



Vol. 8. No. 12

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The Outlook in Nigeria

BY W. MCCLEMENTS

NIGERIA, Britain's largest Colony and Protectorate, and Africa's most densely-populated area, is a land of exceptional opportunities for missionary work. It possesses untold wealth in mineral and vegetable products and has a continually expanding trade in the "raw materials" which are so essential to European countries.

Our primary interest is not in the annual output of gold dust, tin ore, palm oil, groundnuts, or hides—though prosperity along these lines has a very definite bearing on the progress of missionary work—but rather in the great mass of humanity living within Nigeria's borders. There you will find roughly half the total population of all the British Crown Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories combined. How are these people to be reached with the Advent message? Have we, as missionaries and as a home board, really taken this mighty task upon our hearts in the way the need demands?

This most promising field challenges our faith and our programme. It calls for the greatest efforts and investments that the Northern European Division, yes, and the General Conference, are capable of making, and it holds out the assurance of manifold returns for all investments made.

The third angel's message was pioneered in Nigeria by the late Elder D. C. Babcock and Brother E. Ashton, together with a small group of African workers from Sierra Leone, one of whom,

Pastor J. J. Hamilton, is still with us. Brother Babcock entered the field in 1914 and spent about four years there before being compelled to return to the homeland.

From that time until 1928 Nigeria was one of the three local missions composing the West African Union Mission. By 1930 the message had become established in several sections of Yoruba country, as well as in two districts of Ibo land.

It was in 1923 that the decision was made to open up work among the Ibo tribe of south-eastern

Nigeria, and the Lord has abundantly blessed our efforts during the intervening years. With few facilities and a minimum of expenditure, the work developed among these people until to-day we have over 8,500 Sabbath-keepers in this section of our Union. The truth is spreading rapidly in every direction in Ibo country. It is likely to prove one of the most fruitful places in the world field. Pastor J. Clifford led out in the Ibo work until he was called to take charge of the Gold Coast Mission in 1931. Since then the Ibo field has been under the direction of Pastor L. Edmonds. Brother A. C. Vine leads out in the Elele district where we have a strong work developing.

The Nigerian field was organized as a Union Mission following the visit of Elders L. H. Christian and W. E. Read early in 1930. Four local missions were organized. This made provision for commencing work among the pagans of the Northern Provinces. At that time we had the following results to report.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Number of Sabbath-schools ... | 51 |
| Sabbath-school Membership ... | 2,635 |
| Baptized Members | 645 |
| Schools | 2 |

It would take many pages to recount the joys and sorrows, the discouragements and disappointments, the setbacks and victories, which came to our small band of workers while labouring for these results. Statistics, necessary and interesting as they are, give but a one-sided view of foreign mission work.



The paramount chief of North-west Nigeria wearing his elaborate head-dress of beads.

During the past six years encouraging progress has been made throughout the field, particularly in the South-east Mission. The Ibos are a missionary-minded people and wherever they go on their trading expeditions or travels they carry with them the truth which they have learned to love and make it known in many new towns and villages. One has only to attend a few camp-meetings and visit the packed churches in Ibo country to realize how the Advent message is taking hold of these Africans.

In the north, work has been opened at Jengre and, after a number of years of house-building, dispensary work, and Gospel seed-sowing, the harvest is beginning to appear. Our first baptism was conducted in that field last June. This brought great joy to us all, but especially to Pastor J. J. Hyde and his wife, who have been leading out in the North-eastern Mission. (Sister Hyde has had charge of the dispensary and has done splendid work.) Many and fierce are the struggles taking place in the lives of these benighted pagans of the north as they respond to the Gospel message and break with their many strongly-ingrained and very degrading native customs. Satan sees to it that they do not become Christians without enduring severe testings. Some who set out to become followers of Jesus are not able to make the sacrifices called for, but many are the victories being won among these shy, fearful, leaf-clad pagan people.

The table on this page, taken from our latest returns from the field, shows the advancement made.

LITERATURE WORK

The literature work has been strengthened under the leadership of Brother A. W. Cook. During the month of July over £80 worth of Gospel literature was sold by our colporteurs. Hundreds of homes of the African intelligentsia are now supplied with *Bible Readings* and other large Adventist books, while thousands of our smaller publications in English and two vernaculars have been sold up and down the country. These Africans have discerning minds

and are showing a real appreciation of our good literature. Prejudice is being broken down and many misconceptions concerning our faith removed as men and women read our books. Preachers and teachers in other missions like to purchase *Bible Readings*, and I have recently heard of three Roman Catholic teachers who have purchased copies of that book secretly though they have been warned against doing so by the priests.

