

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT

MESSENGER

VOICE OF THE WEST AFRICAN UNION

MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

VOL. 8.

MARCH—APRIL 1954

No. 3

Gold Coast Secondary School Dedicated

By N. C. MABERLEY, Head-master

Distinguished men of affairs and humble children of God voiced unanimous praise and approval of the new Bekwai Secondary School as they assembled on February 5th for its dedication and official opening. Symbolic of Adventist educational progress throughout the world, this magnificent establishment is destined to give great impetus to the work of God in this field.

The dedication service which began at ten o' clock in the morning, was high-light-

ed by an inspiring address by Pastor G. D. King from the Division office in England. Pastor King clearly emphasized the purposes of such institutions and the type of education that should be given in them. The new secondary school was to prepare students for all phases of life through complete education of the head, the heart, and the hands. He reminded all present that progress such as witnessed here at Bekwai has been made possible through the sacrifices and loyal efforts of the



The fine new Secondary School building at Bekwai, Gold Coast

pioneer missionaries who first paved the way into this country. For his closing text, Pastor King very appropriately chose Revelation 3:8. "I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it." The doors of this school are now open wide to the youth of our church and to all others willing to take advantage of the opportunities to be found here.

The official opening ceremony was performed by the Honourable Minister of Education for the Gold Coast Government, Mr. Kojo Botsio. Mr. Botsio greatly praised the mission for the progress it had made, and added that the erection of this large school without Government aid should be an example to all other people interested in freedom and self-help.

Pastor J. O. Gibson offered the dedicatory prayer and Pastor A. J. Mustard was chairman for the occasion. Others taking part in the programme were Pastor Welch, Principal of the Seminary; Pastor Vetter, Gold Coast Educational Secretary; Pastor H. D. Wilson, of Sierra Leone; Pastor S. B. Essien; and the associate president of the Gold Coast Mission, Pastor C. B. Mensah. Also on the platform were the Hon. Mr. Boakye, M.L.A., and N. C. Maberly, the newly appointed headmaster of the Secondary School.

Musical items provided by the Kumasi church singing band and the Bekwai Middle school were greatly appreciated and added colour to the days activities.

As the college students sang, "All hail the power of Jesus' Name," the offering plates began to resound to the sacrifices made by the many churches represented. Several local chiefs came and gave very generously toward the completion of the school buildings. A total sum of £300 was contributed, making it possible to begin plans for the building of dormitories and other facilities urgently needed to make the school a complete educational unit. As yet it has been impossible to include space or equipment for manual training and science classes. It is hoped that before long sufficient funds will be available to make possible this very important phase of training.

The sixty-six students now enrolled and all those who will follow in years to come will be greatly indebted to the Northern European Division, the West African Union, the Gold Coast Mission, and all other contributors who gave so liberally to make this £10,000 project possible.

The new secondary school building at Bekwai belongs to the members of the Seventh-day Adventist churches in West Africa and they may be justly proud of the fine institution which they have helped to build. It is primarily for the training of Adventist boys and girls and the continued prayers and support of every faithful member are needed so that from these classrooms workers for God will go forth to find their place in His vineyard.

Two Years of Training and Leadership Activities

By D. V. COWIN, Union M. V. Secretary

Swiftly two years have passed since we were together for our first West African Union Constituency Meeting. This was held in early January of 1952. The record of Soul Winning, Training and Leadership during these weeks and months has been most encouraging, — yes, in some respects even striking. Such advances have not been experienced without problems, reverses and some failures too. The Lord has certainly blessed richly the untiring labours of African and overseas workers alike. Every branch of the work has shown a good fruitage.

We will make an effort here to bring to your minds only a few highlights of the past two years in the Missionary Volunteer and Education Departments. Of course we cannot possibly tell all in such a brief summary of "Youth Doings" and besides, you might tire of listening to so much. Field leaders and others will be telling you many of the more intimate local facts about "Youth Leadership," "Schooling," and "Union Publicity."

Missionary Volunteer Department

Junior Youth Leadership and Missionary Activities, such as Lay Evangelism, Youth Week, Camps, Dorcas, Temperance, M. V. Classes, etc., were promoted throughout the entire Union with varying degrees of enthusiasm and intensity. It appears as if the best M. V. work was done in the

fields and institutions where an overseas worker and an African assistant were working together. Such a training combination is good and it fits in well with the oft-repeated theory of our older workers here on the Coast who say that the full load of leadership and the carrying of responsibility must be placed NOW squarely upon the shoulders of our own African young people.

The 7,000 M. V.'s of two years ago grew in this biennium until it is now well over 9,000, including the Junior M. V.'s in the schools. Actually the primary schools and training colleges account for the greatest M. V. activity and the largest number of investitures. Only a few of our larger churches foster the M. V. programme at all. A strong M. V. Leadership Class was started in Accra early in 1953. After 6 months of activity and one investiture interest dropped sharply. When asked why, the members said, "There are too many other church activities to take our time." This may be the situation everywhere.

Typical of the work in the parts of the Union was the following: Gold Coast Youth Camp (over 500 in attendance), Master Comrade Council and Rally, Lay Evangelists Institutes; East Nigerian Youth Leadership Camp, Lay Worker's Training Institutes, Women's Welfare District Groups; West Nigeria, M. V. Investitures; Training Colleges and Hospital, M. V. Investitures; Ivory Coast, A Junior Camp and Investiture; Sierra Leone and Liberia also conducted Investitures. Dorcas groups are in action in every field. One Mission group of Lay Evangelists won over 700 souls in one year. The Training Colleges and Institutions have accounted for the largest part of our Master Comrades, having invested well over 350 of them in the past five years. These trained leaders are the heart and strength of our youth and church work throughout the Union. Much more could and should be done in the interest of the Temperance work.

Education Department

One West African Mission Superintendent and his field committee (there are probably others also) hold to the idea that work progresses locally in their field according to the success of the schools therein. He says, "No school, no Church." Even a careless observation of the facts do prove these opinions to be correct in nearly all cases.

Our work in this Union began with a humble school programme where we trained a few workers. This plan of training our own leaders according to the "Blueprint" has been the key to the successes which have been experienced thus far. And we have a considerable distance to go yet before we will have enough adequately trained stable Adventist Africans to man our school and Mission work.

Two years ago we had in our Union 9,000 pupils in 101 schools with 398 teachers. Today those figures are: 14,600 pupils in 120 schools under the direction of 525 teachers. This growth is good, but growth in numbers alone is not the sole measure of the success of a programme of Christ-centred education. What about baptisms and workers employed? From these nearly 15,000 pupils we baptize approximately 200 each year or one and a half percent. A similar number seem to be employed by the missions yearly. One third of the pupils enrolled have Seventh-day Adventist parents.

There are some situations in our schools which shock us into the realization that we have much work yet to do. One in each 20 teachers is a non-Adventist. Our training programme is still not supplying enough persons with higher certificates to staff our few senior schools. Neither are we giving enough variety and kinds of training to prepare our Youth to assume leadership in technical posts in the missions and institutions. Twenty senior and middle schools which carry pupils to the primary school leaving position give only 600 seats yearly for more than 1,500 of our own applicants who want to finish their elementary education. This means that a high percentage of these folk must go to non-Adventist schools to study. The losses are great, as you well know. No staff member holds a degree and now we must have degreed Africans to serve in our two new secondary school departments which were opened this year. Only a very few are even qualified to do post-secondary studies. Several Africans are studying and will be ready within a few years.

