



# AFLAME for God!

"Sharing the faith of our Fathers"—Oh! this is God's challenge to youth,  
Calling the Volunteer Army to "Lift up the standards of truth;"  
Showing the love of the Saviour and holding His ensign unfurled,  
Marching in step with the vision of Christ for the youth of the world.

"Sharing the faith of our Fathers"—A faith which was fully displayed,  
Building upon the foundations which they with much labour have laid:  
Preaching a full-Gospel message as they in true faithfulness taught,  
Pleading with men to surrender to Him who their freedom has bought.

"Sharing the faith of our fathers"—those men who in youth heard the call,  
Rising in faith to the summons they gave in Christ's service their all;  
Sensing the need of the present so let us arise to our tasks,  
Giving our lives in surrender is that which our Captain now asks.

"Sharing the faith of our fathers"—yes! such is our duty today,  
Sharing our faith, yes, with others by leading them in the right way;  
Pointing the youth to the Saviour who perfect salvation will bring—  
Aflame for the God of our fathers we herald the soon-coming King.

STANLEY COMBRIDGE.

so dearly longed. The impact of youth is felt in many ways. In addition to assisting in public efforts, young people have conducted their own Youth for Christ efforts. Young people helped to win 432 persons last year in our Division; 4,821 Gospel meetings were conducted; 18,381 missionary contacts made; £13,000 were collected for the Ingathering Campaign for missions, which in itself shows the zeal and earnestness of this youthful army.

We are encouraged by what we see of our youth, to believe that they will not fail in the hour of need. Many hundreds of young men and women have already, since the turning of the century, left the

shores of these northern countries. They have gone out, frequently to distant lands, to share the faith of their fathers. You will find them in practically every continent on earth. Their devoted lives are given to the service of mankind in whatsoever capacity they are able. Some have gone to the world's mission fields, never to return. Others have returned and have brought the good news of lives that have been changed according to the pattern of Jesus.

"Aflame for God!" The torch of truth has been held high by this youthful army, and the faith of their fathers has indeed, been shared.

youthful, ambitious, energetic service as now. Surely responsibilities await our youth, of equal magnitude with the greatest ever borne in any previous crisis or hour.

But God has never selected youth or anyone else for His service irrespective of their attitude of heart and mind and purpose. It is this that determines their usefulness and the magnitude of the power and blessing attending them. As true today as in the hour of ancient Israel's need are the words: "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him."

From every walk of life, even from the lowliest, God has made His selection. From gatherers of sycamore fruit, from humble fishermen, from herders of sheep, from ploughmen in the field, from carpenters at their benches, He has called His witnesses and made them mighty in His service. His programme remains unchanged today. He calls men now to complete the work that these began. His call increases in intensity with the urgency of the times. Never was there an hour when the need for such witnesses was so great as it is today. Every indication is that the struggle between good and evil is entering its final phase. On the enemy's side are men of gigantic intellectual stature and determination. Their every talent is being harnessed to

