bespeak, in their behalf, the goodwill and the earnest prayers of their fellow workers and churchmembers throughout the Northern European Division.

opportunity, the Ethiopian Union Mission, with financial assistance from the Northern European Division, also erected a booth, for a witness to the large throngs of people that were crowding the place each day. In harmony with the spirit of the event, it was built in the shape of an Ethiopian house with a thatched roof.

Among the many visits made to our booth, the most important was the kind visit of His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie, the First. During the visit, His Imperial Majesty again revealed a keen interest in our work and its progress in Ethiopia. As a token of our appreciation for the interest and help that has been shown to our work, His Imperial Majesty was presented with *God Speaks to Modern Man*, and *God's Good News*.

The interior of the booth was designed and arranged by W. S. Jensen and N. I. Tew, and the three phases of our work for humanity's sake were emphasized. One section was devoted to our medical and humanitarian endeavours here in Ethiopia. Included with this section were posters showing the harmful effects of tobacco and alcohol which aroused considerable interest among the visitors.

Another section featured the educational work with pictures of our Training School and other schools located in the Empire of Ethiopia. The pictures were supplemented by a display of handicraft from the Akaki School. The item that attracted the most interest was a large hand-woven wool rug.

The most prominent place was reserved for our truth-filled literature, including Voice of Prophecy lessons. The books and papers were exhibited in an attractive and appealing manner, that contributed much to the drawing power of the booth, for it was filled with visitors most of the time. Especially prepared for the Fair was an Amharic tract giving our beliefs in a concise form and including an enrolment card for the Voice of Prophecy lessons. Thirteen thousand of these tracts were distributed. Other tracts, enrolment cards, and papers bring the number of pieces of literature that were given out to more than 20,000. In addition to this, many books were sold. One visible result of the

(Concluded on page 3.)



A ROYAL PRESENTATION

By Herman E. Davis

THE year 1955 was another historic year for ancient, historic Ethiopia, for it was the Silver Jubilee of the coronation of His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie, the First. There were many festivities to

celebrate this honourable and outstanding occasion. Among these festivities was a Silver Jubilee Industrial Trade Fair, in which many countries were represented.

Taking advantage of this wonderful

First MV Camps in the Land of a Thousand Paths

By M. E. Lind

THE primary object of my visit to Ethiopia on this occasion was that of assisting in conducting what were to be the first MV camps in this old "history-saturated" country.

In addition to this pleasant task, I had the opportunity of being present at the graduation of five teacher-evangelists from our Kuyera Training School. The newly built church was filled with some 400 people for the occasion. Many of these were converts from the Arushi tribe. The very fact that our training school has been erected in this location gives it great scope for evangelistic opportunities, unparalleled by anything else we have hitherto witnessed in Ethiopia. Already we have seen some of the fruitage of evangelism in this region and we are constrained to believe that "more will follow after."

The more I think of it, the more I must admire L. Rasmussen, principal of the Training School, for being able to navigate the countless paths with his big lorry and eventually land us all in good shape near the lovely Lake Shala where our first MV camp was to be conducted.

About one hundred young Ethiopians were gathered on its shores for their first taste of real camp life. The extensive programme was in the hands of the Union MV leader, H. E. Davis, who was ably assisted by the whole staff of the Kuyera Training School.

Wooden huts were erected in the matter of a few hours. The stony ground was cleared by willing hands, and wood gathered for the first camp fire. We did not have to "imagine" that we were out in the blue or in the bush; for we were miles away from anything even resembling civilization.

As usual at such camps as these, it was the "Share Your Faith" hour which caught the imagination of the youthful congregation. How wonderful it was to hear the thrilling testimonies of young Missionary Volunteers who had been beaten, sent away from their homes, or

imprisoned because of their faith!