We must now bend every effort to improve the qualifications of the staff members in our training colleges. Some pressure is being brought to bear to force us to include government representatives on one of our training college boards and to

accept non-Adventist specialists on our teaching staff. Severe terms of service are being dictated to us for the certificate A teachers in our elementary schools in the Gold Coast. Sierra Leone may have averted a major crisis in their schools this year. North Nigeria faces the possibility of the closing of their lovely new senior primary school.

Ambition to give broader service in the Lord's work has led several of our youth to attempt to ready themselves for broader service through higher education. Four are away from their home bases studying. Several are preparing themselves for school certificate and higher certificate examinations.

Plans are being laid for the offering of studies in advanced evangelism and commercial classes. Numerous new buildings for school purposes have been erected in such places as Jengre, Konola, Bekwai, Ihie and the missions. These speak well for the determination of the leaders and the brethren in their intention that the children should have an opportunity to study under Christian teachers. The five year Educational Development Plan is moving alone nicely.

Union Publicity

Telling the full story of West African Mission work is the privilege and the responsibility of every one of us. Your reports of the daily doings at your place is the one good way whereby the mission fund-giving people in the homelands can actually know the amazing and important story of the progress of God's work out here. If you can just get them to see, in a personal way, their opportunity and yours, — they cannot help but support you with their money. Have You and the folk on your station done your very best in this matter of "Telling?"

Eighty-four articles, stories and reports of the progress of mission work here in our Union, (almost all, with pictures) have passed through our hands and have been sent on to editors and departments in our Division and in the General Conference. In addition numerous other items have been sent away by individuals. These materials have been received gladly. More has been requested. As you have probably noted, a goodly portion of these reports have been used already, appearing in papers as far away as Australia.

Let us not fail to take advantage of this real opportunity to help the mission work and ourselves also by using the written word to tell others about the work of God in this place.

Reporting

Once each quarter of the year (on 1st May, 1st August, 1st November and 1st February) we are asked to prepare for the Northern European Division and the General Conference a summary report of the departmental activities in our entire Union. We can only turn to the leaders and departmental secretaries and other folk in the fields for the much needed information which is requested. Only the folk in the fields know the facts. We appeal to each one to do his part in this matter of reporting. We urge each one to refuse to permit indifference and carelessness to spoil the figures which are sent quarterly to the higher organization. Let no one by his own attitude and negligence be a party to the establishment of a bad reputation for our Union.

Nigerian Training College

By LAURENCE DOWNING, Principal

As we look back over the past year at Nigerian Training College we are aware of successes and failures, of things that might have been done or left undone, and yet the composite of daily experiences reveals much for which to thank and praise our heavenly Father. In this Report I shall endeavour to bring to you a brief resumé of events and happenings at the College during the past twelve months.

The training of youth to finish the work of God in West Africa is the prime objective of the College. In the words of the motto, chosen by the students, and woven into the fabric of school life, the staff has endeavoured this year to put "God First," and on that foundation we have endeavoured to mould the lives of our students.

Spiritual Activities

Practical experience in things of God as well as classroom theory in religion, is

needed to **develop** strong Christian youth. In order to meet this need the faculty has formed a Religious Activities Committee. This committee, composed of staff members and students, meets at regular intervals to plan and review the spiritual activities of the school. It is the aim of this committee to see that each student participates in some practical activity during the school year. The Sabbath School has been divided into five sections—Senior, Ibo, Youth, Primary, and Kingdergarten. Each half-year, student officers and teachers rotate in the care of these departments. The M. V. society, sponsored by Mrs. Fitcher, meets each Friday evening. Officers of this organization are also changed at the half-year, and the programmes are largely student planned and given.

Three active working-bands, encompassing most of the student group, meet weekly on Sabbath afternoons. The Kings Ambassadors engage in weekly compound meetings, similar in nature to branch Sabbath Schools. The sunshine bands visit the sick and those who need cheer. The Literature band wrapped and mailed 1,250 "Signs of the Times" to prominent people in the area and to friends whom the students thought would be receptive to the messages of this magazine. The letters in response to this activity were most encouraging.

The mid-week Prayer meeting, followed by student prayer bands, laid a good foundation for the two excellent Weeks of Prayer held in April and November. Pastor C. D. Henri endeared himself to the students and staff during the Spring Week of Prayer. Spirituals, taught to the group by Pastor Henri are still a part of the vesper hour song service, and when a hundred and fifty students, in the hush of the twilight hour sing "Roll, Jordan, Roll," the Promised Land seems not too far away.

Pastor Cowin cut short a field itinerary in early November to be with the College family for the Fall Week of Prayer, when a previously appointed speaker was unable to come. His "Youth Fellowship Week" opened new vistas of practical Christian living to the student group.

Pastor Brendel, who conducted a one-month Refresher Course for Evangelists, in January, worked with this group in the planning of a series of evangelistic meetings for the local area. The success of this planning was much in evidence at the first meeting, when eleven hundred tried to

find room in the Forsythe Church. Political strife with the villages across the river greatly interfered with the meetings, but an average Sunday night attendance of some two hundred continued through the series. Many, thus interested, are attending Sabbath School regularly.

The College district, served by the Evangelists-in-Training at the College, showed constant growth. Our district is, to the evangelistic student, what the practice school is to the teacher-in-training.

At the baptism conducted at the close of the Fall Week of Prayer, twelve secondary school students partook of this sacred rite, the first fruits of this new department. At the communion service that followed two hundred and twenty members of the College Church participated. Six years ago, at our first communion at Ihie, not more than forty members partook. Surely God has blessed His Church here at the College.

The dedication of the Forsythe Memorial Church created much favourable publicity for our work in the Eastern Provinces. We are becoming known as the school with the Cathedral. We were grateful to the Union officers for making possible the visit of many of our workers on this occasion.

Educational Progress

School commenced on February 17, with an enrolment of 103 in the College section, 27 in the newly organized secondary school, 30 in the girls' boarding department, and 200 in the elementary school.

During registration week, we were favoured with a short visit by Dr. Hamilton. Brief though his visit was, his suggestions were appreciated and helped in laying plans for the year.

Highlights of the academic year included professional studies for the staff, conducted by one of its members, each Sunday morning. The first group of studies dealt with the fundamental objectives of Adventist education. Although the time allotted to each discussion was an hour, yet they continued for three or more hours. The group greatly appreciated Pastor Henri's talk on "The Mission Superintendent and the Returning Student," and Pastor Cowin's discussion of "College and Secondary School Entrance Tests."

In June, the Education Department granted permission for a building project to be conducted by the students as a substitute for crafts activities. The students in the practical mathematics classes drew building plans and layouts; then in their work periods, they cleared, stumped and measured the land, dug foundation trenches and poured concrete for the new Practice School and smaller buildings. Inspector Campbell was very impressed with the project.

This year was the first that girls were able to obtain advanced education in an Adventist School in Nigeria. Eight girls were admitted to the E. T. C. class this year. The experiment has been successful and we anticipate 18 girls in our secondary school and college this coming year.