## Youth and the Future

By A. F. Tarr, *Division President*

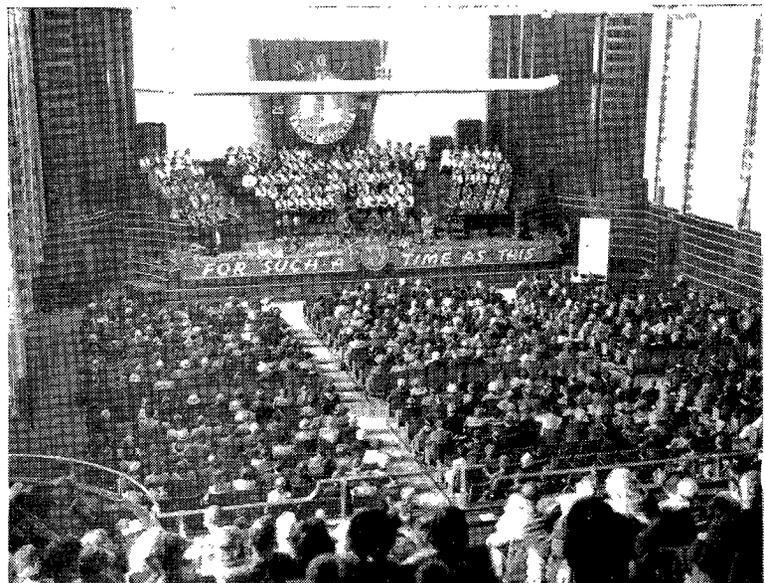
**I**NHERENT in every youth is an abounding desire to achieve. With some, self looms large in these youthful ambitions, the personal reward almost crowding out the picture of the work to be done. With others, the goal of making a real contribution to the good of their fellow men underlies all their youthful aspirations. No achievement to them seems really worth while unless it makes for the betterment and happiness of others.

Seventh-day Adventists are not immune to these youthful ambitions. Religion was never intended to deprive them of the right to achieve. On the contrary, it presents opportunities that far outstrip the most challenging the world has to offer, and if we read the prophecies aright there rests on the youth of the Advent movement in days just ahead, the greatest and grandest work of the ages.

In past generations youth have been God's chosen instruments for some of His most stupendous tasks. With heart and hand and voice responding to His call, they have been richly endowed with His wisdom and power regardless of their age. In great crises they have held aloft the torch of truth and have borne almost unbelievable responsibilities. Those youth like Samuel, Joseph, Daniel, Josiah, who were deter-

mined to serve God at all costs, are outstanding examples of what God is able and willing to do.

Remembering these past achievements, can we expect otherwise of Seventh-day Adventist youth in this twentieth century than that they will be similarly ambitious for God, and be endowed with equal power for the achievement of His purpose in this late hour? Surely the world was never in such urgent need of



*Great Master Guide Investiture of youth in Britain.*

well serve for all the other sessions:

"Whereas God has committed to parents and teachers the responsibility to bring up the children of the church with the solemn aim in mind that they should be trained to act their part well in the proclamation of the Advent Message and to be ready for the glorious return of our Lord, We recommend:

"That we Seventh-day Adventists attending this annual conference session recognize it as our first and sacred duty to appeal to parents, ministers, teachers, and other missionary workers to do their utmost for the salvation of our children and youth."

A ready response followed, and excellent results were seen, especially in and around our schools and other institutions and the larger city churches, but due to the very heavy emigration to U.S.A. and Canada up to the time of the World War I in 1914, the membership grew very slowly.

A new and successful era in the youth work in Europe commenced about 1920-1921 with the arrival from the U.S.A. of some well trained and enthusiastic workers for youth. Steen Rasmussen from the General Conference first led out in Scandinavia, and later took charge of the Y.P.M.V. Department in the all-European Division until 1929. Clarence V. Anderson, also from U.S.A., led out with zeal and strength in the youth work first in Sweden, and then after several years in conference administration, as leader for the youth in the Northern European Division. P. G. Nelson also served on behalf of the youth for many years in Denmark and Norway. It was also the privilege of the writer to spend a few years in the Y.P.M.V. in the Northern European Division.

It is interesting to note the way the Lord has blessed the army of youth that we have in our churches. Fifty years ago when the world church membership was 100,000 we had a Y.P.M.V. membership of approximately 3,500. Today, with a church membership of 1,050,000, the Y.P.M.V. membership is about 400,000, or just over one-third of the world church membership. This ratio holds good for the Northern European Division also.

May God continue to bless the young people and juniors of our church and their God-fearing leaders.