Our next appointment was at Debre Tabor. Accompanying Pastor Broberg and myself on this memorable trip were the Misses Hildur Tobiassen, assistant union treasurer, M. Moore, of the Addis Ababa Hospital, and Dorothy Rudesale, our church school teacher in Addis. Dr. K. Hogganvik met our plane at Gondar, some one hundred miles from our mission station. The eight-hour trip was uneventful except for the fact that we found some twenty-eight or more bridges missing! But thanks to superb navigation by the doctor, the old faithful jeep with its six passengers and tied-on luggage, reached its destination. The mission station lies like an oasis in a desert. The surrounding mountainous country is comparatively barren, but on and around the mission station a small forest has been planted. Some of these trees are majestically tall and speak of the faith and foresight of our old pioneers who, as a rule, always went in for the planting of trees at our mission stations.

The Missionary Volunteer camp was conducted under the shade of these mighty trees. I believe that nobody will take offence if I mention that the best singing I heard while in Ethiopia was at this camp. Naturally this would have to be so when one remembers that expert song leaders like Miss Shake Nailkraine and Miss Moore led out. We were fortunate in having Pastor Gudaye, director of our mission station, as our translator. One day Pastor Broberg suggested that all we visitors should go up to the local police station to register. This is customary in Ethiopia and also advisable. The imposing chief of police expressed his joy at seeing Pastor Broberg again (they were obviously old pals) and told us all what a magnificent job Dr. Hogganvik was doing.

The more I see of our missionaries on lonely stations, away from all that we call the amenities of civilization, the more I admire them for their self-sacrificing spirit. Constantly did I hear them saying how happy they were to work in that

country. Yet Ethiopia is a very difficult territory in which to work.

Time passed only too rapidly and we were soon on our way to the next MV camp. Pastor E. Bjaanes who was conducting an evangelistic effort in Asmara, met us at the airport and then took us to the camp site. This was situated about midway between Asmara and the exceedingly hot Red Sea port, Massawa. The territory is wild and barren, lending itself beautifully to the art of planned robbery! Actually this region is well stocked with robbers, or, as they are called locally, "shifters." These often make the journey on the winding mountainous road dangerous. They are also the cause for having heavily armed guards on the little train which once or twice daily, makes its laborious journey up from the coast. However, nobody robbed us this time, at least not to our knowledge. It was noticed, however, that our hired cook did appear to serve the campers with rather skimpy meals for some reason or other!

This was to be my last MV camp in Ethiopia for this time. I was to have taken part in one near Gimbie, but the reports coming in to us informed us that the Gimbie road (said by those who have travelled it, to be the world's worst), was impassable. This was rather disappointing to some of us who had thought that the Gondar-Debre Tabor road was the worst that we had ever experienced and who would have liked to compare it with the Gimbie road.

Viewing my Ethiopian safari in retrospect, I am convinced that our youth there will play a vital part in the finishing of our work in that old country. The wonderful opportunities we have of winning souls, particularly in the southern part, will cheer us all.

God grant that our Missionary Volunteers will rise to the occasion and lead the way.

A Royal Presentation

(Concluded from page 2.)

large outflow of literature has been a tremendous increase in the enrolment of students for the Voice of Prophecy.

So please remember the work and the workers in Ethiopia in your prayers, that a bountiful harvest may be reaped for the kingdom of God.

WEST AFRICA is certainly one of the most interesting and challenging mission fields in all of the great continent of Africa.

It was my privilege on my recent visit to the West African Union Mission to attend a number of camp-meetings and constituency meetings in the Gold Coast and Nigeria. In these two fields we have our strongest work in all of West Africa. Most likely the development has been more rapid in these large fields due to the fact that we are operating advanced educational institutions, medical and publishing institutions which are indeed a godsend to the mission advance.

During the course of these several meetings, many impressions were indelibly printed on my heart and mind which will never fade. A fair cross section of our membership in these fields congregated at these meetings. They are men and women that one can be proud to call brothers and sisters. One could not help but notice the wonderful fact that the Advent message, which is indeed the truth of the living God, by the grace of God produces the same fruit in the heart and mind of the African as it does in the heart and mind of the white man. None can be mistaken in regard to the earnest spirit and devotion that has taken hold of these people. Their love for the truth is certainly genuine. Were it ever to be questioned, the interest they manifest in the propagation of the Gospel is evidence indeed of their love for the message.