Our experiments in vocational education merit special mention. The College acquired some used equipment from the Advent Press this year and before school vacated, received a shipment of type from England. Pastor Brendel and Mr. Dare have chosen four boys from the Secondary School, and are teaching them the printer's trade. This is a nucleus which will be added to as staff, time, and business permits. Already, there have been a small number of commercial orders placed; and the manager of a large Nigerian Press has asked us to remember them when we begin to have journeyman printers for placement.

Our live stock experiments have not been so successful. Foot rot has affected our sheep and we are having to dispose of our flock, which we had built up from twenty-five to forty-five in the past year. In March our flock of 200 large hens were wiped out when disease was brought in from the local Government Experimental Station. There is much that can be done agriculturally at Ihie. Student farms continue to expand, and the use of compost and artificial fertilizers prove that crops can be grown. In 1950, one control plot yielded 65 pounds of maize per acre; this year the same control plot yielded 450 pounds per acre. Our vocational development could well use one trained worker for a few years to develop to the fullest extent our vocational programme.

Physical Expansion

The physical plant of the college has continued to expand during the year. Since our last report two new dormitories have been constructed, the Administrative block

virtually completed, a Domestic Science extension added to the Girls' School, a new Demonstration school is well on the way to completion; an extension to the store shed to house the press and the power plant; the pump house, and water lines have been installed and Miss Nuka's house completed and finished. During the month of December we have renovated and redecorated the Secondary School classroom block and the Girls' quarters. Our emphasis on student self-help has begun to make its impression on the student body. Thirty applied for holiday work this year. Much of the work has been put on contract basis and the jobs are mainly of a nature that would otherwise be done by outside help.

Staff

A word of praise for the loyalty and cooperation of the entire staff is due. Although we were understaffed despite an increased enrolment this year, staff members rallied to the needs of the institution. Early in the year, as a result of a faculty study on the place of work in our schools and the relation of the teacher to the work programme the staff volunteered to assist in carrying out work supervision. All the teachers took turns, working hand in hand with the students in their various tasks. Special mention, I feel, should go to Mr. Joseph Wogu, the housemaster, who largely supervised the general building project. He was assisted by Mr. Dare and Mr. Dickay. All spent many extra hours with the boys in their afternoon activities.

Miss Nuka was on furlough for practically the entire school year, returning a week before graduation. During her absence Pastor Brendel carried the accounting work, which, with our heavy building programme and expanded enrollment is nearly a full time job. In addition to his responsibilities as District Leader and Evangelism Director, he has organized our new Print Shop. Mrs. Downing supervised the Girls' School for the period. Mrs. Brendel assisted with the Domestic Science classes in addition to carrying the responsibility of school nurse and District Women's Federation leader. She also taught a class in Denominational History.

Our secondary school was supervised by Mr. Fatcher, assisted by Mr. Young Dickay. The twenty seven students had a good year. Mr. Fatcher also gave staff members private tutoring to assist them in their pre-

Your 13th Sabbath Offering

By G. L. ANNISS

The 13th Sabbath overflow for the first quarter 1954 is to go to the South American Division. In this issue of our "Messenger" we are printing these stories from this field. We would ask all church leaders to bring these to the notice of all of our Sabbath schools on March 27th.

When making your offering on March 27th please remember that West Africa has benefited in the past from 13th Sabbath offerings. We in this field will benefit again in the third quarter of 1954, so please give generously to South America, as you will wish them to do for us later in the year.

NEW LIFE FOR JACY

By DONALD CHRISTMAN

Sabbath School Secretary, South Brazil Union

"Here comes the medicine boat!" "Here comes the medicine boat!" The joyous shouts, coming from a little boy playing along the river's edge, soon caught the attention of the villagers. The women stopped washing and beating their clothes, or left their work in the little garden patches. The men put aside their fishing nets and other crudely-made equipment and before many minutes had passed, the entire village was at the water's edge watching anxiously as the slow-moving little medical boat came closer and closer.

As is the situation in scores of other Araguaia River settlements, there are no doctors, nurses or hospitals here. Lahyr Montebello and his wife, both graduate nurses, knew that their stay could well be for a week or more—but there were other villagers down the river who were waiting their arrival.

Among those waiting for urgent medical attention was little three-year-old Jacy who had been brought in the arms of a sympathetic neighbour. Jacy had no father or mother now. When he was just a year old, his father had killed another man in a drunken dispute. A few days later the relatives of the slain victim had taken Jacy's father away from the village and guarded him as he dug his own grave. Then, standing on the edge with head lowered so that he could look upon his final resting place, a revolver was placed against his back. Jacy's mother, knowing what was happening, heard the one lone shot.

It was too much for her physically and mentally. Her grief was such that she lost her mind and soon died.

There was no one to care for little Jacy. Relatives had more of their own children than they could properly feed, so Jacy was left to just everybody . . . and usually nobody.

Because of lack of food Jacy was soon suffering from various deficiency diseases—one of which was rickets. His little abdomen was greatly distended and life held no hope for anything but sadness. A slight fall which ordinarily would have only caused a small bruise broke Jacy's right leg. This occurred just a few days before the arrival of our medical boat, and now one of the motherly villagers held little Jacy in her arms waiting for Brother and Sister Montebello to come ashore.

With their supply of medicines, appropriately chosen to treat the various diseases they were certain to find, they lost no time in beginning their work. Their eyes fell upon little Jacy and immediately he won their hearts. The broken bone had to be reset and little Jacy, who had become so accustomed to pain, co-operated beautifully.

A home was found for Jacy. Yes, it was a Christian home. Brother Montebello took him to a nearby village where one of our believers had opened a small orphanage.

Last week Brother Montebello arrived in Sao Paulo after a two thousand-mile trip from his home in Araguacima. He came for medical supplies for the coming year as well to lay plans with Union leaders for extending the work along a thousand-mile stretch of the Araguaia River. Among his various snapshots was one of little Jacy looking ever so well. "You should hear him sing and say his prayers," said Brother Montebello. "He is such a good little Christian."

Three-year-old Jacy is only one of the 5,195 persons who have been treated by Brother and Sister Montebello during the last two years. As I listened to the first-hand report from the lips of our self-sacrificing worker I rejoiced that God had so inspired this devoted missionary couple to work for these thousands of yet unreached souls.

"I think we had our most thrilling experience on the last trip down the river," said Brother Montebello. "On September 29 (1953) six persons were baptized. This is the first-fruit of our work. Some of the seed sown has already developed." There are many other interested persons who are studying our message among the various Indian tribes and with God's continued blessing groups and churches will soon be established.

Hopefully Brother and Sister Montebello are looking forward to the day when they will be able to have a suitable medical missionary launch. Their little "Pioneer" is not much larger than a good-sized rowboat. At night they must sleep on the sand and this is very dangerous because of the wild animals such as the leopard-like oncas as well as the malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

Part of the overflow of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on March 27th will go toward the purchase of a medical launch for furthering our medical missionary work on the Araguaia River. May God so bless you that you will be able to return a double portion to Him at this time.