Our printing press at Ibadan, under the care of Brother W. T. B. Hyde, is printing the Sabbath-school lesson quarterlies in the Ibo and Yoruba languages. These are proving a boon to our Sabbath-schools and are building up our people in the faith. Large quantities of tracts have been printed in Yoruba and are being widely scattered throughout that field. Our first paper *Alore*, or *Watchman*, is on the press at the time of writing and early in January our new Yoruba hymnal containing 250 hymns will be ready for sale. We believe that our printing press and literature work will play a very important part in giving the message to the twenty-two million Nigerians.

Good interests have been created during the past few months by the colporteur work at Enugu, which is the head-quarters of the Government for Southern Nigeria, and further north at Makurdi, where the Eastern railway line crosses the Benue river into Northern Nigeria. At the latter place a worker in another mission has resigned in order that he might observe the Sabbath and unite with the Adventist Church. His friend, a Roman Catholic, has also accepted the message. He speaks the Munchi language and I understand that already some of the Munchi chiefs have sent to inquire why he has left the Roman

Catholic Church. They feel that there must be some good reason for such a change, and our friend has visited these chiefs and explained something of the new-found truth in which he is now rejoicing. The chiefs and people are asking him to come and teach them about the coming of Christ and the Sabbath. The Lord is beckoning us on to greater conquests in Nigeria. We will be recreant to our trust if we fail to make provision for the giving of the Advent message to this large tribe now that the Lord is opening the way before us.

New openings present themselves on every hand; in Yoruba country, the Northern Provinces, and in Ibo land. Pastor B. I. Tikili told me a week or two ago of a company of forty Sabbath-keepers who have recently made themselves known to the mission after keeping the Sabbath for about two years. No one has been able to visit them yet. Lack of both workers and means often compel us to leave fresh interests uncared for. From British-mandated Cameroons come requests for literature. A worker should be sent to that part of the field in the near future to care for the interests. Most likely it will be left to one of our faithful Ibo colporteurs to pioneer the work down there for a time.

LENGTHENING THE CORDS

During the past year we have lengthened our cords by inviting Brother and Sister C. A. Bartlett to locate at Onitsha on the Niger river. Our first girls' school has been opened at Aba. Sister R. Raitt is in charge of this new institution and we have every confidence that it will contribute much to the strengthening of the work among the Ibo peoples.

Pastor J. J. Hamilton, for a number of years in charge of our church in Lagos, has located at

| | No. S.S. | S.S. M'ship | Bap. M'ship | No. in Bap. Classes | Out-Schools | Station Schools | M.V. Socs. |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| S. West Mission | 15 | 697 | 266 | 206 | 3 | 1 | ... |
| N. " " | 28 | 1139 | 388 | 181 | 3 | ... | ... |
| S. East " " | 78 | 8503 | 1064 | 1161 | 4 | 2 | ... |
| N. " " | 2 | 54 | 5 | 13 | ... | 1 | ... |
| European | ... | ... | 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total for Union | 123 | 10393 | 1739 | 1561 | 10 | 4 | 20 |

Ilesha, an important Yoruba town in the interior, and is reporting souls won to the message in this progressive town.

From Awtun, the head-quarters of our North-west Mission, Pastor W. G. Till and his workers are extending their influence out in the direction of Lokoja and the mighty Niger.

We are happy indeed to see the cords being lengthened. It now remains to strengthen the stakes in both old and new centres.

OUR NEEDS

It is somewhat difficult to decide the order in which our needs should be listed, so pressing do they all become as we face the varied problems of the field. I feel, however, that there can be no better investment made than in evangelism in these days when so many openings for the message are inviting us to go forward and reap the ripening harvest. We require more African evangelists and teachers to care for new interests. Our present staff is altogether inadequate to care for the thousands of illiterate men, women, and children who are joining our ranks. These people must be taught how to read and write and be instructed in the essentials of the Gospel message which we bear to the world, and this takes much time and labour, but if this work is not thoroughly done, weak churches result. The third angel's message is spreading into many parts of Nigeria, but in the majority of the large towns as yet we have no work apart from what our colporteurs are doing. To warn these towns with their teeming populations is a stupendous task. It calls for consecrated and able workers. A coloured evangelist of experience from abroad is one of our greatest needs.

The training of capable nationals must claim much more of our thought and means. Our educational programme has never been placed on a strong enough foundation on the West Coast of Africa. We would urge the Division to place this matter on its agenda as one of the major problems connected with our work in Nigeria—and perhaps throughout West Africa. We rejoice to see a

number of workers growing up into strong, responsible men, but there is a great lack of well-trained, resourceful workers, and such must be the case until we have provided adequate training facilities.

MEDICAL WORK

It is with diffidence that we write about our medical work in Nigeria, especially when we compare the little we have done along this line with what the other missions are accomplishing. We do have a good dispensary work at Jengre under the capable supervision of Sister J. J. Hyde, and a small dispensary at Awtun under the care of Pastor and Mrs. Till, but can these small efforts be taken to represent our medical mission programme for such a land as Nigeria?