The camp-meetings are numerous, and one is held in every ten to fifteen churches, or groups. They are for spiritual fellowship and evangelism. Fourteen were held in all in the Gold Coast and a similar number—if not more—were held in Nigeria. The constituency meetings are held every other year and at this time the business of the field is dealt with and plans for the work are laid. Four such sessions were held; one in the Gold Coast and one in each of the East, West, and North Nigerian missions.

It was interesting to note that both at the camp-meetings and at the sessions, a special time was set apart for house-to-house visitation, and group preaching in

the compounds of the towns and villages where the meetings were held. Even neighbouring villages were invited. The churchmembers went out in small bands, each under its own leader. These visiting and preaching campaigns were conducted either on Friday afternoon or Sabbath afternoon—and in some instances on both days. The work was done in earnest, and definite results were reported. Souls were converted and surrenders to Jesus Christ were made. Many seemed to enjoy this part of the convocation programme immensely.

IMPRESSIONS FROM WEST AFRICA

By G. A. Lindsay

During one such campaign in the Gold Coast, nineteen souls were won to Christ and were enrolled in the baptismal classes, and among this number was the chief of the village where the campaign was held.

At the constituency meeting in the Gold Coast, one of the district leaders reported that a woman and her daughter had gone to a neighbouring village from time to time to share their faith. The result was that six souls accepted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, and after diligent Bible study have now become members of the church. One of these converts was the eldest sister of the paramount chief. According to their custom she would be the first lady of the chiefdom and called the Queen Mother. All this, together with the right to the "stool" (the chieftainship which is hereditary) she surrendered for the love of God's truth.

The Sunday schedule of each camp-meeting also included a harvest festival programme. This is the African's way of helping to ingather for missions, and is especially true in the Gold Coast. All bring their offerings with them, churchmembers and visitors alike. The attendance is usually from 700 and 800 up to 1,500 or more, depending on the size of

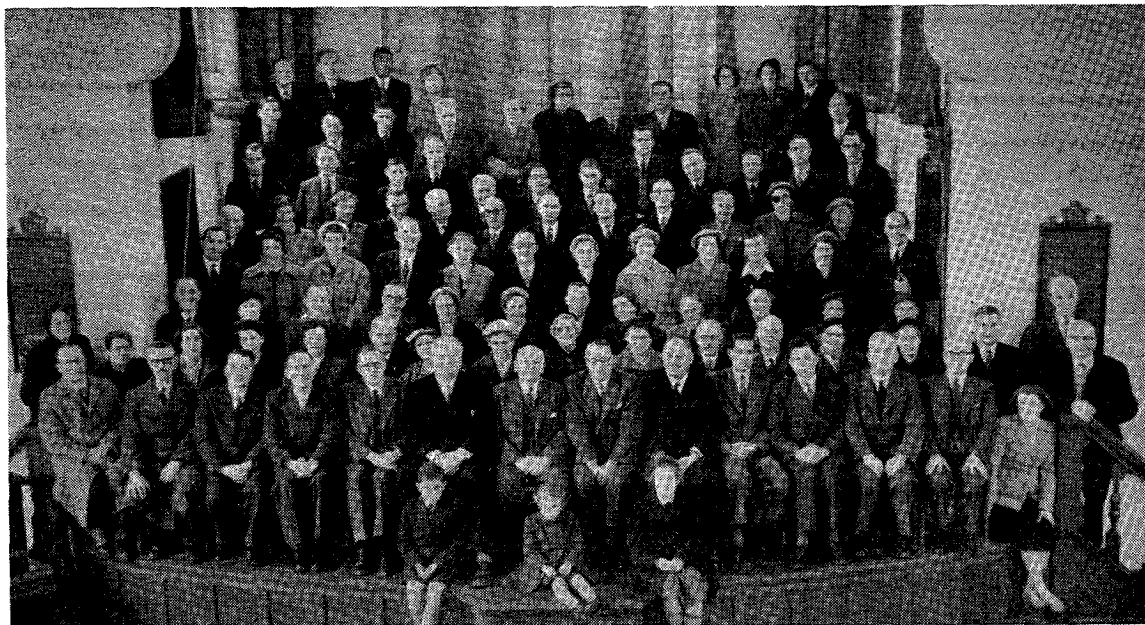
the district, and the offering may total £100 or more.