A VISIT UP THE ARAGUAIA

By F. C. WEBETER,

President, Rio Grande do Sul Conference, Brazil

We had travelled for more than 400 miles down the broad waters of the Araguaia River in the very heart of Brazil. Our destination was Fronteira, our mission post among the Caraja Indians. For several years Antonio Gomez and his wife had been working among this tribe of Indians. The work was hard and results were few. One can stand the ever-present insects and jungle pests and the scarcity of good food if he can see results of his work, but work among these Indians was discouraging. Perhaps the misery and lack of education that the Indians observed in the white man's village that lay not too far away, contributed to his lack of interest in schools, hygiene or white man's religion. The work in this area was truly most trying but Bro-

ther Gomez was faithful in scattering the seed. He was a true missionary and located in a mission station in the true sense of the word.

It was Friday afternoon when we sighted the thatched-roof buildings on a rather high bank above the river. Our guide exclaimed, "There is Fronteira". The hymn of praise that our group burst forth singing, coupled with the sound of our motor, called forth eager watchers at the mission post. They were not expecting our arrival; we could not send them word; there was no way to receive communications with the outside world except to depend on the goodwill of a chance fisherman or trader and they were few in this far away jungle.

As the welcoming group gathered on the river bank we saw that Brother Gomez was not among them. "Where is Antonio?" we questioned.

His brother-in-law answered us. "He is sick. His wife took him to up to Santa Isabella." We had passed the little village that same morning but in our hurry to arrive at Fronteira before the Sabbath we had not stopped.

"What is his sickness," we asked. "I don't know," was the reply. "He is very thin and weak and coughs a great deal." The joy in finally arriving at our destination after our long voyage turned into anxiety for the welfare of our fellow-worker. We spent only a few days at Fronteira and then started back up the river to see our stricken brother.

Why had he gone to Santa Isabella? Was there a hospital there? or a Doctor? No. There was no hospital nor doctor in all the nearly 2,000 mile expanse of the Araguaia River. But there was a government Indian post and a store that kept a small stock of drugs, and a "pansao" where overnight guests might sleep.

There we found him the next day. Unmistakeably he had tuberculosis. He lay in a tiny room cramped up in a hammock. Our hearts yearned for him and his family. We wanted to take him back up the river with us, but it was all too evident that he could not stand the hard two-week journey in our crowded little boat and then two more days across mountains and plains by truck to Goianna. He was far too weak. We left him medicines, arranged for a bed to replace the hammock so his lungs would have a little better chance to operate freely. We arranged with the owner of the "pansao" to give him milk each day and,

when available, green vegetables. We promised to send for him the next month and with an earnest parting prayer we left him in God's care.

Brother Macedo, one of our brethren, came for him the next month. He was some better but still very weak. Carefully Brother Macedo took the little family on the long voyage to Goianna but the trip was too hard and the body too weak. A few days after their arrival our faithful missionary died. Antonio Gomez gave his life for the people along the banks of the great Araguaia River.

Next 13th Sabbath you will have an opportunity to give an offering which will help to place a medical launch on that great river so that the people for whom Antonio Gomez laboured will not have to die with tuberculosis, malaria and other tropical diseases, and worst of all without a Saviour. What happened to Antonio's widow? and the small children? Oh, they are back at the mission post alone, working and praying for the people of the Araguaia.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN SOUTH BRAZIL

By JERONIMA G. GARCIA,
Bible Instructor, Brazil Union College

On one occasion 104 teachers and directors of Brazilian government schools visited our Sao Paulo College to study our teaching methods and also our food and religious principles. One of them, an ex-governor of the large and important state of Sao Paulo, stated: "The government needs hundreds of schools like this one scattered throughout the state."

Why do you think he made this statement? I do not hesitate to say that it is because of our Christian principles. These same principles are the foundation for all of our schools here in Brazil.

Four of these educational institutions are located within the boundaries of the South Brazil Union. The baptized membership of this Union is over 20,000 at present and there are approximately 8,000 children and youth of school age. A real educational problem faces our leaders because our present school capacity cannot accommodate nearly this many Adventist youth.

The Rio Grande do Sul Conference has one school with about 150 students and the church membership is approximately 5,000.

This represents a school-age total of about 2,000 young people. But our academy as yet has no suitable boys' dormitory and the nearly 100 boys are living in an old structure built 56 years ago.

The Parana-Santa Catarina Conference also has a large membership totaling nearly 6,000 at present, with over 2,000 young people. Their six-year-old academy also is without proper dormitory facilities for the boys, and it is necessary for them to crowd six and seven in a room in an old wooden building long ago unfit for use.

The largest conference, Sao Paulo, has a membership of over 8,500 with nearly 4,000 young people. Our five-year-old academy faces the same dormitory problem for the boys as the other two just mentioned.

The Brazilian Adventist College, an inter-union institution, has cared for as many as 300 students in its dormitories, plus 300 students living in the nearby communities. The great problem facing school directors is that of paying salaries to maintain a necessarily strong teaching force. The answer would be to have accommodation for 500 to 600 dormitory students.

As is generally true in other fields, our members are not wealthy and we can hardly expect large offerings for the cause. For this reason we are sending a plea for help to our brethren in order to construct the necessary dormitories for our schools in the South Brazil Union.

Our schools have been the means of breaking down prejudice among the Catholic people in our country. Many non-Adventists who are acquainted with our schools and our high standards are asking us to accept their boys and girls, but there is no room. The few we have received are ready to pay more than Adventists but we have been able to find no place to keep them. However, we wish that we could accept some of these non-Adventist youth because in a short time many of them become church members and when they go to their homes they carry this present truth to their friends and relatives. Their influence at home and in society has been beneficial and they are a living testimony of what the truth can do to transform lives.

Every year there are baptismal classes and dozens of young people are being baptized. Had it not been for our schools, many of these young people would never have had the opportunity of knowing Jesus as their personal Saviour.

South America is the continent of great opportunities. And of the South American countries, Brazil is one of the greatest lands of opportunities. We firmly believe that our schools are the means of preparing our young people to finish God's work in the different interior cities of this great nation.

Many personal experiences could be related of student conversions and of the excellent missionary work they are doing. Now the doors are open as never before to receive our message. It is now that students are interested in preparing themselves as ministers and missionaries.

This coming Thirteenth Sabbath, March 27, you will be given an opportunity to help in the building of these necessary dormitories for our schools in the South Brazil Union. Now is the time for us to go forward and we are looking to you, our brothers and sisters.

Gold Coast Mission

By A. J. MUSTARD, President

This report is, of course, incomplete so far as the statistics for 1953 are concerned. Most of the figures provided are for the first eleven months of the year, and some are for only nine months.

Our membership continues to show an encouraging growth. The rate of increase, in figures and percentages, for the past four years is shown in the following table. It reveals a church fast gathering strength, and growing into a powerful agency for the finishing of God's work in this land. The ratio of the baptized membership to the population of the Gold Coast is now 1 in 900

MEMBERSHIP TABLE

Year	Baptized Membership	Percentage Increase	Sabbath-School Membership	Baptismal Membership	Hearer's Classes
Dec. 1950	3,042	35%	9,859	1,296	2,772
" 1951	3,775	24%	13,155	1,935	3,676
" 1952	4,694	24%	13,940	1,586	3,360
Sep. 1953	4,770		14,220	1,713	3,619

lism includes every church member, every paid worker, and every phase of activity in which the church can engage. We have tried to encourage this view in the work of the Mission in the past year, with varying degrees of success or failure. The ultimate goal is still to be reached. Some of our evangelistic activities may be briefly summarized as follows, but the figures given are all incomplete.