Think of all the years we have been working in West Africa and still we do not have a doctor on the whole coast! Surely an Adventist mission hospital with a consecrated missionary-minded doctor in charge is long overdue? Such a work would strengthen our influence very definitely and give us a commendation to the public as nothing else could do. This would be of great value in our Harvest Ingathering campaigns, for when men and women in towns like Lagos give liberally for our medical missionary work, they are interested in knowing just what we are doing for their fellow countrymen. We need the backing that the medical work could give, and we earnestly hope that this will not be denied Nigeria much longer.

Doctor E. Muir, who has recently visited the West Coast on behalf of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, states that while Sierra Leone and Gold Coast each had a number of cases of leprosy, there are as many as 200,000 lepers in Nigeria, where the disease is still spreading. He makes recommendations for combating the disease. Has the time not come when our medical work should begin to play its full part in Nigeria?

The Press has shown itself ready to give us good publicity. A full page of the *Nigerian Daily Times'* large, coloured *Christmas*

Annual for 1935 was given to an article featuring our world-wide work. Another long article on calendar reform sent in by Brother W. Hyde was gladly accepted and published this year. We can have all the publicity we desire, *but we must have the backing of medical and educational work* if we are to avail ourselves of this modern means of keeping the message before the public eye.

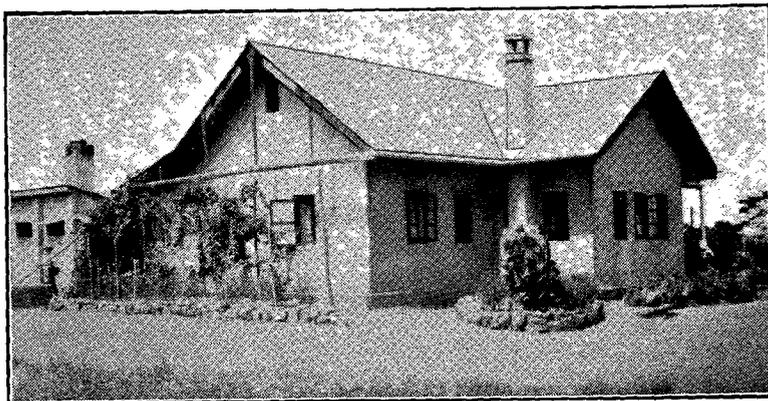
It is good to be engaged in an ever-expanding movement and to witness the Gospel going forth "conquering and to conquer." A growing work creates lots of problems, but victories of the cross are being won and we have every reason to be courageous as we follow the leading providences of the Lord. May we as workers in Africa, and as leaders and believers in the homeland, be faithful to our trust until the great commission has been carried out in every land.



Progress in Uganda

BROTHER MUDERSPACH of Uganda sends in a letter some very encouraging news of progress in that field. Fifty-three have been added in the first half of the present year. During the same period African tithes and offerings went up 320 shillings. The canvassers have been blessed with good success and sold 2,496 books in their first tour this year. Some time ago the training school dormitory was destroyed by fire, but now Brother Muderspach writes:

"We have begun to rebuild the training school dormitory. It has an ant-proof course, cement floor, is built with burned bricks, and is to have glass windows. The building is sixty-one feet long, twenty-two feet wide, with three rooms—two sleeping compartments and one study and dining-room. The complete building will cost us Sh. 4,500, and this money, together with Sh.800 for equipment, we have raised in the field. Beside this, we have gathered money for evangelistic efforts, put an iron roof on the Kireka school building, and made some other improvements. This money has all been raised by means of our medical work."



The head-quarters of the North Nigerian Mission at Jengre.

First-Fruits in Northern Nigeria

BY J. J. HYDE

SABBATH, June 13, 1936, was a red-letter day in the history of our work in Northern Nigeria, for on that day our first baptism was held. Pastor McClements, our Union superintendent, baptized five men and one woman.

Let us glance briefly at the history of these six people.

First there is Maurice Nzebe, an Ibo man. He was born and brought up a Roman Catholic. He was led to seek something more Christlike, less repressive, more lovable, and more loving. He has been with us over three years, and has steadily progressed in wisdom and grace until to-day he is a strong worker for God. If God wills, Maurice will have an out-station of his own next year.

Second is David Smith, from the Yoruba nation. He had had a few months' service in a school of ours in the Yoruba country when he was sent up to us apparently dying with tuberculosis. In answer to prayer God has cured him. Now he takes charge of our out-station among the Amo people.