## The Youth and the Church

By R. R. Figuhr, President, General Conference



THIS fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of our young people's work is an important occasion for the Advent youth around the world, and also to the church at large. Everywhere our young people are stopping and thinking back over half a century—long before they were born—to a couple of young Adventist lads upon whose hearts there rested a great burden. It brought them to their knees. They arose to follow a vision. The vision became a reality and touched the lives of thousands of Adventist young people in many lands. How marvellously God has led in the

development of this activity and for the children and youth of the church!

There is hardly an adult churchmember today who accepted this message in his youth who has not been definitely helped and guided by the Missionary Volunteer work. It has led young people to our schools and on into foreign lands to serve under Prince Emmanuel's banner. It has influenced many to useful service, both within the organized work as well as in self-sacrificing lives.

So on this fiftieth anniversary, it is a happy privilege to greet the young people of the Northern European Division and to wish them continued prosperity and joy in the Lord and in His service wherever and whatever that may be.

Without its happy, enthusiastic, and loyal young people, the church would indeed be poverty stricken. With them it is rich beyond words.

The aged apostle John, with the weight of many years resting upon him, turned to the young people, his successors, and said: "I write unto you young men [including all youth] because ye are strong." Even as back there, so today, the church needs the strength of its youth. Upon these must rest increasingly the responsibility of finishing the work. We know that you will not fail God and His church in the time of need as well as in the time of unprecedented opportunity.



While in winter camp, Finnish youth explore the beauties of nature.

# OF THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION



Pastor L. A. Skinner.

aud churches will march along together until the work is done.

May God richly bless each of you is my prayer.

L. A. SKINNER,  
MV Secretary,  
General Conference.



Pastor W. Raecker.

FROM—

## The General Conference, North America

GREETINGS to the Missionary Volunteers of Northern Europe on this Golden Anniversary year. My memory is filled with pleasant experiences which came to me as I visited with you last summer. Through the pictures I took and the progress I witnessed I am bringing greetings from you to our people here in North America and other places. I am greatly encouraged because of your loyalty and deep, earnest purpose to witness for Christ and prepare for His soon appearing.

Fifty years of progress in the Missionary Volunteer Society still leaves us with an unfinished task: "The Advent Message to All the World in This Generation." This unfinished work causes us to do some very serious thinking. Our greatest need is the power of God's love and the Holy Spirit in our hearts that we might fulfil more fully the plan of God for these last days. In this last great evangelistic crusade the Northern European Missionary Volunteers will not fail. The army of youth will march on to victory publicly and personally, through the printed page and the spoken word. The truth of God's Word for these last days will be proclaimed. The boys and girls of our junior societies, the young men and women of our schools



Pastor J. J. Aitken.

FROM—

## The Southern European Division

GREETINGS to all our good friends in Northern Europe. It is a real pleasure to pass on these greetings to each and every one of you on this our historic 50th Anniversary Year of the Missionary Volunteer Movement. From the shores of Lake Geneva, where at Gland, Switzerland in 1907, the decision was made by the General Conference brethren to create the young people's department—we wish you all God-speed, as you move forward to finish the task: "The Advent Message to all the World."

From the Islands of the Indian Ocean and from Mosambique here in South Africa, I take real pleasure in joining our great army of native Missionary Volunteers in wishing all the Advent Youth of Northern Europe and your friends, God's richest blessings in all you undertake for Him.

J. J. AITKEN,  
MV Secretary,  
Southern European Division.

FROM—

## The Central European Division

SEVENTEEN thousand three hundred Adventists in Germany send their greetings to their young friends in the Northern European Division. We are glad that we are able to show our regard in this way.

Our common faith is a strong bond of mutual understanding, and the Missionary Volunteer work helps to make this bond even stronger as we labour for our Lord and Master.

We are earnestly labouring for souls through public youth evangelism. In 1956 we reached 30,000 people in 200 places through the medium of the printed page which we carried from door to door, and through the ministry of song.

During the first quarter of 1957, 230 young souls joined the church. We wish to multiply this figure in the course of the Jubilee Year. We know that your thoughts at times wander to Germany, and so we are glad to convey to you all our sincere wishes for true happiness and joyous, successful mission work.