This programme usually lasts several hours, but there is not a dull moment in it. The several churches in the district send their singing bands to participate in the programme and there is a rather wholesome and stimulating competition between the singing bands taking part. They render in song whole chapters of the Bible from memory. Most of these chapters are from Isaiah and the Book of Psalms. The melody is original and individualistic—often made up for the occasion. It is learnt by heart and not written down at all. The West Africans love to sing. They will sing all night after a long day of services, if they are allowed to do so, but after the last meeting of the day they are told to retire, so that they will be ready for the first meeting around 6 a.m. the following morning,—refreshed and able to receive more blessings.

Most unusual reports were given by the district leaders in the Nigerian constituency meetings. Not only did they report with enthusiasm the number of souls who had surrendered their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, but they reported many services at which jujus were destroyed. One district leader reported no less than twenty-nine such services during the year 1955. This is a great victory. The jujus hold many people tightly in their grip even after they are supposed to have become Christians; but, thank God, not those who by the grace of God endeavour to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

One man who had been a juju priest joined another church. When he became a Christian he burned all the paraphernalia to do with the jujus, but he could not give up two rings for which he paid £6. 10s. and £7. 10s. respectively, and from time to time he continued to perform some of this devilish witchcraft with these rings. His church was unable to persuade him to give them up. But when the Advent message came to him and the love of God filled his heart more fully than ever before, it was easy for him to dispose of these last ties of the devil.

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Sowing the Seed

By G. D. King

*Colporteur Council in
the British Union.*

THOSE who are privileged to meet from time to time with literature evangelists in council, begin to understand something of what it means to be "ministered unto" rather than to "minister."

The inspiration of attending a group of colporteur councils is something that must be experienced to be believed. These men and women who carry the printed page from home to home, are men and women who are constantly in touch with the need of humanity and are constantly made aware of the vital fact that that need can only be met by the illimitable resources of divine grace and power.

As they come together for counsel, they come not merely to receive of the philosophy of man's wisdom, but they come for the blessed fellowship of exchanging their own experiences one with another, and above all, to seek a replenishing of the spiritual forces that must be theirs if their touch with human needs is to have that healing power so essential for an effective ministry. These men and women are by no means mere "book sellers," but are, indeed, the "ambassadors of Christ" endeavouring to dispense the healing balm of Gilead, as they succour the needs of the human heart. Such have been my reflections as I have contemplated the five councils I have recently attended—four of them in

West Africa, and one in the British Union.

The three accompanying pictures to this article, come to us with the whole-hearted greetings of our literature evangelists labouring in these two important unions of our Division.

At each one of the councils, a spirit of reconsecration and rededication to service was manifest, as well as an earnest desire to improve in efficiency, for each colporteur seemed to realize that the Spirit of the Lord can use more effectively the instrument that is suited to its task and is ready to be used in its appointed mission.

An outstanding feature of the colporteur councils throughout West Africa was the consciousness which seemed to prevail in every meeting of the enormity of the task facing the Christian church

today in West Africa, and the tremendous opportunity now open for the sowing of the Gospel seed and the Advent message through the printed page.

It is not the purpose of this article to give a detailed description of the councils that were held, but to bring to you, not only these greetings from your fellow workers who carry the printed page, but that you might realize something of the consecrated spirit that actuates these literature evangelists. Truly it has been told us: "Our publications are now sowing the Gospel seed and are instrumental in bringing as many souls to Christ as the preached word. Whole churches have been raised up as a result of their circulation." This statement which appeared in the *Review and Herald* of 1880 under the pen of Mrs. E. G. White, is seeing



Colporteur Institute in the Ivory Coast. Seated with G. D. King in the front row are G. M. Ellstrom and J. R. Buzenet.



Colporteur Evangelists in action in West Africa. Is he really interested?

its fulfilment today in many parts of our far-flung Division territory.