Third there is Jeremiah Erondu. He first began to attend Sabbath-school nine years ago when he was very young. In later years circumstances caused him to leave home and wander from one part of the country to another seeking a living, until he met us up here a year ago. With no family to assist him, he has earned a scanty living, endured much abuse and ill-treatment, alternating with bribes,

as others have tried to wean him away from his peculiar beliefs. But through it all he has stood firm, and in Jos, a large town where he lives at present, his Sabbath-keeping is known to all.

Fourth and fifth are a pagan man and his wife, real dyed-in-the-wool Northern Nigerian pagans. They belong to the Sho-sho tribe, and although their tribe is a very primitive one, they themselves are clean, intelligent people (we have some more like them coming along). Both of them read and write and do arithmetic. Eve can

sow and plough, Daniel sows and ploughs, too. He is a faithful, hard-working man, and they two, together with their two young children, will be quite ready to open an out-station perhaps eighteen months from now.

Sixth, our own son, come to years of discretion here in the mission field and desiring to testify publicly to his trust in Jesus as his Saviour.

Thus our first baptismal class has gone through successfully to the end of its course. Most of them might have been baptized earlier, but circumstances did not permit. Two others who started the course with us, were able to be baptized in another part of the country to which they went temporarily.

We have a second baptismal class of thirteen members, all of whom are pagans. So we are able to look forward with confidence to other baptismal services.

On Sunday, June 14th, Pastor McClements received the candidates into fellowship, after which we spent a happy though solemn time celebrating the ordinances of the Lord's house.

So we present to the Lord the first-fruits, and thank Him for what He has done for us and for the future harvest of which these very first-fruits give promise.

The North-West Nigerian Mission

BY W. G. TILL

WITHIN our territory there are about four and a half million people, and these are scattered over an area approximately the size of the British Isles. By far the greater number of the inhabitants are professed followers of the prophet Mohammed, and the rest, except for the small companies of Christians scattered here and there, are pagans. At the present time we have twenty-two African workers and one European to carry on that work. You will see this means that each worker is responsible for almost 200,000 souls.

We thank God for the way He has led. We think of places where a few years ago we had no mem-

bers, but to-day there are small companies worshipping God each Sabbath. For nine years we tried to get permission for a piece of land on which to erect a place of worship, and one local chief said that only over his dead body would we get it. A few months later he died, and soon after we received the piece of land. In another town a man begged us to preach. For a long period the meetings for six persons were conducted on a native verandah where the dogs, chickens, and goats gathered; at present there is a Sabbath-school membership of 200, and these people have built a large church at their own expense.

To-day we have twenty-eight

Sabbath-schools throughout our territory with a membership of 1,139. There are many difficulties. How to reach the Mohammedans is one of the greatest problems, for in some parts no one is allowed even to preach the Word of God. In the town of Ilorin, with its 47,412 inhabitants, we are not allowed to preach the truth in public.

Formalism is another great obstacle. Many societies are now working in Nigeria, and many Africans think it is sufficient to join any church which may appeal to them, without considering the question of a changed life.

Space would not allow to itemize all the problems but we earnestly ask an interest in your prayers

that God may give us the wisdom needed to deal with such matters.

Our needs are many. One is a properly-equipped mission school. At present there is not one for the four and a half million people in this field. We need also a boarding school where boys can come from all parts of the field to receive a training. Some of these would then be able to go on to our training school at head-quarters, and would eventually become workers. We are grateful for the printing press recently donated to Nigeria, and for the tracts which this has enabled us to have in the vernacular. As these silent messengers are scattered throughout the field we are confident of good results.

effort he succeeded in getting the people of his village to meet with him for worship before beginning the day's work in the fields or on the hunt, and in the evening the people were called together, by the blowing of a buffalo horn, to give thanks for the day that was ended. On Sabbaths he conducted a Sabbath-school, and all through the week he told simple stories from the life of Christ, stories that are old, yet ever new.

Messages were sent to him from surrounding villages asking him to come and hold meetings with them, but because he could not read or write he could not accept the invitations, for the people wished him to read from God's Word and he felt he could not always tell the same story.

He planned to begin something new when one day a stranger from the coastal area came along, who happened to know other stories from the Bible, so that it was not long before other themes could be presented to the people. One day, these two being unable to agree on the point as to whether it was Abraham or Noah who was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire, Goe packed up his things and, together with his wife, came to me at the place where I had just started work on the building up of our new mission station. He wants to stay till he has learned to read. Then he will go straight back to his relatives and people.

I can hear his words ringing in my ears still: "Do you think I will be able to read the Bible before Jesus comes again? Can't you send someone to my people to teach them until I myself am able to go?" And we have neither workers nor yet means to send!