W. RAECKER, MV Secretary,  
Central European Division.

## FINLAND UNION

*Fifty Years of MV Work*By T. N. Ketola, *MV Secretary*

Pastor T. N. Ketola.

AT THE General Conference session held in Gland, Switzerland in 1907, fifty years ago, the Young People's work of our denomination was established as a separate department.

About this time a certain young man, Aarne Rintala, belonging to the Young Men's Christian Association in Finland, became an Adventist. After baptism, he began to hold Bible studies for his companions—the other members of the Association. This resulted in two gifted young men accepting the Advent message. Later these three young men, Aarne Rintala, Väinö Kohtanen, and Kaarlo Soisalo went to our schools in Germany and England and became successful ministers.

When the Finland Conference in 1909 was established it was decided:

1. To advise all our churches in Finland to form Missionary Volunteer Societies and to do all they can to lead young people to Christ and into His work.

2. To choose a secretary to lead out in this line of work. However, in spite of these decisions, nothing was done at that time. During the following year a committee of three people was formed to make further plans for this work, but still no progress was made.

In 1911, Aarne Rintala, still a student in Germany, was elected as the first MV secretary. When he returned the same year, he wrote articles concerning the young people's work in our church papers, and visited the churches.

It was in 1913 that he organized the first Missionary Volunteer Society. One in Helsinki, Finland, and the other in Tampere.

The year 1920 was important because M. E. Kern, the leader of the Young People's Department of the General Conference, and Steen Rasmussen, the leader of the Scandinavian young people, visited Finland. They advised that:

1. Special meetings for the young people be held at the Annual Meetings.
2. The young people follow the Bible year.
3. Special courses in History be offered to the young people.
4. Ingathering work be started.
5. "Big Week" be adopted in our churches.

There were therefore, many things to be introduced to the churchmembers, particularly the work for the young people.

A large young people's congress was held at Toivonlinna Mission School in the summer of 1937. Representatives came from the Northern European countries, and also from Estonia. All the delegates enjoyed their stay at Toivonlinna, which is one of our finest institutions in Finland.

Many of the Finnish young people in their turn have attended large Youth Congresses in other countries, as in Chemnitz, Germany (1928), at Dovre, Norway (1947), in Paris, France (1951), and in Stockholm, Sweden (1955).

The Finnish young people have taken part in the Ingathering Campaign every year, and also in other missionary campaigns. Many of them have been successful colporteurs and have done their best to acquire a Christian education. In addition to this, many have taken studies in the progressive classes and have won souls for Christ.

According to the request from the Division we have recently printed the Golden Anniversary cards and we shall distribute these at the camps and youth gatherings to as many of the young people as possible. On these occasions we shall also have an anniversary programme.

We have called the year 1957 the "Seed Sowing Year," and we have printed a good sized poster depicting a hand sowing seed on which are the words: "The Seed Sowing Year 1957. Sow Always and Everywhere." It is our



Finnish youth conducting a Sunday School.

THE BRITISH UNION

# A Youth Dedicated to Service



Pastor C. D. Watson,  
MV Secretary, British Union.

CLEAR round the world you will find them. Some are missionaries, others are bringing healing to the sick in hospitals and clinics, still others are enjoying their work as teachers in schools of true education. Accountants, builders, editors, business men, nurses, teachers, doctors, ministers, hundreds of them come to mind. Some whose outstanding ability has made their names familiar to all Seventh-day Adventists, like "Little Jonesie" of the South Seas, or A. S. Maxwell, known all over the world as "Uncle Arthur." Others have served with less renown in earthly records but their names are written with letters of gold in heaven's courts, for in quiet ways they served their Lord with distinction. I open the *Adventist Commentary* to find that at least seven of their names appear on the list of contributors.