During the Colporteur Council recently held in the British Union, many experiences were related, indicating that the sowing of the Gospel seed through the printed page is so often the beginning of an interest that deepens and ripens into fruitage through the guided study of the Word of God as offered by our Bible correspondence schools; for many of those now being baptized—even as a result apparently of the preached

word—have first made their contacts with the message through the printed page and the Bible Correspondence Course.

Thus we are encouraged to believe, and we believe it will bring courage to our fellow workers throughout the Division, to know that the prophetic vision concerning the ministry of the printed page and our literature evangelists, is indeed being fulfilled in so many instances, as these faithful men and women go from place to place, sowing the seed.

In some instances children were sitting on the floor, with a lapboard to write on. In other places they sat in church pews without even a lapboard. In spite of handicaps a good school programme is carried on.

The friendliness and kindness of the African is contagious. One cannot mingle with them very long before one feels a sense of constant friendship and confidence that makes a bond of fellowship. Often after a few days of institute meetings it was difficult to say "good-bye" to these fine people.

The hospitals at Ile-Ife, Jengre, and Mpraeso are doing a much appreciated work. The doctors work long, arduous hours day after day. This was especially true at Ile-Ife, where they were short one full-time doctor. Dr. Nagel was going at a pace that no-one but a Nagel could endure. The work eased up a little on the arrival of Dr. Lamp, who came down from Jengre to spend a few weeks at Ile-Ife.

One needs only to observe the patients that crowd the clinic, or to visit those that fill every room and ward, to realize the great physical need of these people and to recognize the value of these hospitals as opening wedges to stony hearts. Such suffering and misery from unhealthful practices, I have never witnessed. The gospel of health is a wonderful asset. This, combined with the Gospel of salvation, makes a powerful influence on the lives of the people.

The needs in West Africa are great and challenging. Calls for the establishment of schools are ever before our mission presidents. New classrooms are needed in scores of locations. Our training colleges at Bekwai, Ihie, Awton, Konola, and Bo need buildings and equipment. Other schools at centres such as Bouaki, Waterloo, Monrovia, Lagos, and Jengre are in need of additional buildings. The work is growing faster than the missions can provide men and equipment to meet the need.

At the Konola Training School in Liberia, Pastor Simons is giving strong, aggressive leadership to the development of the school. His teaching staff is limited, but they are courageous and ambitious. Brother and Sister Cantrell had just arrived from Southern California

There is a Call from West Africa

By J. Alfred Simonsen

THE HUGE air liner settled down upon a smooth runway, and came to a stop in front of the Abidjan air terminal. The tropical sun was almost directly overhead. The warmth of the humid atmosphere seemed to penetrate the body, and one realized that this was a tropical clime. How different it was to the chilling winds of Britain that we had experienced only a few hours before!

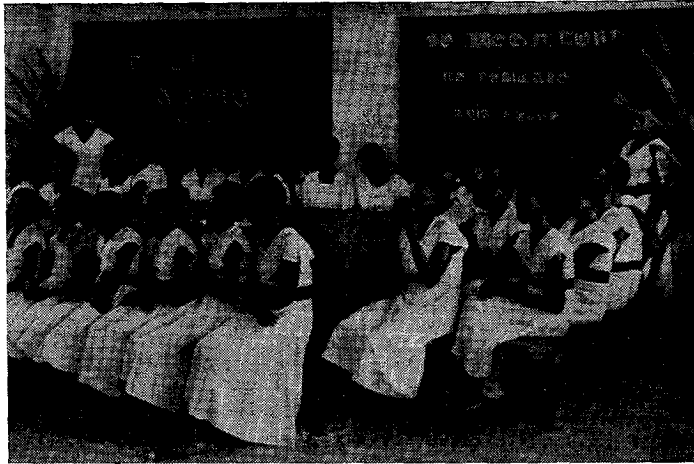
Brethren were there to meet me and to welcome me to the joys and sorrows of West Africa. It was a joy to see the enthusiasm of the missionaries, the fine work they are doing, and the esteem and friendliness of the people toward them. It brought sorrow to my heart to see the poverty, misery, and suffering of humanity, to see the multitudes groping in the darkness of superstition and paganism.