1. Efforts held in 1953	70
2. Efforts conducted by laymen	19
3. Evangelists employed	36
4. Laymen taken part in efforts	114
5. Converts won in 1953	547
6. Converts won by laymen	201
7. Baptized in 1953	416

Among our best achievements in the field of evangelism in 1953 we may mention a Laymen's Institute held at Agona. More than 140 laymen attended from all parts of the Mission territory. Pastor Cowin gave generously of his time and talent to help us and a very profitable time was spent in giving and receiving instruction and in actual field work. 66 souls were won by the laymen during the time of the Institute.

We sometimes complain about the paucity of workers, and neglect the greatest potential source of strength and energy among us — the layman. This work will be finished by laymen. Let us plan to use them more, and more effectively. A laymen's Institute can be a powerhouse, generating power for the Advent Message as it sweeps on to its final triumph.

In reporting the achievements of our colporteurs in 1953 I am still in the field of evangelism. This fact is amply demonstrated by the number of souls these earnest men have won to the truth while making their sales of our books. It is a wonderful thing to be able to report that in four years, which is the total length of time the colporteur work has been in existence in the

and that of the Sabbath School membership is 1 in 316.

Evangelism is the main, and indeed the only business of the church. True evange-

Gold Coast, 263 souls have been won by these gospel salesmen.

Our total sales value this year will be slightly less than in 1952. This is due, we

believe, to the fact that four of our best salesmen of 1952 have transferred themselves to other activities, and also to the fact that we have found it necessary to screen more carefully the candidates for the colporteur ministry. Some colporteurs have had their sales restricted because of their failure to keep their accounts with the Bible House within reasonable proportions.

completed, and we are well pleased with it. I would like to pay a tribute to the fine work done by Pastor Welch, not only in his general management of the institution and in his supervision of this Secondary School project, but also in the other minor building jobs performed under his direction by student labour. These include a staff house, housing for a new lighting plant, and two classrooms.

TABLE OF COLPORTEUR WORK

Year	No. Colporteurs	Value of Sales	No. Souls Won
1950	14	£3,700	70
1951	20	£5,770	98
1952	27	£9,674	80
1953 (Nov.)	21	£7,955	15

Financially, the Mission is gaining rapidly in strength. Two years ago the working capital of the Mission was only £417. Expenditure had been allowed to exceed income. By careful budgeting and strict adherence to the budget, plus a very good increase in tithe in the past two years, this situation has been changed. Our capital is now up to policy requirements, our evangelistic workers are receiving up to 50% better wages and are consequently happier and more enthusiastic, and the tithe income is still buoyant. Special efforts have been made to raise the percentage of faithfulness in tithe-paying among the membership, but we still have a considerable leeway to make up. By rough estimate, we would say that the present percentage of faithfulness is not more than 65. If it could be brought up to near the 100% mark, this Mission would be self-supporting. This is our goal, towards which we are working by thorough and persistent education of both the ministry and the laity.

1953 is also notable for the implementation of our oft-discussed plans for Advanced Evangelistic Training for a selected group of workers. Five of our most promising young men have been chosen to begin this course in 1954. A course in Elementary Evangelism is also being offered in 1954, and four young men have offered themselves for training under the Bursary Plan. Another of our present workers is also being sent to Bekwai for training under this course. We are delighted to receive four graduates from the Elementary Evangelism Course this year. They enter the field immediately.

I regret to report a continuation of the trend towards closer Governmental control of and weakening of Mission influence in our primary and middle Schools. It becomes increasingly clear that we are in the position of being temporary managers only, with less rights than formerly. We are no longer permitted to place all our trained teachers in what are known as Seventh-day

TITHES AND OFFERINGS TABLE

Year	Tithe	Percentage Increase	Tithe per Capita	Sabbath School Offerings	M.V. Offerings	Ingathering	Sec. Sch Offering
Dec. 1950	£4,675	24	£1. 10. 9	£961			
" 1951	£5,688	22	£1. 10. 2	£1,073			
" 1952	£7,142	19	£1. 10. 6	£1,416	£14	£2,751	£125
Nov. 1953	£7,450			£1,397	£11	£1,147	£1,960

In the educational field, 1953 has been significant. The Secondary School classroom and administration building has been

Adventist schools. Only those schools designated by the Government as Priority Schools may be supplied with trained

teachers. All surplus teachers after the needs of the Priority Schools have been met are at the disposal of the Government, and may be used by other educational units or by the Government itself wherever there is a shortage of trained teachers in Priority Schools. The immediate effect of this order is to denude a number of our schools of trained teachers because they are not Priority Schools, and to leave us with a surplus of 49 trained teachers who must be handed over to other units. In many cases this will adversely affect the interests of churches who have benefited from the leadership of these teachers. We are endeavouring, with some success, to have these surplus teachers placed in our schools where their influence can tell for the benefit of our work. We now have 64 primary and middle schools, in which are 6,281 pupils and 196 teachers, 110 of whom are trained.

The Home Missionary Department, separately organized about a year ago, is making a worth-while contribution to Mission life. All our organized churches now appoint their own Home Missionary Leaders, who foster the work of the laymen in evangelism and welfare work. The following figures, gleaned from the Mission Home Missionary Secretary's September report, illumine the work of this department.

45 churches and companies regularly report missionary work.

77 churches and companies hold the regular missionary service, once monthly.

100 churches and companies hold the 10 minute weekly missionary service.

16 churches and companies conduct a Missionary Training Class.

222 laymen are reported to be engaged in Lay Preaching work.

169 persons have been added to the church through the work of laymen in the third quarter alone.

In Missionary Volunteer work, 1953 is notable for the valuable help given us by Pastors Cowin and Minchin. We appreciate their support of our youth work very much. One of our most promising trained teachers has been appointed to the post of Missionary Volunteer and Sabbath School Assistant Secretary. We are happy to see the departmental work of the Mission gradually pass into the hands of our African brethren.

As we survey the general needs of the church, some things seem to call for urgent attention. There are some danger signals which should not be ignored. Our greatest

needs are not physical, but spiritual, moral and mental. We must significantly raise the standards of the ministry. Spiritually, we all, as workers, need an endowment of heavenly power beyond our present capacity to receive. Educationally, too, our pastors and evangelists are ill-equipped for their task. Economically, too, some of them are in straits, and this has led in some cases to neglect of the Lord's work and the giving of the Lord's time to work that will increase the family income. This tendency, naturally, affects the spiritual prosperity of the church. Our people will never reach a higher plane of Christian experience and service than that upon which the ministry stands. The type of people we attract to the church will be a reflection of the men and women who win them. If we would reach the wealthier, educated classes of this country, many of whom already have some Christian experience, we must have a ministry with higher standards materially, educationally, and spiritually.

Vast numbers of our members cannot read even the vernacular. They cannot study the Bible for themselves. They are entirely dependent upon the eyes and mouths of others for their spiritual food. This is a dangerous condition which should not be allowed to continue in the life of the church. It results in a stunted growth, a feeble grasp of the truth, and conspicuous inability to share it with others. Efforts are being made to change this situation, but greater efforts must be made. One of the most valuable contributions to the cause that a literate person can make is to teach an illiterate to read God's message of love for himself.