Who is this special company and "whence came they"? Young people of the British Isles or graduates from Newbold Missionary College who have served the cause overseas.

The missionary spirit which inspired this outstanding record is a tribute to the MV leaders with which our movement has been blessed.

Too often our MV Weeks of Prayer,

Camps, MV Courses, uniforms, and society magazines are all taken for granted. Rightly we are proud of our MV Society. Our pioneers "buildd better than they knew."

Youth of today enjoy the advantages of belonging to a youth movement which is ahead of other organizations in its compass and objectives.

Since F. W. Goodall pioneered the Standard of Attainment classes, thousands of Vocational Honours and courses have been completed. The MV courses have been of particular interest in the British societies.

J. Harker, with B. E. Sparrow and E. R. Warland produced an excellent *British Youth Handbook* which outlines the requirements of all courses from the Busy Bee level to Master Guide standard. All the Vocational Honours together with an outline of requirements or syllabus are provided.

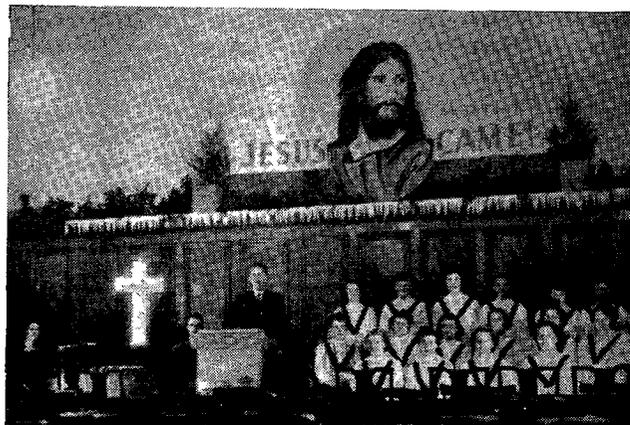
Uniforms were introduced in 1953. Thanks for this is due to K. H. Gammon. The uniform is simple and smart in appearance. They are worn at MV meetings, camps, and on official occasions. Mr. Todd, an Adventist tailor in London, who has a keen interest in young people, and is an MV leader, manufactures the uniforms for us at a very reasonable figure within the reach of all.

MV camps were introduced to Britain in 1930 at Wheatcroft, near Scarborough, with J. M. Howard who spent so many

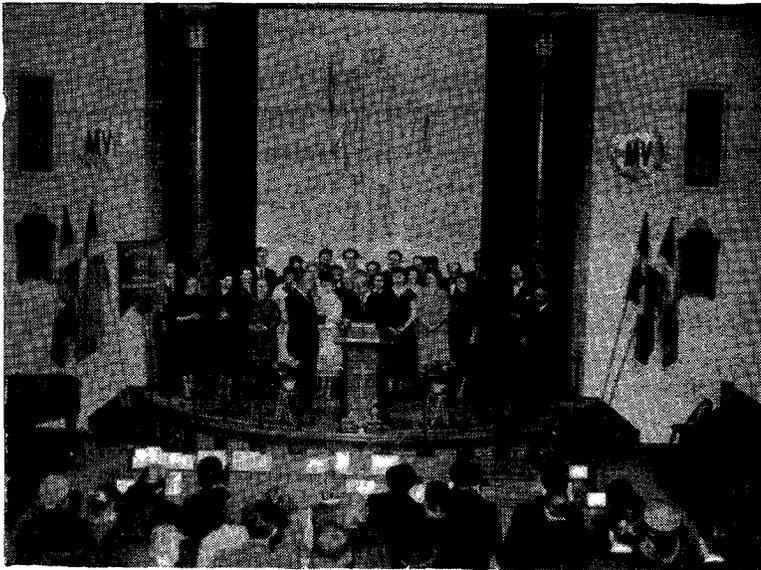
years as youth leader in Britain, as Camp Master. This year, 1957, we will be holding seven camps in various beauty spots to care for the growing interest of our youth in this holiday which, added to all the pleasures associated with this type of holiday, also affords spiritual blessings and Christian companionship. Many hundreds of our youth have been converted and held to the church because of the yearly influences of Camp. During the post-war period, H. T. Johnson and E. R. Warland purchased ex-War Department camping equipment cheaply for the MV Department so that now very little hired equipment is necessary to run a full sized conference camp. This equipment has proved invaluable and has helped in keeping down camp running costs. Our youth remember with affection the many happy holidays which have been spent in association with such men as Pastors Goodall, Howard, Johnson, Warland, Sparrow, Minchin, Vince, Cooper, Gammon, and Mahon, who have all spent many weary but rewarding hours pitching tents, carting and preparing food, battling against storms both by night and day. Only in heaven will we be able to tell the full story of the value of summer camps.

