

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT

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Our New Publishing House Is Opened

By H. S. PEARCE

The publishing family of the West African Union and its many friends were made happy on the afternoon of Sunday, January 3rd, 1954 when they witnessed the opening ceremony of their new publishing house, The Advent Press, which is situated on a beautiful site overlooking the ocean at Accra, Gold Coast.

There were some two hundred people present to listen to the speech of the Prime Minister, The Honourable Doctor Kwame Nkrumah, and to witness his official opening of the premises. It is gratifying to us that such a busy personality as the Prime Minister should honour us with his presence on this occasion and speaks well for the religious freedom afforded to all sects in this quickly developing country.

Following the opening service the Prime Minister was conducted through the premises. He expressed himself very favourably concerning all that he saw.

Pastor G. D. King, Publi-

shing Secretary for the Northern European Division was also in attendance and, prior to the Prime Minister's speech, delivered a short address in which he set forth the purpose and aims of the new publishing house. He aptly likened it, standing as

it does on the sea shore, to a lighthouse, sending out beams of light and hope to a world in the darkness of doubt and fear.

During the ceremony, Pastor A.F. Tarr, President of the Northern European Division, presented Doctor Nkrumah with a copy of Pastor Emmerson's book "God's Good News" and Pastor Vine's book "God's Answers



The opening Service on the steps of the New Press. Left to right: H. D. Wilson, A. F. Tarr, Dr. Nkrumah, J. O. Gibson, G. D. King, H. S. Pearce.

to your Questions," stating that these books were given as a token of appreciation of the freedom of the press and religious safeguards to all citizens by Doctor Nkrumah's government.

Pastor J.O. Gibson, President of the West African Union, was the chairman, while Pastor H.D. Wilson led the congregation in prayer.

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BOOK AND BIBLE HOUSE

Union Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By G. L. ANNISS, Secretary-Treasurer

Our annual meeting is convening two weeks earlier this year, it is therefore not possible for us to give a complete year's figures for com-

parison.

However, I will take the same liberty as last year and quote from the Division Secretary's report.

The membership in the Division now stands as follows:

Union	December 1950	September 1952	June 1953	Total Gain
British Union	6,666	6,979	7,157	491
East Nordic Union	8,161	8,390	8,489	328
Ethiopian Union	654	790	980	326
Iceland Mission	324	368	366	42
Netherlands Union	2,150	2,195	2,241	91
Polish Union	3,034	3,034	3,150	116
West African Union	9,834	13,714	14,388	4,554
West Nordic Union	8,231	8,451	8,543	312
Total	39,054	43,921	45,314	6,260

Taking the totals for the West African Union we have the following figures:

Date	Membership	Increase
31 : 12 : 50	9,834	—
31 : 12 : 51	12,698	1,864
31 : 12 : 52	14,268	2,570
30 : 9 : 53	14,626	358 (9 mths.)
		4,792

We now turn to the missions within our own field and give figures showing the increase of membership in each mission since the re-organization of the Northern European Division at the beginning of 1951:

Missions	Dec. 1950	Dec. 1952	Sept. 1953	2 & 3 qts. year's Increase	Percentage
Sierra Leone	549	783	775	226	41.2
Liberia	393	548	552	159	40.6
Ivory Coast	77	111	107	30	39.0
Gold Coast	3,042	4,694	4,770	1,728	56.8
Nigeria - West	1,463	1,902	1,903	440	30.1
Nigeria - East	4,159	5,994	6,294	2,125	51.1
Nigeria - North	151	236	235	84	55.6
	9,834	14,268	14,626	4,792	48.7

The Division Secretary also points out in his report that the population of the Northern European Division is 159,300,000, one third of this number is within the British Union, and approximately one quarter in the West African Union.

It is very difficult to draw a comparison of baptisms between 1952 and 1953, as last year the 3rd quarter had a special day for baptisms and this year's figures are not yet complete. We will, however, restate our gains and losses for 1952,

and also for the first nine months of 1953:

Missions	1952				LOSSES			
	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total	Apostacy	Death	Letter	Total
Sierra Leone	325	14	24	363	13	13	74	100
Liberia	89	-	-	89	64	12	3	79
Ivory Coast	19	-	-	19	8	-	-	8
Gold Coast	1,103	39	446	1,588	211	27	431	669
Nigeria - West	211	6	6	223	1	1	4	6
Nigeria - North	82	-	-	82	5	2	-	7
Nigeria - East	1,182	1	5	1,188	65	40	8	113
Union Total	3,011	60	481	3,552	367	95	520	982
				Gains 3,552				Losses 982
Net Gain for 1952				2,570				

30th SEPTEMBER 1953

Missions	GAINS				LOSSES			
	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total	Apostacy	Death	Letter	Total
Sierra Leone	13	2	7	22	9	9	12	30
Liberia	5	-	-	5	-	1	-	1
Ivory Coast	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	4
Gold Coast	230	8	219	457	84	13	284	381
Nigeria - West	10	-	49	59	1	8	49	58
Nigeria - North	-	-	2	2	1	-	2	3
Nigeria - East	326	74	77	477	84	38	65	187
Union Total	584	84	354	1,022	181	71	412	664
				Gains 1,022				Losses 664
Net Gain for 9 months 1953				358				

Before closing our report on membership it is interesting to note how near we are to doubling our membership since the last General Conference held in 1950:

Membership 1:1:50	8,408
Membership 30:9:53	14,626
Increase 6,218	- 74 percent

We will now turn our attention to the financial side of our report dealing first of all with our mission offerings. Here we are only able to give figures for 11 months of 1953:

The increase in total annual mission offerings since 1950 is a very gratifying aspect of our report:

Total Mission Offerings	
1950	£8,132. 7. 11
1951	9,889. 6. 4
1952	12,475. 1. 3
1953 (11 months)	9,174. 3. 7

We trust that when the final figures are available for 1953, that they will show that the progress of the last few years has been maintained during 1953.

Before leaving our mission offerings we would like to restate again the Harvest Ingathering figures since 1950 when Brother Chappell took over the promotion of this work:

Ingathering	
1950	£4,203. 16. 4
1951	£5,237. 18. 9
1952	£6,268. 2. 10
11 months) 1953	£3,453. 9. 6

We now turn to the Tithe, but here we do not have exact figures in our books as one tenth is credited through to the Union, but we have taken the amount credited to the Union and worked out the approximate amount received by each mission.