As we move forward into 1954, we know the day of victory is at hand, and yet much remains to be done. Let us rally our forces, and clear the way for divine power to use us to finish the work. We have been about it long enough.

Success

True success and all its precious benefits come when we do the best we can with what we have. This definition of success makes it independent of any quantitative material standard and different for each individual.—Fred Pierce Corson.

Annual Report for the Ivory Coast

By G. M. ELLSTROM, President

The days are not long enough and a year is too short to accomplish all that is desired, but we are very grateful for what has been done in 1953. We do not have any astronomical figures to present, nor any phenomenal growth about which we can boast, and for any progress that has been made we take no credit to ourselves, but give all praise and thanks to Him to Whom it is due, our Heavenly Father. To Him we would also express our heartfelt thanks for the physical and spiritual blessings so bountifully showered upon us all who have been labouring for Him in the Ivory Coast during 1953.

Membership

In all humility we acknowledge this year as the lowest we have ever had in the number of baptisms, with only eight joining the church through this sacred rite. This is the result of the low ebb reached last year in the Ivory Coast field. Our future is more hopeful, for we expect to have two or three times this many in 1954 and with God's blessing far greater numbers in two or three years. Our present baptized membership stands at 114.

Working Force

For two years we have not even had one African worker in the field except for the few months Brother Amponsah was able to help us, so we were very glad that Emmanuel became an evangelist for the Mission in the early part of 1953. He has been working faithfully and has created a great deal of interest in several places, both in and around Abidjan as well as out in the bush. Great things could be done if we only had more labourers in the vineyard. We are trusting that little by little our working force will be enlarged. One young man who attended quite regularly a small effort we held in Treichville (Abidjan), who has finished the Voice of Hope lessons and who has also been studying some additional literature, left his work to keep the Sabbath and is very anxious to be baptized and become an evangelist. He is well educated and we are looking forward to his being a great help to the Mission in the near future. An older African Pastor, who left his church a num-

ber of years ago, is also enquiring about the possibility of working for the Mission. He needs a great deal of study before such a thing can take place, but we pray that the Lord will truly convert his heart so that he may some time soon taken an active part in the Lord's work.

We are very anxious to have an evangelistic training class at Bouake, but thus far we have only one young man who has been studying because we lack the place to keep them. Two or three more are waiting to go for some training, so we must soon have room for them. We are asking for the funds to build two or three homes so that an intensive teaching and training programme can be soon under way at Bouake.

General Progress

We are happy to report that our second Mission station is now well on the way to completion. We trust that Brother and Sister Buzenet will be able to move into their new home some time in February. They are now living in a large double garage which will be used as a garage and classroom when the Buzenets move into their new home.

In Treichville, the largest African section of Abidjan, we have been promised land by the leading men on the committee in charge of apportioning these lots and we feel sure that we shall soon receive official word from the government that these lots are ours. A church is very much needed in this largest of African villages, not only for the few who attend Sabbath services, but for the many who enquire about our church and who will not come to a little room on the back end of a crowded African compound. It would also give us a place to hold some evangelistic efforts in a town where there seem to be no halls available. Sabbath afternoon services in a presentable meeting place would be a means of establishing the young men who have become interested in the Sabbath through our efforts in Treichville, but who have not yet been willing to observe the Sabbath because of their problems of work. We plead with all sincerity for a place of worship in Treichville.

New interest has arisen in many places. In one village where one of our lay-members spent some time, a number of people came regularly to hear him preach, and one man became very much interested in the message. In another village where another one of our believers spent a month, one man

is keeping the Sabbath and studying the Voice of Hope and when I went out there to visit for a few days 25 or 30 came out every evening to hear our message. In another village where Emmanuel, our worker, has made two visits, we have one well educated young man and two others who are definitely interested and have said that if they can get two or three more they are going to build a church. Another lay-worker has been studying with a young man who is now keeping the Sabbath and wants to prepare himself to become an evangelist. The two of them have visited several villages to preach the gospel because of the enthusiasm of this young man. Still another lay-member has been holding a branch Sabbath School as well as giving Bible studies in a village several kilometers from his home village and where often 20 have attended his services. Thus the lay-members work and we are happy for what they have been doing this past year, and trust that we shall reap much fruit through their faithful efforts.

Missionary Volunteers

We held our first Junior Camp in the field in February, 1953, and had

a grand time. From 30 to 35 children were in regular attendance, and many adults came around to see how things were going and some of them gave us some very valuable assistance. They are looking forward to another Junior Camp in 1954. At the time of our recent Camp meeting eight juniors were invested as "Friends" the crowning touch to our Junior Camp work. The interest in our Missionary volunteer work is growing.

Education

Another school opened this year so we now have two small schools operating with a total attendance of 37. We have two teachers, one an Adventist and the other a non-Adventist, but who is at the present studying and who attends our services. It is indeed important that we begin a training school programme as soon as possible that we can prepare our own converts to train our own children. I believe we will be much stronger educationally if a teachers' training programme precedes the establishment of too many small schools. May education hold the important place that it rightly

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should in relation to our evangelistic programme.

Voice Of Hope

Due to the lack of announcements we have not been able to do much for our correspondence course until the last few months. We have now made a beginning and we are very happy for that. To date we have sent out about 125 first lessons with 30 returns and at least 25 who have finished or who are active students, having sent in a lesson within the last two months. Much more will be accomplished when some one can devote his full time to this important work.

Colporteur Work

Again we are happy for another first, in fact we had two in one year. Jacob and George, our two colporteurs, are not the best in West Africa, but for two who have gone out on their own without any training, and without the counsel and help that others have received and are receiving, I think they have done very well. One began about February to really sell and the other about the first of July and so far they have sold 169,375 francs worth of books, which is approximately £340. Their contacts are creating an interest in and about Abidjan and I am sure time will bring good fruit from their sales. We have had a good year in 1953, but we expect a better year in colporteur sales in 1954.

Ingathering

Our goal for 1953 in Ingathering was £200, but we are glad to say we went beyond that a little. For a while we were afraid we would not be permitted to solicit this year, but after a visit to the governor we were granted permission to solicit any private office or home. We thank the Lord for opening the way for us and through His blessing we more than reached our goal. With my stammering French I felt like Moses and I am glad that the Lord supplied another Aaron in Brother Buzenet, and through him as the mouth piece and principal solicitor we garnered in a total of 199,200 francs, which equals just about £400. Both our tithes and offerings also showed an increase over last year so we have much for which we are truly thankful to the Lord.

We wish to thank the Union and Division for the financial help during 1953 and also for the visits of Brother Gibson a couple of times during the year and the visits of

Brother Coon from the Union as well as the short visits of Brother Keslake and Brother Cone. From the General Conference we had the visits of Brother Cormack, who was a real help and encouragement to us, the overseas workers, as well as to our members. We worked him hard and I want to thank him here for his willingness to walk 12 miles through the jungle trail to attend our camp-meeting.

With grateful hearts for what the Lord accomplished for us in 1953 we close this report. May the year 1954 be a much greater year in the advancement of the work of God in the Ivory Coast.