By the grace of God we have seen young men and women turn from their heathen ways, their superstitious practices, and from fetishism, to a life of purity and holiness, a life solely consecrated to Him and His service. The enemy, however, is also at work, but our faith and belief is in the power of God to take the greatest sinner and make him into a new creature. To this power hundreds and thousands among the different races of the earth can testify,

Liberia Awakens

BY K. NOLTZE

IN Liberia, during the past few years, strange prophets have arisen, cleanly clad in white robes, carrying a large cross as a walking staff. These have gone from village to village telling the heathen of Jesus and His soon coming. Their message is simple, "Burn your magic medicines, pray to God alone, and prepare to meet His Son Jesus." But concerning other heathen practices they say nothing. Many of the prophets themselves are not able to read.

I have personally met some of these untiring messengers. They are followers of the Prophet Harris, who has been dead now for some years, and was formerly of Southern Liberia. In that section of Liberia, and throughout all the Ivory Coast, thousands and tens of thousands accepted Prophet Harris's message and burned their fetish medicines. They have built churches of stone and corrugated iron from their own means, established churches, elected elders, and now await the fulfilment of their hopes and expectations. Scarcely any of them can read or write, but because Harris declared that his message was contained in God's Word, the Bible, they felt constrained to buy copies. They therefore ordered large Bibles, and although they could not be read,

they were opened and placed on a table beside the pulpit.

A large number of these people are now fostered and cared for by an English-French mission society and it was the missionaries of this society that told me of the wonderful awakening.

There is indeed an awakening taking place in dark Africa. The people are ready and waiting for light.

Goe, one of our most alert and enthusiastic Christians, had a great and ever greater burden on his heart to carry the blessed hope which he experienced in his own heart to his kith and kin who lived far in the interior of Liberia. How often he said to me, "It is so sweet to have such a hope in one's heart, but it makes me sad to think that my family, my parents, brothers and sisters, know nothing of it." Although he could neither read nor write he set out with his wife for his home village, many days' journey through the bush. Just before reaching the village, however, he lost all he possessed, because his innocent wife had incautiously entered the grove of some secret society. He gave up everything for his wife's sake, otherwise he would have lost her, and she her young life.

After some days of untiring

Report of the Northern European Division

| Name of Conference or Mission | No. Churches | Baptism and Vote | Apostasy | Death | Net Gain | Present Membership | Evangelistic Workers | Coporteurs | No. Sabbath-Schools | Membership | Average Attendance | Tithe | Tithe per capita | Sabbath-School Offerings | Weekly Offerings |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------|-------|----------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| N. E. Division | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Baltic Union | 118 | 51 | 48 | 25 | -24 | 5,538 | 65 | 43 | 148 | 5,584 | 3,782 | 4,277.10 | 0.06 | 844.22 | ... |
| British | 82 | 245 | 46 | 11 | 195 | 5,580 | 102 | 64 | 155 | 5,555 | 3,925 | 31,749.60 | 0.45 | 6,380.58 | ... |
| E. Nordic | 99 | 131 | 17 | 25 | 82 | 5,039 | 59 | 105 | 182 | 4,304 | 3,289 | 14,516.30 | 0.23 | 3,396.49 | 1.74 |
| Polish | 150 | 106 | 38 | 17 | 47 | 3,377 | 54 | 36 | 162 | 3,901 | 2,781 | 2,288.00 | 0.05 | 601.29 | ... |
| W. Nordic | 137 | 101 | 33 | 15 | 62 | 6,866 | 51 | 74 | 181 | 5,923 | 4,350 | 22,954.50 | 0.26 | 5,484.67 | 6.65 |
| Union Tls. 3rd qtr. 1936 | 586 | 634 | 182 | 93 | 362 | 26,400 | 345 | 322 | 828 | 25,267 | 18,127 | \$ 75,786.10 | 0.22 | 16,807.25 | 8.39 |
| E. Afr'n Union Miss. | 6 | 32 | 66 | 26 | 6 | 3,904 | 17 | ... | 176 | 12,215 | 9,941 | \$ 1,149.90 | 0.02 | 870.86 | ... |
| Ethiopian | 7 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | 321 | 23 | ... | 9 | 418 | 358 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gold Coast | 8 | 7 | 24 | 7 | 8 | 820 | 3 | ... | 60 | 3,458 | 2,410 | \$ 578.70 | 0.05 | 222.54 | ... |
| Nigerian | 9 | 4 | 67 | 23 | 8 | 1,739 | 15 | ... | 123 | 10,393 | 8,827 | \$ 908.10 | 0.04 | 461.84 | ... |
| Upper Nile | 10 | 3 | 27 | 1 | ... | 251 | 7 | ... | 24 | 534 | 353 | \$ 453.10 | 0.15 | 69.78 | ... |
| French Equat. | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 4 | ... | 1 | 85 | 86 | \$ 47.90 | 0.26 | 20.13 | ... |
| Liberian | 12 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 44 | 1 | ... | 12 | 159 | 220 | \$ 283.30 | 0.50 | 32.84 | ... |
| Sierra Leone | 13 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 365 | 4 | ... | 27 | 1,406 | 1,021 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mis's Tls. 2nd qtr. 1936 | 57 | 184 | 57 | 22 | 114 | 7,459 | 74 | ... | 432 | 28,668 | 23,216 | \$ 3,421.00 | 0.04 | 1,677.99 | ... |
| Grand Tls. 3rd qtr. 1936 | 643 | 818 | 239 | 115 | 476 | 33,853 | 420 | 322 | 1,260 | 53,935 | 41,343 | \$ 79,207.10 | 0.18 | 18,485.24 | 8.39 |