This steady increase in the tithe is certainly encouraging but we must not be unmindful that the support of our African workers should be from the tithe, and a faithful tithe paying membership is necessary for the stability of the work, as with our growing worker force we cannot guarantee additional appropriations from overseas to meet the increased costs.

We are glad to report that at Ihie, Bekwai and Konola additional buildings have been erected to meet the needs of

Mission Offerings

Offerings	1952	11 months 1953
Sabbath School	£4,389. 13. 0	£4,268. 6. 1
13th Sabbath	1,381. 3. 2	1,199. 16. 3
Annual Offering	246. 14. 8	17. 14. 11
Week of Sacrifice	73. 10. 2	70. 10. 10
Ingathering	6,268. 2. 10	3,453. 9. 6
Miscellaneous Offerings	110. 14. 1	133. 3. 10
Missions Extension	5. 3. 4	31. 2. 2
	12,475. 1. 3	9,174. 3. 7

Missions	Tithe			
	1950	1951	1952	1953 (11 months)
Sierra Leone	£627	605	1,039	814
Liberia	276	479	940	1,001
Ivory Coast	520	330	457	219
Gold Coast	4,487	5,680	7,106	7,404
Nigeria - West	1,275	1,621	1,904	2,438
Nigeria - East	3,008	3,242	3,955	5,004
Nigeria - North	193	307	364	427
Union Total	£10,386	12,264	15,765	17,307

the growing work and new secondary schools.

This time last year our new press was just an empty building, now it is getting into its stride, and we await with interest the manager's first report and the official opening to take place during these meetings.

We would again like to pay tribute to the faithful overseas membership who during this past year contributed almost £33,000 to the regular maintenance of our African work, £28,000 going directly into the budgets of the local mission fields and institutions. Also there was a further sum of almost £32,000 given for special projects and evangelism, and in addition to this our entire overseas staff was maintained by funds from overseas. We trust the day will soon come when this field will be fully self-supporting, and playing an even larger part, which is already considerable, as the mission offerings show, in sending the Gospel message to other lands less fortunate than we are.

It is usual in this report to give details of our working force which at present is as follows:

Ordained Ministers	64
Credentialed Missionaries	4
Licensed Ministers	45
Licensed Missionaries	103
School Teachers	380
Colporteurs	39
Other Workers	39

Press	24
Ife Hospital	100
Ihie	20
Bekwai	32
Jengre	9
Voice of Prophecy	16
	<u>758</u>

This information may not be correct; but it is the latest available in our files.

Making a brief reference to our overseas staff we are very pleased to welcome to our working force Brother and Sister Gustavsson from Sweden, who have connected with the West Nigerian Mission, and Pastor and Mrs. Hughes and family, located at Bassa in the Liberian Mission, also Mrs. Nielsen who has joined Pastor Nielsen in East Nigeria. Pastor and Mrs. Coon arrived early in January and later located at the Voice of Prophecy.

The other side of the story, however, is not so bright and unfortunately we have said good-bye to a number who returned permanently to their home land. These are as follows: Pastor and Mrs. Stearman and family (August), Dr. and Mrs. Wagner and family (September), Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Santini and family (January), Mr. and Mrs. H. Logan and family (July—through serious illness), Miss J. Mohlmann (May), Miss Kathleen Grant (December).

There are many other features of our work that are showing encouraging growth but these will be reported on by the departments concerned.

In closing my report, I would like to pay tribute to the good work Miss Muderspach has put in during this past year. In addition to being Acting Secretary-Treasurer in my absence, Miss Muderspach has carried the office detail work of Brother Chappell's departments during his furlough. Although carrying a heavy programme Miss Muderspach has very acceptably and efficiently discharged her responsibilities, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation for her good work and help to me personally.

We trust that as we enter the new year of 1954, that it will be with renewed courage and wisdom, and that our efforts will be blessed by God, resulting in souls won, and the hastening of His Kingdom.



Pastor A. F. Tarr, President of the Northern European Division

Publishing Department Report

By D. L. CHAPPELL, Union P.D.S.

Recently when colporteur Dankwah entered one of the homes of Asamankase, he found only a blind woman present. "What do you want?" she enquired. Introducing himself as a worker for God, he began telling her about "These Days of Destiny," describing it in vivid language. "I am blind. I am illiterate. But if those words you are speaking are to be found in this book which I am holding, I want a copy for my grandson, Emmanuel, who is now attending school. This book will remind him of me when I die," responded the old lady.

While Dankwah was canvassing the blind lady another illiterate woman came in and, after hearing the book explained, she ordered two copies for her children. This customer said to the colporteur, "Young man, your words sound sweet to my ears."

As Brother Dankwah was writing the orders for the second lady, a Mr. Ofori entered the house and asked the lady what it was that she was buying. "Let this man tell you," the woman replied, as she pointed to the colporteur. Soon his name was written in the order book too.

On delivery day Dankwah again found the blind lady alone. When he informed her that he had brought her book, she said, "There are many people going around selling books. Are you the very young man who talks like an old man and who ordered a book for my grandson? Speak to me again, for

I don't forget your voice." Satisfied that Dankwah was the right man, the lady paid him for her book and also paid him for the books ordered by the other man and woman, as they had left the money with her.

Thus the West African colporteur evangelist plants his seeds of truth. Mr. Dankwah and his forty associate colporteurs planted £12,479. 0s. 5d. worth of precious soul-saving seeds during the year. Already they are seeing some of that seed spring forth in the form of satisfied customers who are walking in the light of present truth.

For interests sake, below is shown a breakdown of the delivery according to the missions. Also is shown the amount delivered by each mission. Also is shown the Union delivery for the previous three years:

East Nigerian Mission	£2,472. 5. 6
Gold Coast	9,014. 4. 1
Ivory Coast	344. 18. 11
Liberian	23. 0. 9
Sierra Leone	145. 18. 3
West Nigerian	478. 12. 11
Union Total for 1953:	£12,479. 0. 5

1950	£4,222
1951	7,279
1952	12,923
1953	12,479

£36,903 total for four years.