Our itinerary took us to many of our

schools and hospitals. We visited our workers, and conducted teachers' institutes in most of the large centres of activity. These institutes were attended by as few as six teachers, and as many as 200. A tribute to our African teachers is in order. These stalwart young men and women—there are only six or seven women teachers in a total of over 500—are capable, enthusiastic, ardent workers. They show unusual ability and skill in proportion to their training opportunities.

We visited classrooms where our African teachers were at work. In many instances we witnessed teaching skill and efficiency in instruction equal to that of any teacher in much more favourable surroundings. These teachers are doing the best they can with the space and equipment at hand. In far too many schools space is inadequate. Children are sitting three at a desk made for two.

A fine group of elementary teachers in training at the Ihie Training College, Nigeria.



and were getting into the school activities very well. Sister Cantrell is a graduate nurse and is eager to have an opportunity to give clinical help to the hundreds of people who travel past the entrance to the school. A small clinic would be a real asset in the Konola area. The nearest medical help is thirty-six miles away. The proposed plan is to build an inexpensive unit at the school entrance, where the sick and injured may come for medical aid that can be cared for in a clinic. The

initial cost would not be excessive, but at present the mission does not have funds with which to proceed with the project.

Africa needs teachers, office workers, and medical workers. In order to provide these workers, funds must also be available. Let us pray that the Lord of the harvest may pour forth showers of both material and spiritual blessings to the end that the millions of Africa may see the Light that will lighten every heart.

Visiting in the Iceland Mission

By O. Gudmundsson

It was during the Ingathering season that I travelled by boat from Reykjavik to Akranes. The crossing takes about one hour. Akranes is a small fishing village with a little more than 3,000 inhabitants. I visited the entire village and for the 300 Ingathering leaflets I sold, I received about 3,000 Icelandic Kronur (£65).

I met many fine people and often engaged in long conversations with them, one of which was with the local church minister who asked me if I was not going to hold a meeting in the village. Without waiting for an answer, he said he would lend me the local church. I asked him if he was going to preach the following Sunday. "Yes," he said, "at 2 p.m."

After discussing the matter further, it was arranged that when he had finished his sermon, I would hold a meeting which he would announce at the close of his sermon. He offered to advertise my meeting along with his own an-

nouncement which he planned to put up in several public places in the town two days before the meetings.

In this village there are a few Seventh-day Adventists. I stayed with them during the Sabbath and we had Sabbath school and a service together. I told them about the meeting the next day, and also that the organist of the local church was going to assist me with the church choir.

Our churchmembers then told their neighbours about my meeting and this was a great help. At 2 p.m. on Sunday there were many who attended the church which could seat about 300 persons. First of all the minister preached his sermon, after which I held my meeting. My subject was "The Hope of Mankind." Besides the minister I have already spoken of, another Lutheran minister also attended the services. He was from a small village near by. Everyone appeared to listen with interest. The two meetings

lasted one and a half hours.

When I shook hands with the minister after the meeting, he said: "You are welcome to use our church again next time you visit us." He is not the only one of the Icelandic church ministers who has given me this invitation.

After the meeting, I was asked to go to the Old People's Home in the village and have a service there. One of the ladies from the church choir came with me to the Home. She conducted the singing and played the organ for us and I read from the Bible and prayed.

I returned home from this village very happy and thankful to God for the kind reception I had enjoyed and the preaching of the Word.

Impressions From West Africa

(Concluded from page 4.)

Yes, there is power in the Advent message when it is preached in all sincerity and love.

The membership is constantly growing in West Africa. This is true of all the territories in which we are working. The Advent message is gaining wonderful victories also in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the Ivory Coast. At the end of 1955, the baptized membership of the West African Union Mission totalled 17,154 and the Sabbath school membership stood at 47,487. We have a faithful and active corps of missionaries there of which we can be proud and these loyal workers are assisted by trustworthy and truth-loving African pastors, evangelists and teachers—men of God, zealous of good works.

In closing, I should say that in all the constituency meetings which I was privileged to attend, there came from the West African delegates spontaneous expressions of deep appreciation for what their white brethren and sisters had done for them in bringing the message of salvation to their people, and in sending to them their sons and daughters, and their means, in order that the kingdom of God might soon reach all the many tribes of West Africa.