Much has been done and is being done for these people who are less fortunate than we in these enlightened lands, but how much more has not been done? The seed of neglect yields its fruit also in an increase of the needs.

The Advent church still carries on its world-wide work without any disillusionment whatever, and knows from experience what a hard and bitter struggle it is. But this untiring service of self sacrifice will bear its fruit in lasting joy both here and in the world to come.

Returning from a long journey through the bush to look over the ashes of our burnt home and see if perchance anything of value might be found among the remains, I felt a strange confidence and hope in my heart that out of the now extinguished flames which were set alight out of revenge and jealousy by satanic fetish priests, a holy flame would be kindled which would light up the hearts of men and women to the glory of God. Since that day that hope has begun to be realized, for a few weeks later a number of natives came to me expressing their desire to become members of the family of God and asking for baptism. I shall never forget the contrast I saw between the destructive power of Satan and the constructive power of our God as we stood by the ruins at Liiwa and extended the hand of sacred fellowship to

men and women from the very same tribal society as those fetish priests.

Liberia has come to the parting of the ways and as an Advent people entrusted with a sacred command, we must be ever awake to our God-given task and ever ready

to lead the way and to care for the weary both at home and in the mission fields. Then in that great day we can stand before our Master with a bright and shining countenance and a clear conscience saying, "Here am I, and the children Thou hast given me."

The Advent Message in Bassa Land

BY I. W. HARDING

In the hinterland of Grand Bassa Republic of Liberia, is located our mission station called "Palmborg." From this centre of influence is being disseminated far and near the truths of the Advent message.

By educational, evangelical, and medical efforts we are endeavouring under God to reach the hearts of the natives both young and old with the saving truths of the Gospel. This is a place where the worship of evil spirits, lizards, snakes, etc., is predominant, and greater numbers rejoice at the hearing of the sound of a snake drum than that of the Gospel bell. Nevertheless the Word of God is winning its way, and not a few are turning away from these vanities to serve the living God.

It would do the hearts of all who love the Lord Jesus good to be in our Sabbath day meetings and hear the people sing songs of their own coining with Christian sentiments, and recite the Sabbath-

school memory verses in the vernacular. This year we started a more aggressive evangelical effort than heretofore by dividing up our Sabbath-school membership into eight groups, each with a leader. Every Sabbath day they go out preaching the Gospel of the kingdom and teaching the people the Sabbath-school lessons.

A man attended a service in one of our Sabbath-school groups and made open confession that he had killed eight persons by black art and asked that we pray God to pardon him. The words he had heard in the meeting had touched his heart, he said, and he felt he was under the condemnation of God. He took the group leader to his home and showed him the horn by which he said he had been doing his nefarious deeds. He is now a regular attendant at Sabbath meetings.

Our school is growing in numbers. We have at present nearly forty pupils. These we are en-