Eleven colporteurs in the Gold Coast each delivered more than £300 during the period of this report. Six of them had delivered over £500. The three men with the highest deliveries were: Mr. Antwi—£842, Mr. Quarten—£841, and Mr. Dankwah—£726. You may marvel

over these excellent records of sales, but to me the amazing thing is the number of hours that these servants of God devoted to their sacred task. They worked 1,794 hours, 1,922 hours, and 1,836 hours respectively. Oh, that we had more colporteurs, and other mission workers too, who devoted their time to their assigned duties as faithfully as these men did.

Most of the books distributed in our field this year were published by The Stanborough Press Ltd., whose manager, Brother J. H. Craven, made an extensive visit to our territory early in the year. We were happy for his visit and appreciate the service he and his institution have rendered to our colporteurs in West Africa.

While we are pleased with the service of overseas publishers, we are looking forward to printing more and more of our colporteur books here in our own Advent Press, which was officially opened on 3rd January, 1954, by Doctor Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of the Gold Coast.

Following Mr. E. L. Brown's return to canvassing in Lagos in January, Pastor S. A. Njoku became publishing secretary for the East Nigerian Mission. In December, I made a trip with him visiting a number of his colporteurs. I am pleased with the way Pastor Njoku and his men have carried on while I have been on leave.

Gold Coast publishing secretary, Mr. L. H. Davidson, and his assistant, Richard Mawutor, managed their men all the year without help from me. They even conducted an institute and did it successfully according to reports. I am proud of them and their band of colporteurs.

Pioneer Colporteurs

The most thrilling part of this report, I think, is the account of the pioneer work being done in the Ivory Coast by colporteurs Gbessin and Assagan. As far as I know, they are the first men to serve as colporteurs there, under the guidance of Pastor Ellstrom they are doing remarkably well. We look forward to receiving news of the fruitful harvest of the gospel seed which they are sowing. Together they delivered £344 worth of books in eight months.

Colporteurs Oriaku and Joseph in Lagos have not had outstanding records this year, but they have worked consistently, a trait I prize highly, and have delivered £311 worth of literature. I am encouraged by their faithfulness during a year when they received no help from a publishing secretary.

I was made happy when I returned to Accra to find that Liberia is again on our colporteur map. Starting his work during the latter part of the year, Colporteur Stephens has reported a delivery of £23. He has many orders yet to be delivered. We trust that he will continue to plant the seed of the printed page in Liberia.

Until he departed for Newbold Missionary College in June, Colporteur Andrew Daitey canvassed in Sierra Leone. He delivered £145 worth of books during the first six months of 1953. From March 1952 until June 1953 his delivery amounted to £471. 5s. 9d.

While the North Nigerian Mission has no colporteurs of its own, four of the East Nigerian colporteurs canvassed in its territory this year. Thus, our colporteur evange-

lists served every field during 1953. Our aim now is to intensify the distribution of our literature in each mission.

The most satisfying part of the colporteur ministry is the joy we experience when we learn of colporteur customers accepting Jesus Christ. Reports from the field indicate that a number of colporteur customers have been baptized this year. Others have begun to ob-

serve the true Sabbath. For this we are truly grateful to God.

Future articles from my office will contain a number of interesting colporteur experiences which prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that God Himself ordained the literature ministry and that He has commissioned His angels to guide and bless His colporteur evangelists in West Africa.

Sabbath-School Report

By D. L. CHAPPELL, Sabbath School-Secretary

Something unusual occurred in the Accra James Fort Prison about 5.00 p.m. on December 26th. It was the second time in the history of the prison that such an event happened, but we hope that it will not be the last time. I refer to the baptism of Mr. P.T. Whenton, former superintendent of the James Fort Branch Sabbath School, by Pastor Pearce while a group of forty fellow prisoners quietly witnessed the scene.

Mr. Whenton was the third member of this branch school to be baptized. The other two men were Mr. Henry Avio and Mr. C. D. D'Alphoncio, who is now serving the cause as an employee of the Advent Press.

The James Fort Branch Sabbath School is one of the 117 such schools now operating in West Africa, and which are proving fruitful soul-winning agencies.

We had 397 organized Sabbath schools at the end of September 30th, 1953, with a total membership of 37,251. You will note that we have one fourth as many branch

schools as we have regular ones. This is a high percentage compared with that of other unions. It is encouraging to note that we had an increase of 1,963 in the Sabbath school membership between September 1952 and September 1953.

The present membership is divided among the missions as follows:



Pastor G. D. KING, Publishing Department Secretary of the Northern European Division

East Nigeria	20,213
Gold Coast	9,570
Ivory Coast	275
Liberia	625
North Nigeria	798
Sierra Leone	1,763
West Nigeria	4,007
Union Total	37,251

In checking our financial accomplishments we find that our members contributed a total of £5,486 during the eleven months covered by this report. One fourth of this amount was given on the three 13th Sabbaths during the period. The table below shows the amounts reported by each mission, as of 30th November:

I am sure that you wish to join me in expressing appreciation to our members for their loyal support of the Advent Movement with their Sabbath school offerings. Their gifts are small, and, no doubt, many could give more, but I think that they do well, considering their meagre income and the number of other offerings to which they contribute. We thank God that He has taught us to give in order that others may live.

Referring to the 13th Sabbath offering, it is interesting to note that the members in Liberia gave for 13th Sabbath in three quarters nearly as much as they collected for the Ingathering. Pastor Henry reports that the members of the Monrovia Church gave a grand sum of 128 dollars on December 26th. The Grand Bassa school gave 151 dollars on June 28th, thus setting an all time high record in West Africa.

Second to the number of Sabbath school members who were baptized, the biggest news for the Sabbath school department was the information that our field would share in the 13th Sabbath

Overflow Offering to be received on September 25, 1954. I want to thank those who wrote articles for the Missions Quarterly for that period. Now we are praying that God will use those messages to inspire His people to support His work in West Africa in a strong way on September 25th.