The first copy of the British Youth Magazine, *Progressive Volunteer*, rolled from the press dated January, 1940, the editor being J. Harker. Changes there have been in name and editor, and today it is distributed free each month to all members in the Union.

Our youth excel in missionary activities. Last year the British youth raised at least £10,000 in our Ingathering Campaign. Many opportunities are taken to "Share the Faith of our Fathers."



A public effort being conducted by the youth of England.



MV secretary, E. Sonestam greets one of the founders of the Stockholm MV Society during their Jubilee Youth Rally.

juniors in the North Norway Conference obtained their permanent camp, "Sommerfryd," last summer. His greatest problem is that many of the young people up there emigrate to go further south, but his consolation is that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

In lovely West Norway we meet Odd Jordal in Bergen. Among other things he is an expert in mountaineering. Pastor Jordal can tell us a lot of interesting things about this territory, among them of the many different activities of the Bergen church, and also that they have just now finished a young people's campaign in a small town outside Bergen.

In Oslo we meet our new MV secretary, Alf Ulland. He has only just started his new duties which formerly were carried by our beloved Johan Elisenberg, who, after being in this work

for seven years, has left for the Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. "In Oslo we have the greatest MV society in our union," Pastor Ulland tells us. "This society now has a membership or more than 200." He can also tell us of the fine, popular choir of 60 singers, who have "shared their faith" through their songs at home and abroad. The young people in Oslo have held several outdoor meetings this winter, and they have helped out with the campaign in the Oslo church this winter, with the result that eighteen young people were baptized in one day.

Right out in the rough and stormy Atlantic Ocean we find the Faroe Islands with fifty-two members. Also in this small mountainous land the MV movement has its roots.

In Aarhus, the capital of Jutland,

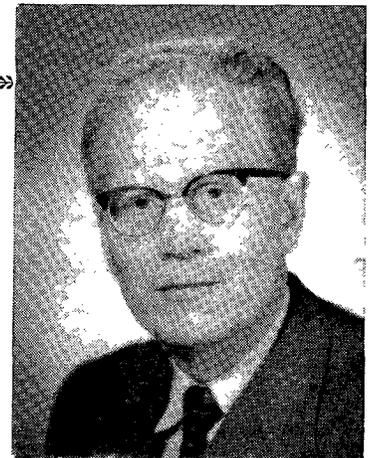
Denmark, we meet Kay Stött, who tells us of the fine work our young people have done for the juniors and the children in our Sunday schools, and also in the Ingathering Campaign. He can tell us that in West Denmark many missionary workers have been born, and that there are mostly young workers engaged in our thirty-three clinics in this part of the country. The permanent camp, "Aunsborg," with room for about 250 young people, is situated in this part of the country, but is owned by the two Danish Conferences.

In Copenhagen we again meet a new MV secretary, Preben Mollerup, who has been chosen secretary after the change of MV secretaries in the West Nordic Union. He is fortunate to have a smaller and more populated territory, as the young people are gathered in greater societies as in Skodsborg, Copenhagen, and Nærum. Pastor Mollerup tells us about the good work the young people do in visiting hospitals and prisons, etc.