for the Quarter Ended September 30, 1936

| Harvest Ingathering | Annual Offering | Miscellaneous Offerings | Week of Sacrifice | Young People's Offerings | Big Week | Total Offerings | Total Offerings per capita | Percentage of Offerings to Tithe | Total Contributions for Home Missionary Work | Total Contributions for Local Church Work | Colporteur Sales |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|------------------|
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 357.25 | | 1.30 | 307.92 | 0.49 | 1.70 | 1,612.88 | 0.02 | 37.7 | 1,202.60 | 2,096.16 | 1 |
| 24,723.23 | | 97.95 | 2,827.58 | 150.84 | 319.43 | 34,499.61 | 0.49 | 108.7 | 3,741.93 | 17,709.11 | 2 |
| 14,016.65 | 8.43 | 32.99 | 130.18 | 188.12 | 121.16 | 17,895.81 | 0.28 | 123.3 | 990.22 | 701.28 | 3 |
| 1,346.52 | | | 14.47 | 18.54 | 16.02 | 1,996.84 | 0.05 | 87.3 | 76.04 | 17.55 | 4 |
| 13,622.09 | 1.11 | 15.83 | 724.96 | 350.03 | 96.61 | 20,301.95 | 0.23 | 88.4 | 623.00 | 1,732.00 | 5 |
| 54,065.74 | 9.59 | 148.07 | 4,005.11 | 708.02 | 554.92 | 76,307.09 | 0.23 | 100.7 | 1,945.43 | 7,395.36 | 73,808.61 |
| 1.24 | | | 482.60 | | 75.89 | 1,430.59 | 0.03 | 124.4 | | | 72.32 |
| 49.19 | | | 248.21 | | | 519.94 | 0.05 | 89.8 | | | 334.77 |
| 21.96 | 6.07 | | | | 55.27 | 545.14 | 0.02 | 60.0 | | | 1,072.50 |
| 37.68 | | | | | | 107.46 | 0.04 | 23.7 | | | |
| | | | | | 4.83 | 24.96 | 0.14 | 52.1 | | | |
| | 1.58 | | 53.67 | | | 88.09 | 0.15 | 31.1 | | | |
| 110.07 | 7.65 | | 784.48 | | 135.99 | 2,716.18 | 0.03 | 79.4 | | | 1,479.59 |
| 54,175.81 | 17.24 | 148.07 | 4,789.59 | 708.02 | 690.91 | 79,023.27 | 0.18 | 99.8 | 1,945.43 | 7,395.36 | 75,288.20 |

deavouring to educate in the way of the Lord, that when they grow up they will be the means of spreading the light of the Gospel to their benighted people.

We hope by the end of the year to baptize some who have turned to the Lord with all their hearts

and have accepted the Gospel fully. Whilst thinking of the other sister mission fields of our World-Wide Advent Missions, remember also the work in Liberia. We need all the help you can give us for the advancement of the work here. Brethren, pray for us.

some time. He felt he was in peril, and prayed: "O Lord, help me; I am not here in my own interest. I am engaged in Thy work. Save Thy servant." He said the wolf gave him a last look, and went away. So he came safely to his destination.

A sister who was very helpful in the music and singing had had an interesting experience. Her parents were in the Evangelical Church, and when the time came for her confirmation the parents, according to custom, made her a present of a suitable book. They had lately bought it from a colporteur. It was *Christ's Object Lessons*. The girl read it and found in it more religion than she had ever dreamed of. She began to seek God in earnest, became acquainted with some Adventists, and was baptized. For a time the parents were very angry. The father even threatened to kill her. But she prayed through the trial and her parents became reconciled, so that now she has full freedom in the home, and is hoping yet to see her parents embrace the truth. One brother told of troubles

Annual Meeting in North Poland

BY W. T. BARTLETT

THIS was a small gathering. The conference came late: October 8th to 11th. Heavy rains had come and the roads were too bad for bicycles. Toward the end of the meeting snow fell, and some of the brethren who had not finished digging their potatoes felt obliged to go home and save the crop. Still the conference was full of enthusiasm and blessing, and the Lord sent meat in due season.

The past year had been one of struggle, but God had blessed. The president, Brother Zielinski, had won the confidence and affection of the membership and they were sorry to lose him, but he goes to East Poland and Brother Kulak comes from there, suffering in health under the heavy strain, to take the presidency in North Poland. Life for a president in both fields is rather strenuous, and all hope and pray that Brother Kulak may soon recover full health.

I was pleased to see so many substantial men and women among

the workers and the members. They told of interesting experiences.

In some parts of the North Poland Conference there are dense forests, and hidden away in these forests are villages, secluded from the world. Into these our colporteurs penetrate, not without risk, and sell our literature. One colporteur, searching out the forest villages, found three families keeping the Sabbath through reading literature previously sold to them. These families have been prepared for baptism and joined the church.

The Bible-worker who instructed them told of an experience in the primitive forest. He was on his way in the winter to give a Bible study when he met a wolf. Naturally he felt a little nervous, but pressed on, and soon the wolf disappeared from sight. Shortly after appeared another wolf, which faced him and stood its ground. He looked at the wolf, and the wolf looked at him, for

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over the Sabbath. His employer had consented to his staying away from work, but his fellow-workers made him trouble. They caused him to lose many hours. He prayed for God's help. The owner heard that he was being oppressed and made the chief offender pay fifty-three Zloty and

also give him the value of the hours of which he had been robbed. Presently another judgment came upon the enemy. He became ill with a fever. The other men in the workshop said to him: "You see, you are punished because this is a man of God, and you should never make trouble for

a man of God about keeping God's commandments."



We are glad to report that Miss Ruth Raitt, whose illness we reported last month, arrived safely home and seems to be making satisfactory progress.