Mission	12 Sabbaths	13th Sabbath	Total
East Nigeria	£1,667. 17. 5	379. 3. 0	2,047. 0. 5
Gold Coast	1,142. 11. 6	262. 6. 9	1,404. 18. 3
Ivory Coast	88. 18. 11	22. 11. 4	111. 10. 3
Liberia	305. 17. 6	356. 5. 7	662. 3. 1
North Nigeria	148. 3. 10	14. 11. 0	162. 14. 10
Sierra Leone	228. 2. 1	57. 12. 9	285. 14. 10
West Nigeria	705. 3. 7	107. 5. 10	812. 9. 5
	4,286. 14. 10	1,199. 16. 3	5,486. 11. 1

Press Relations Work

By D. L. CHAPPELL, Secretary

Not less than twelve of the leading newspapers in West Africa published 270 stories about the activities of the Adventist people during 1953. The total column inches of these 270 articles amounted to 3,452 inches. This number is more than three times larger than the number of inches reported in 1952. It is thirty times greater than the number of inches published in 1950. Along with these stories appeared 38 pictures, 24 of which were of our beloved Pastor H.M.S. Richards.

To prepare 270 write-ups, one for every inch of space reported in 1951, required much time, alertness, and energy. Someone has been burning the mid-night oil. While I appreciate every effort put forth in press evangelism by each of you, I wish to make special mention of three men. They are Pastors Hulbert, Clarke and Coon.

In closing this report, I remind you that "the Sabbath School should be one of the greatest instrumentalities . . . in bringing souls to Christ." —"Counsels on Sabbath School Work," page 10. May God help us to make the Sabbath Schools of West Africa truly "effective" soul-winners.

Brother Hulbert tops the list with a record 118 stories, most of which appeared in the Accra papers while I was on furlough. In addition to preparing regular news releases, he is writing three weekly columns, one of which is known as "Your Week-end Bible Thought."

Brother D.J. Clarke has developed excellent press relations with the editor of "The Daily Mail" in Freetown. This paper publishes for Brother Clarke synopses of his sermons, a weekly column called "Week-end Meditation" and a variety of news stories. His total number of articles for the year was 38.

Plus continuing the "Know Your Bible" column in the Ibadan paper which Brother Hulbert had begun, Pastor Coon succeeded in making a complete press coverage of Elder Richards' visit to Nigeria and the Gold Coast.

He has reported 36 stories.

In their weekly columns, these three men have presented to the reading public 149 articles—sermons in print—dealing with Adventist teachings. We believe that these messages will bear fruit for God's coming kingdom.

The New Year looms ahead, bringing new opportunities to proclaim the message of salvation in numerous ways, not least of which is press evangelism. "Unless

the powers of a church are favourably impressed on the public consciousness," warns Mr. Stewart Harral, "eventually the church will suffer in decreased support and understanding."

With your continued interest in press evangelism and your loyal co-operation, I am confident that there will never come a time in West Africa when the Adventist Church "will suffer in decreased support and understanding" by the reading public.

is another idea worth studying and using in other fields. The best method, I think, that Pastor Keslake used was his getting right out into the field and visiting prospective donors with his fellow mission workers. He and Mrs. Keslake collected £154 between them.

With a membership of less than 200, the Ivory Coast Mission reports an amazing amount of £400 for the 1953 Ingathering campaign. Most of this, of course, was contributed by the business men of Abidjan. Pastor Ellstrom says that he followed the plan of having Brother Buzenet accompany him when visiting the business places. He found that the "two by two" method advocated by Christ produces excellent results in Ingathering work.

Harvest Ingathering

By D. L. CHAPPELL, Secretary

Just as the Ingathering Campaign opened in Liberia this year, sorrow came to all the mission members. The little twelve year old daughter of Sister Rachel Crowe, the lady who topped the solicitor's list last year in the amount of Ingathering funds collected, died. Sad but not disheartened, Mrs. Crowe took part in the campaign enthusiastically, and reported a grand total of 123 dollars. It is such faithfulness as this by a number of our members that has made our Ingathering work in West Africa successful. We thank God for His blessings upon the labour of His people in "gathering the wealth of the Gentiles" for the advancement of His work.

Other members in Monrovia worked hard, too. Together they received half of the 800 dollars reported by the Monrovia Church. The other half was donated by the business and professional men, two of them contributing 50 dollars each. The excellent goodwill

which our leaders in this mission have developed over a period of time is now paying good dividends.

As far as I can determine, Pastor Wosu in Jos, North Nigeria, collected the largest amount among the mission workers.

He has reported a total of £72. We certainly appreciate his fine accomplishment during this year's campaign.

Pastor Newman joyfully reports that the total Ingathering figure for his mission will exceed £1,450, which is the largest amount ever collected in his field in one year. This represents a lot of hard work, too.

Weekly bulletins during the six weeks campaign in Sierra Leone kept the members enthusiastic, and brought satisfying results. Next year other Ingathering directors may like to follow the plan used by Pastor Keslake.

Pastor Keslake also used singing bands, which he found the public enjoyed. This



Pastor E. L. Minchin, Sabbath-School and Missionary Volunteer Secretary, Northern European Division

by personally soliciting donations from their friends and business men. Although I do not know the amount, I am confident that the members of the Ife, Nigeria, Church received as much by personal solicitation in 1953 as they did in previous years. Therefore, I strongly encourage the members of other churches to use this fruitful method during the 1954 Ingathering Campaign—plus holding the regular Harvest Festival.

We have had a £1,000 in-

crease each year in the amount of Ingathering funds collected from 1949 through 1952. When all the reports are in for 1953, we hope that you will have had another £1,000 increase. Truly God has wonderfully blessed you in this phase of His work, and I sincerely thank every one for taking definite part in the annual Ingathering campaigns. May God enable us to COLLECT OUR GOAL AND MORE IN THE PROMISING YEAR NINETEEN FIFTY-FOUR.

tarly entered for training at Ihie as evangelists.

Organization of Churches

Only one church of 168 members was organized this year, and many more which were ready for organization are held over to the new year.

Camp Meetings

Strange things do happen sometimes. So it did this year, in the East Nigerian Mission. Since the beginning of Camp Meetings in this field, 1953 is the only year in which we did not hold a Camp Meeting. This, of course, balanced off another strange year in the past when we held two camp meeting seasons in the same year—one at the beginning and one at the close of that year. Our 1953 Camp Meetings will be held early in 1954.

East Nigerian Mission

By A. J. DICKAY, Associate President.

The year started with the holding of a Refresher Course at the Ihie College Compound for a number of our senior evangelists for a period of one month.

Our Annual Budget Committee followed soon after the last Union Budget Committee during which it was made financially possible to give our workers a step up in wages in order that they might meet the rising cost of living. With a number of our workers in the Training College our working force was greatly depleted and a great burden was laid upon the shoulders of the few workers left to care for the work. We are glad to report that 1953 is a year of progress in the field.