Ife Hospital

By SHERMAN A. NAGEL, Medical Director

That look of indescribable anguish on the mother's first hopeful face, who had come and waited her turn to see the doctor, only to find upon removing the sick infant from her back for the physician to examine it that the baby was already dead; yes, the look on thousands of anxious, longing, hoping, disease pinched faces and crippled forms present the great challenge, that is ever before the staff of the mission hospital at Ife, and constantly swell the clinics and over-flows the hospital. Under the ever present guidance and blessings of the one who knoweth even the sparrow when it falls, 1953 can be marked as another year of success and advance in medical ministry, as the hospital staff, labouring unitedly, have met the challenge as far as time and facilities would permit. We must take this opportunity to thank God for His blessings, patience and mercy.

Appreciations

The helpful direction and guidance of Division and Union brethren and our own Hospital Board has been appreciated. The frequent visits from our brethren Hyde, Nielson, Dare, and Gustavson from the West Nigerian Mission and Pastor R. Coon from the Voice of Prophecy have contributed much toward the mechanical and spiritual operation of the institution and church. Especially did the hospital appreciate Pastor Coon's kind assistance to it during the emergency situation which arose during the time of Sister B. Turtill's illness. Pastor Moyer's

spring week of prayer is one long to be remembered. Elder H. M. S. Richard's ever overflowing cup of blessing was shared not only by our local church, but by many from Ife town; the Canon of the Church of England, the Principal of Oduduwa College, the Head of the large Moslem School, were a few of the more notable visitors who with us will long remember that eventful evening. Brother R. Cone's eleven day visit to the hospital was the most constructive contribution along business lines the Hospital has ever been given. The institution would have profited much if such a visit could have come five years sooner. And lastly, the spiritual seed just given to our church by Elder A. W. Cormack during its recent week of prayer I know will continue to grow and bear fruit. It was with deep regrets, however, that on the third day of his arrival at the hospital, Elder Cormack became severely ill with pneumonia. Thanks be to God for hearing the prayers of His many children in behalf of this dear brother and though he will have to have considerable time for convalescence he appears to be on the road to recovery.

The Staff

Dr. William Wagner and family left us in September. Dr. Wagner's contributions in professional, spiritual and material ways will ever leave their wholesome imprint on the institution. Sister E. Rose, Superintendent of Nurses, went on furlough in November. And Sister B. Turtill, because of a recurrent kidney infection had to return to the United Kingdom in December. Sister Turtill's loss to the institution should she not be able to return, will be one hard to replace. Her ever willing pleasant personality and the loving manner in which she performed whatever came to her to do will ever stand forth in our memory. We pray that God in His mercy will see fit to hear the prayers of her many friends and that she may be soon restored to good health again. In late October we welcomed back to our Staff Dr. and Mrs. Richard Davenport and Bobby. Dr. Davenport had been covering the Jengre Station Hospital since January and his report of the growth of the work there was very encouraging. With the sudden loss of Sister B. Turtill, with Sister E. Rose on furlough, it has reduced the nursing sister level to a critical point, and the school of General Nursing and the School of Mid-wifery will suffer critically, to say nothing of the health of

Sisters Martz and Sylvia Turtill should this situation exist for long. I know the Union and Division brethren will continue to give this their further serious attention.

School of General Nursing

Fifty-six young people were in training in the School of General Nursing during the year. The seventeen seniors who will graduate in January 1954 were the first set of graduates from our school to be required to take the formal Government nursing examination. In former years the government had accepted mission hospital training school certificates as sufficient qualifications for registration. But with the constant effort to improve the standard of nursing education the standard examination put forth by the Government is now the final test. Great praise and commendation is to be given to our sister teaching staff who used every spare hour during the last few months of this year to review and help to prepare these young people for their examination which was taken mid-December. In January we will accept another class of seventeen into the pre-nursing year. Sister V. Watson's work as house mother, and Brother V. Watson's work as boys' preceptor in addition to his work as book-keeper and cashier, has brought in much improvement into the situation of the dormitories.

We are making plans for three of our more evangelistically talented male graduates to enter the two year Senior Evangelistic Training Course offered in the Gold Coast. We believe this will be a great assistance to their nursing ministry and will broaden their usefulness as nursing evangelists if it becomes a reality.

Grade I Midwifery School

For some years the hospital has been operating a Grade 11 mid-wifery school and has graduated two sets of Grade 11 mid-wives. This year the hospital satisfied the government's requirements as a Grade 1 Mid-wifery School and has so become recognized, making our School one of the three Grade 1 schools in the Western Provinces. Five pupil-midwives are now in training. Much credit goes to Sister B. Turtill for the splendid advance and development of the Mid-wifery School. We pray her work will not have been in vain.

Much progress has been made this year in landscaping, tarring of roads inside the

TABLE OF MEDICAL STATISTICS

	1952	1953	Increases	Decreases
In-patients	2,754	2,937	183	
Out-patients	55,625	57,004	1,379	
Surgery	1,009	1,056	47	
Daily Bed Occupancy	61.5	85.5	4	
Obstetrical Cases	538	534		4

hospital area, and the completion of the new clinic annexe and the thirty bed medical unit. The clinic annexe has been in use now for nearly six months. With the sudden shortage of our nursing sister staff we have delayed opening the new thirty bed unit, so as not to add to the already far too heavy load that the sisters are carrying. Teaching facilities and equipment in the training school have been improved this year. New classroom chairs and writing facilities, a sound projector, additional athletic facilities, new books for the library, are among some of the major items added to the teaching aids this year. In 1954 the construction is expected to start on the new teaching wing. This wing will also house the library, a much needed item which has been lacking in many respects up to the present.

Inisha Clinic

The Inisha Dispensary has continued to provide its excellent medical care for the people of that area, and it continues to be an excellent training station for our senior male students who are rotated there each month to gain experience in dispensary work. The dispensary, as in other years, has been more than self-supporting. The 30' by 150' maternity block at Inisha is up to top window level and should be completed about the time our first set of Grade I mid-wives graduate. To operate the unit it will call for two grade 1 mid-wives and a pupil mid-wife along with other female hospital aids such as orderlies and laundry personnel. From the experience the hospital has gained from running medical work in this area it is believed the medical units at Inisha will continue to be self-supporting. Certainly the medical unit at Inisha will achieve its primary mission in a stronger way with the addition of this maternity centre.

It is the desire of the West Nigerian Mission that the hospital open up three new dispensaries in its field during 1954. We hope that the staffing conditions at the Ife hospital will return to normal so that these requests may be realized.

Religious Activities

Sister E. Rose maintained her usual enthusiastic interest in three centres of Ife town. Many times more than one hundred children and adults were in attendance at each of these centres. The last centre of interest was on the compound of the Oni of Ife. Dr. and Mrs. R. Davenport are carrying on these visits each week in the absence of Sister Rose.

Sister F. Martz has had two groups of interests in small near-by villages. One of the villages was a Sobo village and as far as we can tell she and her helpers were the first to preach the gospel in their area.