At Rest

Hansine Christian

FOR more than two years we have all been following with deep sympathy and much prayer Sister Christian's struggle with a deadly disease. Her steady faithfulness in every capacity made her a valued member of the Edgware group and although we are glad that the painful illness is over we mourn the loss of a true sister in Christ. In this time of bereavement Brother L. H. Christian must find comfort in many sacred memories, as well as in the blessed hope of an early re-union.

We pass on to the ADVENT SURVEY circle the following particulars:

Hansine Christian, née Panduro, was born February 26, 1870, near Hobro, Denmark. At the age of seventeen she received a few tracts on present truth from K. Brorson, one of our godly pioneers. In those early years of Adventism in northern Europe there was much prejudice and opposition, but she quietly decided to follow her Saviour, and became the first of a large family to accept the message. During these spiritual struggles Sister Sophie Saxild was her constant helper. Four years later through the efforts of H. L. Hendrikson she became a colporteur, and worked faithfully for six years. For a year she was employed in our publishing house in Copenhagen. In 1898 she came to Skodsborg Sanitarium and finished the nurses' course, and was in time made head nurse of that institution.

In the summer of 1905 she left for America to become the wife of L. H. Christian. During the next fifteen years she took an active and helpful part in his labours in that country, living in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis. In 1920 Brother and Sister Christian, responding to a call from the General Conference, came to Europe. In the large responsibilities which Elder Christian carried as Division president during the troubled years after the World War, Mrs. Christian's peaceful, spiritual influence and loyalty to the Advent truth were of untold value. The family made their home for two and a half years in Denmark; six and a half years in Switzerland; seven years in

England. On August 9, 1934, she underwent a severe operation at the Skodsborg Sanitarium, and a little more than a year ago her husband and daughter took her to the Loma Linda Sanitarium, where she peacefully fell asleep in Jesus, October 23rd.

Sister Christian was a woman of firm faith in God and a deep love for Jesus. Her life of cheerful devotion to her family was rich in blessing for them each. For over thirty years her husband was away from home on longer and shorter missionary journeys two-thirds of the time, and left to his wife the responsibility of the children. Sister Christian's modest disposition and tactful service won for her a host of friends, whose many, many letters and flowers greatly cheered her in her last illness. Her unselfish interest in others, and especially in the poor, shown in her many labours for the Dorcas society, as well as in other ways, will long be remembered.

Though there was much suffering in her long illness she never complained. Again and again she praised God for His goodness and expressed her gratitude because she could be at one of the institutions the Lord has established among us, and especially because her husband and children could all be with her once more. She had no fear of death and said, not long before the end came, that she knew it was God's will that she should enter into rest.

She leaves to mourn, her husband, three daughters, three brothers, two sisters, and many other relatives and friends. She was laid to rest at the Montecito Cemetery near Loma Linda. Over her grave are these words: "Taken away from the evil to come." (Isa. 57:1), which express her feelings of resignation and confidence in God.

W. T. BARTLETT.

Emil J. Ahren

AGAIN death has claimed its tribute in our ranks. Pastor Emil J. Ahren, a pioneer worker in Sweden, fell asleep at Hultafors Sanitarium, October 20, 1936, after a very short

sickness, at the age of seventy-one years.

Brother Ahren was born in Eda, Vermland, January 21, 1865. At the age of seventeen he accepted the Advent message in his home town. Shortly afterwards he went to North America. For some time he was one of the teachers in the Bible school that Elder J. G. Matteson conducted in Chicago for future Scandinavian workers. In 1889 he was ordained to the Gospel ministry at the Minnesota camp meeting. In 1890 the General Conference asked our brother to return to Sweden to study for two years, with a view to preparing himself to lead out in training Scandinavian workers for North America. Shortly after he had returned to America again, an urgent call to release Brother Ahren came from Sweden.

It was about that time that the Scandinavian Publishing House in Stockholm was started, and Brother Ahren was asked to take the editorship of the two publications which were to be issued from that house, *Tidens Tecken* (*Signs of the Times*) and *Missionaren*. This work Brother Ahren most ably cared for for thirty-eight years. In 1932, due to failing health, he withdrew from active service.

Brother Ahren was a tireless worker. In his younger days he was a very powerful preacher in Stockholm, and drew large audiences. He was also an able writer. Several of his books and pamphlets have had an unusually large circulation. As death overtook him he was preparing a new book dealing exclusively with the theme, *Behold He Cometh*, and it is hoped that this is so near completion that it can be issued.

Brother Ahren was laid to rest in Eda cemetery. He leaves to mourn his wife and two sons, many other relatives, and a host of friends. By his kind, unassuming, and thoughtful ways he had made himself loved and respected by all whom he met.

To Brother Ahren the words fitly apply: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

The funeral was conducted by the writer, assisted by Pastor C. O. Carlstjerna. G. A. LINDSAY.