Early in the year Pastor Newman, the Mission President, left the field on furlough and returned only in October. The Union President was appointed as Acting President.

With the permission from the Union to start the Secondary Department in the Ihie College, Brother W. Fatcher, the Educational Secretary and Manager of Schools for the field was suddenly transferred to Ihie to head up the Secondary School. We were, however, happy when word came through that Pastor A.E. Farrow from the West Nigerian Mission was coming to take over the Educational work from Mr. Fatcher. Soon the work of the Acting President was added to him, and with the sudden return of Brother Logan to England in June, Pastor Farrow also became the Acting Treasurer of the field before the arrival of Pastor Nielsen in October.

We were able in 1953 to send eight of our workers to Ihie for the Evangelistic course. We are happy also to report that in addition to this number, nine others volun-

Church Officers Conventions

During the second quarter of this year our Associate President conducted a number of week-end conventions in almost all the Districts of the field, bringing to our church leaders the importance and significance of the services of worship to God, showing that whether we sing or pray, give offerings or listen to sermons, every act constitutes worship to God and must be done reverently and to the glory of God.

Church Officers Councils

In the months of July and August a major Church Officers' Council was held in all the Districts led out by Pastors Farrow, Dickay and Onwere and assisted by our District Leaders. We are grateful that Pastor Cowin was present and led out in one such council.

Public Relations

We are continuing to bring our work before the public through the medium of the press. This year we were given a total of 95 column inches of free space in one local newspaper. This is not the maximum of what could be done in a year.

Literature was also distributed to leading men in the field and to important Ministers of State in the Government.

Evangelism

We are not able to report evangelism on a big scale for this year, but here and there in the district local efforts were made. At Enugu, Pastor Ahamba has conducted a series of meetings both in a hall and open air for the Enugu Community.

Baptisms

651 were baptized this year in the field. This is very much below the number baptized last year. But the interesting thing is the number of reclaimed members among those baptized.

Finance

Our Harvest Ingathering shows an increase of about £200 over the previous year. A great enthusiasm is now being shown by our membership to collect the funds from non-Adventists rather than giving out of their pockets. Our tithe shows an increase of about £1,398 over last year. This figure is £102 less than the budgeted increase of £1,500, but is the largest increase in the tithe in the history of this field. When we budgeted for £1,500 increase, it was all an act of faith in God to make it possible, and He did, for soon school teachers received a substantial increase in their salaries and, of course, it meant a step up

in their tithe giving and we reached our goal, less £102. Sabbath School Offerings also show an increase.

Permanent Buildings

A number of churches have put up permanent church buildings and many new ones are being built, and others are gathering material for their proposed new permanent church buildings.

A number of our schools now have permanent concrete school buildings.

This year we opened one new school at Ntighauzo and two new ones will be opened in the new year. On the whole our educational work shows steady progress.

Ugulu

This isolated area is showing a great awakening and increase in membership, with only one company a year or two ago, we now have four companies and one school, a new school at Osiri next year is among the two that will be opened by us. Our school building in Ugulu has won

the admiration of the authorities in Ogoja Province and others are being referred to it, to copy the model.

Ibo Hymn Book

For many years now we have waited for the proposed Ibo Hymn-book. By God's help we hope that this hymn book will be in the hands of our members in 1954. It may prove to be the first of its kind in the history of vernacular Hymn books in perhaps the whole of West Africa. It is going to be published with the Tonic Solfa.

We look forward to the time when we shall realize our need of a Medical Unit in East Nigeria. The prospect is good, the people of Rivers area have started to do something and despite the efforts to weaken or bias the authorities we still have them with us in this matter of a hospital.

We pray for God's continued guidance and leadership in our work in the years ahead.

Liberian Mission

By C. D. HENRI, President

On the great seal of the Liberian Government are these words: "The love of liberty brought us here." And on the basis of this inspired motto, a nation, unique on the African continent, has been carved out of the African jungle. Here, amidst the steaming vegetation is slowly, but surely, developing a real republican form of government, of Africans, by Africans and for Africans. Here, too, is slowly, but surely, growing, despite seemingly impossible obstacles, a strong, fruitful branch of the

Advent Church. And the "love of liberty brought us here," too. Liberty to worship God according to His commandments, liberty that comes from breaking the shackles of sin and superstition and liberty to propagate Heaven's last message to a dying world.

Monrovia New Church

Outstanding in the events of this past year was the opening of our new church in the capital city of the Republic. Sabbath afternoon, June 6, four hundred of

Liberia's outstanding citizens and many foreigners crowded into our beautiful new church. The President of Liberia, His Excellency William V. S. Tubman, gave the opening sermon and inspired us with such words as these: "I am sure that it is a pleasure to all of us to be here in this edifice to worship with our Seventh-day Adventist brethren and sisters who believe ardently and correctly, too, that this is the only Sabbath, and that Sunday is not the Sabbath. So we all realize, recognize and endorse their doctrine in so far as the Sabbath is concerned today." Perhaps, in the history of our denomination, this is the first time that the head of a nation has given the sermon at the opening of a Seventh-day Adventist church!

As the Assistant Treasurer of the Republic of Liberia made the appeal, 1,000 dollars in cash was given as an offering to entirely clear away our indebtedness.

We thank God that it is our privilege to labour in a country where the leaders of government are interested in, and willing to help spread the Three Angel's Messages!

Ingathering

You can well understand how trepidation and fears beset us as we launched our Ingathering campaign just three months after the people of Monrovia had given us 1,000 dollars at the opening of the church. There was no Brother Chappell on hand to give his usual help and inspiration. The totals are not all in, but we praise God that at this writing 1,105 dollars have been received. The remarkable fact is that over 800 dollars of this has been raised in the city of Monrovia. We hope that when all

the figures are in we will surpass the record of 1952.

Again Sister Rachel Crowe proved herself a true soldier of the cross by assaulting the strong-holds of Satan until she has raised a total of 124 dollars. We salute her, since few of us from overseas can approach her mark.