NEWS FLASH

C. GIDLUND, president of the Swedish Union, and Alf Lohne, president of the West Nordic Union, have returned to their home fields after approximately six weeks visiting the Ethiopian and West African Union Missions respectively. Reports indicate that their visits have been very much appreciated both by the missionaries and by the indigenous workers and believers. Pastor Lohne was able to attend a number of large camp meetings in West Africa where thousands of believers were gathered.

H. J. Welch, who for several years served so very ably as principal of Bekwai Training School in the Gold Coast, and later as president of the Gold Coast Mission, was elected Union Educational and Young People's secretary at the recent West African Union Constituency Meeting. At the same session W. J. Newman, president of the East Nigerian Mission, was appointed to serve as president of the Gold Coast Mission and E. A. Farrow, educational secretary in the East Nigerian Mission, was asked to take over the leadership of that field.

An important step toward the Africanization programme was taken at the recent West African Union session when A. J. Dickey was appointed secretary-treasurer of the East Nigerian Mission. Pastor Dickey has served as associate president for a few years and recently very ably carried the responsibilities as secretary-treasurer of the field while N. B. Nielsen was on furlough.

Miss M. G. Clarke is enjoying her furlough in the Midlands in England after her first term of service in the East African Union Mission.

A recent appointee to the work in the West African Union is L. J. Harju, formerly secretary-treasurer of the East Finland Conference, who now connects with the work in the Gold Coast Mission, there to take up his first appointment as relief secretary-treasurer in the rapidly expanding field of West Africa. Together with his wife and two sons, Brother Harju left for West Africa in March.

At the end of 1955 the membership of our 628 churches scattered throughout the Division stood at 49,500. This is a most encouraging feature of the current statistical report, and when we remember that five years ago the membership stood at approximately 41,000 we rejoice in the fruitfulness that has followed the service of our workers in these many lands.

B. A. Roberts, recently a member of the staff of the Ihie Training College, has been appointed as headmaster of the West Nigerian Training School, located at Awtun.

At an early date Gerard Gutekunst is expected to enter upon his duties as superintendent of the Ivory Coast Mission. Brother Gutekunst is a native of France who has spent the last five years in the United States completing his education and widening his experience in the work.

In order to meet the demands for active evangelism in the populous centres of West Africa, C. D. Henri, for a number of years president of the Liberian Mission, has been appointed to serve as union evangelist for the West African Union Mission. A call is being placed with the Division Committee for a new leader for the Liberian Mission.

During the recent annual meeting of the Ethiopian Union Executive Committee, changes and adjustments in the working personnel of the Mission were made as follows: E. Bjaanes, recently serving as an evangelist in Asmara, Eritrea, has been appointed to the leadership of the Wollega Mission, with headquarters at Gimbie. R. M. A. Smart, recently serving in the Irish Mission, has been invited to connect with our work in Ethiopia, and has been appointed as director of the Eritrea Mission, and will locate at Asmara. In order to meet the growing needs of the school work in Eritrea, a call has been placed with the Division committee for a qualified male teacher to serve as headmaster of the Asmara school. It is planned to extend the operation of this school to include a number of boarders from various parts of the Eritrean field. Erik Palm, at

present leading out in the Wallo Mission, has been invited by the Ethiopian Union Committee to assume the leadership of the work in the Arussi Mission, when L. Rasmussen goes on furlough in June next. It is in this area where a remarkable new development has taken place in recent months. H. E. Davis, who has served in the Ethiopian Union Mission for some eleven or twelve years, and who soon completes a second term of service, for personal reasons has requested to be permanently returned to his home field, the United States. Pastor Davis has served for some years in the Wollega Mission, where he assisted in the development of the work immediately after the Second World War. He has also served as union evangelist and in more recent years as the departmental secretary of the Ethiopian Union Mission.

A series of institutes for the youth of the Division is planned to take place between the middle of May and the end of August next. These institutes will be led by L. A. Skinner and M. E. Lind, who in the course of carrying out this special programme will visit all the home sections of our Division. B.B.R.

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