As MV secretaries in the West Nordic Union we also have our hopes and desires for the future of our fifty-five MV societies with their 1,927 members, and of our juniors and children. We all need a spiritual revival so that we may have a greater burden for our mighty world programme: "Sharing the Faith of our Fathers."

May the promises of the outpouring of the Spirit and of the fact that "our young men shall see visions" soon be fulfilled.

The young people in the West Nordic Union send their greetings to the young people throughout the world.



Pastor E. Sonestam.

THE SWEDISH UNION

Forty-Seven Years in Youth Work

By E. Sonestam, MV Secretary

YOUTH belong to the future, and every organization that plans for the future will stake much upon its youth. The whole community is aware of this, and so the young children are entrusted to educational institutions. In our own

movement we were awake early to the value of caring for the youth and making use of their talents. Schools were founded for the training of our young people. This year we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the youth movement from



*Finnish youth enjoying the rigours of an MV Winter Camp.*

and favourable publicity in both press and radio.

Next on our programme we are planning a large youth meeting in Stockholm in June to celebrate the jubilee year of our youth work. Further, we are planning a jubilee camp at Västeräng. Here we shall also gather the juniors and even the young children. Similar plans are also being made in Finland. It is a great

privilege to work for the young and among the young. Early in the summer many junior investiture services will be held and also many Master Guides will be invested. It is a blessed task to uphold the youth of our union in prayer. From among these youth will come forth those who are to lead the work of God to final triumph.

WEST AFRICAN UNION

## 20,000 Youth in Action

IN THE West African Union Mission it is estimated that there are at least 20,000 youth either in Mission schools or otherwise connected with Adventist homes and churches. What a mighty challenge this presents to the church! If properly trained, inspired, and organized for service, what a powerful witness for Christ these youth may become! To this inspiring task the youth leaders of West Africa are dedicated in this Golden Jubilee Year. All over West Africa a programme is under way to enlist every Adventist youth as a fully fledged, active member of the MV Society.

A special Golden Anniversary Membership Card has been prepared, and every youth leader is planning within



*Pastor H. J. Welch,  
President, West African Union.*

his field a strong programme of rallies and youth camps. In Ghana, two youth camps will be held: one for literate English speaking young people, and another for vernacular speaking youth who have not had the privilege of school training. W. M. Ackah, enthusiastic MV Secretary of the Ghana Mission, writes that they plan a gigantic youth rally in Kumasi in September. Isaac Nwoabia, MV Secretary for East Nigeria, is enthusiastically holding MV rallies and has big plans for his field. We are indeed happy to see our African men providing strong leadership of the MV Departments in the various fields. In five of the seven fields of this Union, West African young men are leading out as MV secretaries.

Many of our school teachers are providing strong district leadership. In soul-winning activities the Advent youth of West Africa do not fall behind. Many young teachers in our schools, and the students in our training colleges and secondary schools, are carrying on a strong programme of preaching and compound visiting. Many evangelistic efforts in West Africa are manned entirely by youth. One teacher united with a fellow teacher in an evangelistic effort, and succeeded in raising up a good sized church. Another young man who teaches in a school, not of our mission, undertook to raise up a dying church. As a result of his effort the church has revived and more than thirty new members have been added to that church. We also think of two school boys who united their efforts to preach God's message to a heathen village where no Christian church had ever gained a foothold. The result is that in this village there is now a little church, and a Seventh-day Adventist Mission school.

Just at the time of writing, thanks to the kindness of the Northern European Division, the film of the Stockholm Youth Congress is being shown in various places to the great enjoyment and inspiration of the young people. Especially do they enjoy seeing their delegates who went from this field as they appear on the film. It is an inspiration to them to know that in all the lands of this great Division which reaches from the "Arctic to the Equator" there are so many fellow Advent youth.

As we close this article concerning