Evangelism

For the second time, the President of Liberia has placed at our disposal the beautiful new Centennial Memorial Pavilion, acclaimed the most beautiful auditorium in West Africa, and has granted us the privilege of using chairs, a piano, a crew of maintenance men, and supplied electricity all without charge. On the opening night, December 6, 800 people crowded into the auditorium. December 13, we have estimated that nearly 1,200 people were present, and the attendance still grows. Recognizing our inability to convict or convert, we are praying and ask you to join us in asking God to call out His own in this great city. These services are being held five nights weekly, and will continue to February 7th.

We were happy to have Pastor A. W. Cormack of the General Conference present for three of the opening nights. He gave us valuable assistance and inspiration as he took an active part in the planning and carrying out of the opening services.

Voice of Prophecy

October saw a branch of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School partially equipped and ready for operation in Monrovia. This will mean, and it has meant already, great value to us in receiving and sending lessons to our students. A little glimpse at the figures as they

were transferred to us from Ibadan, and as they are now, will show the remarkable improvement that has been made in this short time.

	Before	Now
Enrollments	77	438
Active Students	29	118
Graduates		33
Inactive		34 Apprx. 21

At the present, the number of students is limited only by the availability of competent help, and funds to employ such help to operate the school and keep the necessary records.

The great increase in the number of enrollments was due to the successful rallies covering all our main stations in Liberia by Pastor Roger Coon. The rigours of his treks into the interior did not do him any good health-wise, but the inspiration which he brought to our students will long be remembered. We thank the Union for permitting him to come.

Both the Voice of Prophecy and Bible Hour Programmes have had a successful year. Our listening audience is increasing and sent us approximately 150 letters of appreciation and requests for gift books and prayer.

Konola

A look at our enrollments since we have been here gives a picture of the growth of the school:

During the period between 1947-53, we have employed nine of our Adventist graduates in denominational work. The others are attending schools in Monrovia for further studies.

For the first time this year, we accepted sixteen girls in our dormitory. Both women who came at different times to assist us with these girls had to leave after a few weeks because of sickness.

Year	Grades	Enrollment	Graduates	Non-Adventists
1946	A-B-C to 7th	72	None	
1947	A-B-C to 8th	69	3	
1948	Partially discontinued	owing to furloughs		
1949	1st to 8th	56	2	
1950	1st to 9th	60	5	1
1951	1st to 10th	76	3	2
1952	1st to 10th	90	5	2
1953	1st to 10th	110	2	1
Total		533	20	6

This placed added work and responsibility on the overseas staff, especially during the time when three of these girls became victims of cerebral malaria. We are happy to report the complete recovery of these students and their being able to complete the school year.

We enjoyed an inspiring week of prayer conducted by Pastor David Hughes. Many took their stand for the Master. On Sabbath, Nov. 14, fifteen were baptized—seven girls and eight boys.

Points of Interest

One of those baptized was the grandson of Ex-President Barclay. He was a former student of another Mission and a confirmed member. Since his baptism, he refused to accept a scholarship to another School. Through the influence of this boy, many have planned to enrol at Konola this year.

The thirty who remain in the baptismal class are planning to be in the next baptism with sixteen of our native believers. We hope that with the new baptismal classes to be started soon after school begins, we will have one of our largest baptisms in the history of our work at Konola.

Applications for the school year of 1954 are pouring in at a much faster rate than we are able to provide accommodation and facilities. We estimate an enrollment of 150 including day scholars.

Finances

The following is a comparative statement for the Liberian Mission for the year 1953. We are happy to say, that due to the good work of our treasurer, we operated in the black for the second year.

	Operating Income			
	1952	1953	Increase	Decrease
Tithe	2,679.61	3,104.70	425.07	
Tuition	2,083.60	3,385.54	1,301.94	
		Offerings		
12 S.S. Offerings	704.67	924.70	184.03	
13th S.S. Offerings	796.89	1,002.57	205.68	
Ingathering	1,177.48	1,105.39		72.09*
Thank Offering		36.57	36.57	
2nd Sabbath Offering		20.92	20.92	

Baptisms

Liwa	2
Konola	15
Monrovia	14
Bassa	22
Total thus far reported	53

Baptisms from three or four stations are not yet in.

Gratitude

1953 has been for us a difficult year. Problems, as for all of you, have been legion. One of our two ordained men resigned. Two of our teachers also left us. Despite these set-backs and other obstacles, God has marvelously blessed. Though baptisms are small this year the future is bright with prospects. We praise God for His leading and blessings.

The General Conference deserves our gratitude, and we are appreciative, for the inspiring presence of Pastor

A.W. Cormack. His week's visit meant much to my personal morale and encouraged greatly our overseas staff and strengthened our African brethren. It greatly encourages us to know that among the missionaries in the world field that the four coloured families in Liberia are not forgotten.

We are deeply grateful to the Division for the presence of Pastors Lindsay and Hamilton during our budget meetings. They gave us valuable counsel and guidance.

We wish to express to the Union Committee our appre-

ciation for the two visits of our Union President and to him for his keen interest in our work in Liberia. And for the visits of Pastor's Cowin and Coon who gave us valuable help in our educational work and The Voice of Prophecy. And to the members of the Union Committee who responded favourably to our urgent appeal for funds to help us keep Konola progressing.

We earnestly solicit your prayers as we attempt greater things for the Lord during 1954. Thank you.

"Disguise it as they may, the real cause of doubt and scepticism in most cases, is the love of sin. The teachings and restrictions of God's Word are not welcome to the proud, sin-loving heart, and those who are unwilling to obey its requirements are ready to doubt its authority."—"Steps to Christ," page 86.

Bekwai Seminary

By H. J. WELCH, Principal

As we review the progress of the work at the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary at Bekwai, it is with a profound sense of gratitude to the Heavenly Father who has given us so abundantly of His strength and grace and who has bestowed upon the workers in our institution so many evidences of His divine guidance. As we face the future we are forced to say, "So much yet to do and so little time to work."

In material things the year has been one of progress and development. As Pastor Mustard has appointed out in his report the new Administration and classroom block is now completed. It is a beautiful and commodious building erected at a cost of approximately £10,285. It contains a complete suite of offices, a library, a staff room, a book store, 3 store rooms and six class rooms. Public officials and education officers who have seen the building are highly complimentary in their comments. One of our staff members after gazing long and lovingly at the new building said, "It's better than my dreams." The official opening will be held on February 5th. You are all of course cordially invited (I should point out incidently that an offering will be taken.) In addition to this large building we have constructed a staff house for Pastor Wilson, an additional room on the Demonstration School and a building to house the new lighting plant. This building is the first unit of an Industrial Arts building for which we hope additional funds can be found soon. Besides many smaller improvements we have nearly com-

pleted painting all the buildings on the compound and reconstructing our light lines with concrete poles. (It was on this job that I recently came to grief.) Much of this work has been done with student labour, thus providing valuable educational experience as well as remunerative help for some. The class in Building Crafts worked out all building details for the Demonstration Classroom including drawings and estimates. All of the smaller buildings have been constructed with the landcrete blocks, all of which have been made by students. We are thankful for this opportunity to follow God's plan of Education and give our students experience in worth while practical labour. We do hope that facilities can soon be available for developing more fully our school industries.

As far as enrollment is concerned our quarters have been more than full. In 1949 we had 45 students in the college plus a small primary school. This last year our college enrollment was 112 plus over 180 Middle School students and enough primary school children to make the total under our tutelage nearly 500. We feel it a great responsibility to influence the lives of 500 children and youth in their formative years. The present prospects for next year indicate that we will have around 140 in the Training College and Secondary departments alone.

Financially we are happy to report that as far as we can tell at the present date the institution has operated safely within its budget. For this however we take no

credit because generous Government Grants in Aid to the Teacher Training department has met much of the costs. I would hasten here to point out however that this relationship with the Gold Coast Government is not without its perplexities. Complicated reporting and record keeping has added much to administrative work. Our pay-roll alone which includes government allowance to all teachers in training exceeds £1,200 per month. We are being urged to accept non-Adventist teachers on our staff in order to get teachers with their higher qualifications. Thus far by God's help we have escaped most of these pitfalls but it is my firm belief that we must be prepared as best we can for a time when we can no longer receive these Government subsidies without compromise of principle. In fairness however I would point out that in teacher training courses where the Government issues Teaching Certificates that a certain amount of direction and control is inevitable whether or not a grant is received. We need to pray for wisdom in this matter and that God will overrule in the decisions of Government Officials that our work may not be hindered.

In this report I would like to pay tribute to our staff, both African and overseas members. In the entire institution we have 22 full time teachers. Never have I seen a more consecrated and loyal working group. If time allowed we should like to name them one by one and tell you of the good work they have done. I especially deeply appreciate their strong spiritual leadership. I can honestly say that everyone is an earnest Seventh-day Adventist showing love for the message and

a burden to win others to it. Our only regret is that more of them do not have the advanced training needed for the work they are doing. We are glad to report however that Mr. I. K. Ansong is now studying at the University College of the Gold Coast and that E. K. Boateng has been accepted for advanced training in Agriculture at Kumasi College of Technology. We hope that plans can be advanced for degree work for others recommended by our board.

Soul-Winning

The real purpose of our College as with all institutions in the Lord's work is, of course, soul winning. To win and hold our youth and train them for service is our aim. The Church, the Sabbath School, the Missionary Volunteer Society, are all prospering at Bekwai under the leadership of Staff members. Prayer bands, chapel services, meetings of the staff for study and prayer and much personal work adds to the Christian influence with which we try to surround our students. Our two weeks of prayer led by Pastor H.D. Wilson and C.B. Mensah respectively were unusually good spiritual occasions marked by much practical instruction and deep conviction. We have found that these African Pastors know how to get next to the real problems of these youth in a way that is quite difficult for those of us from overseas. Before the close of the year 26 members of the school family were baptized. The spiritual influence reached out into the surrounding district and there resulted in conversions and spiritual blessings to the churches. As we think of the 54 graduates who this year go out to work throughout the

Gold Coast, we thank God for the progress of His work and look for great advancement in the message among the more than 4 million people of this field.

I believe I speak for the en-

tire Bekwai family when say that we are of good courage and happy in the work and that we pledge ourselves to continued service that the work may be finished and Jesus come.

Sierra Leone Mission

By E. F. KESLAKE, President

Truly during the year 1953 we have realized in a very definite way that "Ours is not a conflict with mere flesh and blood, but with the despoticisms, the empires, the forces that control and govern this dark world—the spiritual hosts of evil arrayed against us in heavenly warfare." The struggle is severe and still continues. Prayer, faith, vigilance, and heroic effort on the part of all of us is necessary if victory is to be ours in Sierra Leone.

Evangelism

Due to one cause or another there has been a slump in all activities during 1953. Evangelism too has suffered. Never-the-less evangelistic efforts were held in Freetown, Magburaka, Gbangbama, and Giema. Particular mention should be made of the work in Freetown. Brother Clarke opened his evangelistic meetings in the church, Sunday night 28th June. His meetings were well attended by a fine class of people. It is most unfortunate that a serious condition developed in his eye which necessitated that he return to England for emergency medical attention. It was not possible for Pastor Leigh to carry on the work which Brother Clarke was doing, so I was forced to step in and try to

bring the series to a suitable conclusion. When Brother Clarke returns he may be able to follow up some of the interests. In addition to the meetings in the church, he was holding some cottage meetings in selected homes. His presence in Freetown has resulted in many favourable contacts with officials and business men.

Despite these evangelistic endeavours the problems, and incident uncertainties in the field, have been reflected in much fewer gains to the Hearers' class and the number of baptisms this year. At the time this report is written, only 57 baptisms have been reported. Doubtless there will be a few more but not many. It seems only safe to say that our baptisms will be just over 60 for the year. We are not satisfied.

Appreciation

I have referred to the problems which have seriously affected us this year. It is not my purpose to dwell on these in this report for they are all too well known to all of you. There is however reason for encouragement in this dark hour; it is the fact that our leaders are evidencing more interest in these problems.

We are deeply grateful to the General Conference and

to the Northern European Division for the emergency grant in funds they have made this year for improving our schools. We also appreciate the visits of those who have come to study our problems and needs.

Brother Craven from the Stanborough Press made a short visit. Early in the year, Pastor Lindsay joined us in our Budget session. Pastor Gibson made several trips in response to the representation of urgent needs. Pastor Cowin and Brother Annis studied our problems with us. While all this help was greatly appreciated, I must make particular mention of thanks to Brother Cone, and to the Gold Coast, who released him for a period. Dr. Nagel, for the first time, was able to come to Sierra Leone to give study to our request for medical work. He came at a time when it was very difficult to leave the hospital.

Colporteur Work

During the first half of the year Mr. Daitey was with us. He had completed his work in Freetown and attempted to do his canvassing in the Protectorate. He was unable to make sufficient sales to support himself and so he had to return to Freetown. Even here his sales were not as large as last year. It was evident that the territory was saturated for the present and so he would have to go elsewhere. His sales amounted to £139. 14. 0. We trust that these books which have been placed in many homes by Bro. Daitey will yet yield a harvest.

Missionary Volunteers

There are 665 members in all societies in the Sierra Leone Mission of which there is a yearly average of 315 members or 45 per-cent of the missionary work. There is

an average of 343 members or 49 per-cent of the membership keeping the morning watch. These young people report the following missionary activities for the year.

Bible Readings given	1,152
Missionary Contacts	910
Literature Distributed	1,164
Persons helped	761

During the year one major Youth Rally was held in the town of Yele for the young people of the Temne area, and a total of 55 Missionary Volunteers were invested in the various progressive classes during the year.

Educational

Education is the most important phase of missionary endeavour. Here in Sierra Leone we are limited to elementary or primary education alone. Our mission programme suffers from a lack of facilities for advanced education here in the field. The complaint of many of our workers and members is that we lead the children up to Standard six, then turn them aside to other mission schools or government. Only a limited number can be profitably used in our own work with a Standard six education.

However, until we strengthen our primary schools we cannot hope for higher facilities. 1953 saw a study of a development scheme for primary education in Sierra Leone, with the plan to have 3 schools up to the Standard six level:— Bo, Yele, and Waterloo, to take care of the Mende, Temne and Colony areas.

At present we operate 8 schools with an average attendance of 660 children. This figure is approximately 50 more children than we had in 1952 although one school,

that at Moyamba, was closed this year.

Sierra Leone has an ever present problem of lack of trained staff and poor facilities. At the town of Yele a crisis developed which threatened the extinction of our school there. In response to an urgent appeal to the Union for aid, we are deeply grateful that the Division and General Conference came to our rescue with an emergency appropriation to save our educational work in Sierra Leone, and permit us to build some of our schools at least up to proper standard. Construction of the school building is under way at Yele.

Our Bo school, the only Standard 6 school we have, has had its strongest staff of trained teachers this year. Despite this, the level of teaching can be improved. With the development plans in progress we expect a good year in 1954.

This is no time to put all our eggs in one basket. It is high time that we launch into other mission programmes. I have suggested two of these:

1. **Medical work.** A medical work particularly an eye specialist and eye hospital. The need of such a specialist has certainly been highlighted this year by the fact that two of our important personnel in Sierra Leone have required such service, one at the beginning of the year, Pastor Wilson, and the other at the close of the year, Brother Clarke.

2. **Bible School.** A Bible school incorporating agriculture and industrial training. The back-bone of our churches in Sierra Leone are the young men who are still illiterate and for whom formal education is a closed door. Rightly trained, they would

not only be loyal to the mission, but would contribute a trained reserve of lay men who would be able to support the efforts of Pastors, making for great progress in the work.

Ordination

Years ago Pastor H. D. Wilson was asked to come to the Protectorate for temporary service in the Mende tribe until there would be a Mende Pastor, then he would be permitted to work elsewhere. Twenty years or more later we have made good on the promise of that temporary appointment.

Early this year, Brother J.N. Vandí was ordained to the Ministry. He is the first Mende worker to be ordained so Pastor Wilson has been permitted to leave the Mende country, and for that matter Sierra Leone. Just a week before the ordination of Pastor Vandí, Brother Myers was ordained. These men are strengthening the work where they are. Would that there were many more devoted to the cause of God as they are.

Publicity

Much publicity has been given to our work this year through the columns of the "Daily Mail" in Freetown and the "Protectorate Observer" in Bo. Brother Clarke has made such favourable contacts with the "Daily Mail" that each week they carry a feature, "Week-end Meditation," prepared by Brother Clarke. In addition to the "Future" and news items, weekly advertisements of the meetings in Freetown have kept our name before the public. There too we have paid for the publication of the series of articles "You and Your Future."

Another phase of publicity was furnished to all Telephone subscribers in the Protectorate, a telephone book listing all the subscribers. This book was prepared by us. On the cover is written "Mimeographed and Presented as a Public Service with the compliments of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission." I do not know of anything which could have so economically created a more favourable response for the mission.

We are happy that the long negotiations over the Bo church have been terminated with government, a piece of land located in a desirable section of Bo has been secured for building our new church which should be done in 1954. Work on the land has already commenced. Now we look forward to the time when we can build in Magburaka. Churches in these important centres should prove a great boon to the work. One little church was dedicated this year.

News Notes

● The West African Union has been favoured with a number of Division visitors during recent Weeks. Pastor A. F. Tarr, the Division President, also Pastors G. D. King and E. L. Minchin, attended the annual meeting in Accra as well as the camp meetings in the Gold Coast and East and West Nigeria, where their ministry has been greatly appreciated. Pastors Tarr and Minchin returned to London on the 4th February, while Pastor King remains to visit Liberia and Sierra Leone with the Union President. Pastor King returns to England on 3rd March.

● Pastor A. W. Cormack, as was announced in last

month's "Messenger," has also visited our Union, but we are sorry to report that after attending the Ivory Coast camp meeting, he was taken seriously ill on arrival at the Ife Hospital. It has not therefore been possible for Pastor Cormack to visit all the fields as planned, but we are thankful that he has now recovered and was able to return home on 4th February.

● Brother D. J. Clarke has now returned to Freetown following his eye operation in London, and a personal message from Brother Clarke will appear in the next issue of the "Messenger."

● It is with regret that we report that Pastor A. J. Mustard and Brother R. L. Cone, the Gold Coast Mission president and secretary treasurer, will be leaving us during March. Both of these brethren have given valuable service to our field and we wish them God speed as they return to their homelands.

● Pastor H. J. Welch has been appointed the new president of the Gold Coast Mission, in succession to Pastor Mustard.

● Brother and Sister John Rigby arrived at Takoradi on January 12th. Brother Rigby has been appointed Secretary Treasurer of the Gold Coast Mission in succession to Brother Cone. We welcome these new missionaries to our Union and wish them a pleasant stay with us.

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