Branch Sabbath-School and Cottage Meetings

During 1953, up until the time Dr. Wagner went home on furlough, I conducted a branch Sabbath School in the home of one of the Councilor's of Ife. A Baptist School teacher was one among the number who faithfully attended. For some months this year he and his children, and also children from the home of the Councilor have been regular Sabbath School attendants at our Hospital Sabbath School. On Wednesday evenings for four months this year I had the privilege of studying with a group of adults in the home of the friends of the hospital. It was an interesting group of individuals: masons, carpenters, police, the post-master of Ife and various other individuals. When Dr. Wagner went on furlough and I was the only physician on the staff for some weeks, the interest there was turned over to Brother S. Majolagbe, our hospital chaplain. Quite a number of these have joined the baptismal class and should be ready for baptism next year.

Chaplain daily ward services and services each time clinics are held are greatly appreciated by the patients. Through this medium thousands each week hear the words of God. His morning Bible study with our non-professional workers each work day is beginning to bear fruit. A number of these employees are non-believers. Some have joined the baptismal classes and one was baptized this year from this group.

The Sabbath School has continued to draw large numbers of non-Adventist children from the town. Quite a number of adults from the town and many of the hospital ambulatory walking patients attend the services during the time they are here in the hospital. Last quarter's reports showed 168 as the membership in the adult department and 96 in the children's departments, making a total of 264. The spirit of giving has been generous in the Sabbath School, and Tithes and Offerings have been very encouraging this year.

Church School Funds

1952	1953	Increase
£484 : 6 : 1	£586 : 10 : 11	£102 : 4 : 10

From private donations being held by the hospital as trust funds over five hundred pounds have come in this year towards our church school. We are looking forward to the time in the near future when our boys and girls of our Ife church will have their own mission school to attend.

The Missionary Volunteer Society, under the able sponsorship of Sister B. Turtill, continued its progressive class programme. One Investiture was held mid-year and she had planned another to be held at the end of this year.

The Ingathering for Missions Campaign, though not yet finished at the time of writing this report, had progressed well with funds having come in nearing the £200 mark.

The Dorcas Society has been well attended by the ladies of the church. To have over 20 frequently in attendance, and to see each busy doing her part has been an encouragement to their leader. Mrs. Edith Nagel has used a portion of each time to have a short study with the women on how to improve their homes, using as her guide book "The Adventist Home." Their December Dorcas sale held in the hospital clinic building was a day of wholesome fun for all and total sales came to £28-17-8.

Baptisms

Three baptismal classes have been conducted during the year by brethren Watson, Majolagbe and Ekeke, one in English, one in Yoruba and one in Ibo. There were forty-eight enrolled in the baptismal classes during the year. One of the high days of this year was December 26 when seventeen precious souls were buried with Christ in

Baptism by Pastor J. J. Hyde. The hospital church baptistry was used for the first time. The church itself is not fully completed. The building will comfortably seat 425. We are working and praying for the day to come when this house of God will be completed and ready for dedication. The local church members have made pledges reaching £450 towards the completion of the church and well over two thirds of this has been turned into the church treasurer to date.

Already the plates and advertising are in the hands of the advertisers. We had expected to start an effort for the town of Ife in January. However, with unexpected illnesses that have come in and the marked shortage of key staff members we are beginning to wonder if this is the expedient time to begin the effort. Continue to pray for us that we will have wisdom to know God's will regarding this matter.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all of my overseas and African staff members for their loyal and faithful service throughout the year. I want to thank God for His rich blessings which have in the final analysis made this report possible. We thank Him for the courage He gives us to press on in the work for Him. The year has not been one entirely devoid of problems. Unexpected illnesses have brought interruption and shortage of staff at a time when the staff was already low. Though Satan has tried to undermine and destroy we have seen the hand of God mightily overrule and we face the challenge of the New Year knowing that we are allied to a Captain who has never lost a battle.

May God richly bless all His faithful labourers in this Union and may the year 1954 be the best year in the experience of His work in West Africa.

The Advent Messenger

Official Organ of the
West African Union Mission of
Seventh-Day Adventists.

P. O. Box 1016, Accra, Gold Coast.
Editor - - - - - G. L. ANNISS

West Nigerian Mission

By J. J. HYDE, President

Once again West Nigeria is happy to tell of what has been happening in its territory this year and to make a statement concerning its present welfare and outlook.

Because figures for the year were not available when I left Ibadan I cannot give them to you here. I can, however, say that our baptisms will probably equal our previous best, 211, and that our tithes will be up by over 40%.

The tithe increase has been due in part to the increase in the salaries of our workers, but not wholly. Our church members have responded nobly and increased their tithes considerably. And in West Nigeria that is something to remark on. Not only is the money very welcome, but the deepening of the spiritual life of our people which this represents is much more valuable. I am sure that God will fulfil His promise to the payers of a faithful tithe and that we shall see the result in a general quickening of the spiritual life of our members.

In planning our Budget for this year we found that after making all reasonable estimates of our income and expenses we were £1,300 short. This figure has been a challenge to us throughout the year. Could we raise the income and (or) keep down the expenses sufficiently to meet this deficit?

Just how we will come out I cannot say with certainty. At the end of the 3rd quarter we had three-quarters of that sum and £60 over. How the year will finish I do not know, but I believe that we will come out with at least having balanced the year's accounts. As you know this has been a bad cocoa year. So we are particularly grateful to our loyal and generous members for making this result possible.

During the year Nigeria has been thinking and talking of hardly anything but the London Conference and its results: and in particular about the implications of the decision to make the regions self-governing with a Central legislature at the centre — Lagos.

In the field of education the decision of the Western Region is to introduce free compulsory education in 1955. And also to cut back at that time all schools to the level of six classes. This will leave a gap of two years between the end of this new form of

school and entrance to Teacher — or Nurse-Training Schools and the Secondary Schools. One of the reasons for the cut-back is to have the use of the standard V and VI classrooms to accommodate the great enrolment of Infants when the compulsory scheme commences and to have the Higher Elementary Certificated Teachers who have been teaching those classes available to head up the many new schools that the scheme will make necessary.

To bridge that gap and to take the pupils who are lucky enough to get into them to a higher level of education than has hitherto been offered, it is proposed to offer Middle (or as our Minister of Education has hitherto referred to them, Secondary Modern) Schools providing four years schooling.

It will be abundantly clear to you all that education in West Nigeria cannot be allowed to end at Standard IV or class 6. Pupils at that level are not ready for Teacher Training or Nursing Training or Evangelist Training or Secondary Schools. We MUST have a Middle School.

Our evangelists have all been fruitfully employed during the year, as the number of our baptisms show. I would like to refer particularly to Pastor Adeoye who year by year continues to present 10-20 well-taught, and well-trained candidates. Considering the cosmopolitan nature of the city of Lagos that is no mean accomplishment. I am sure that Lagos is ripe for work on a much more ambitious scale than has been yet attempted or is within the resources of the West Nigeria Mission.

The Hospital at Ile-Ife is an active centre of evangelism. Year by year from among the employees groups of fine young people are baptized, and year by year recovered patients return home halfway persuaded, at least, to become members of our church. We have long talked of a chain of dispensaries which would maintain and improve contacts with these people, and this year it seems that we can begin some such thing. But it has seemed to Dr. Nagel and me that it would be a great advantage if the young men who are to man these medical posts were given two years of advanced evangelical training. To my mind, the advantage would be that they would consider themselves to be evangelists at least as much as they would think of themselves as nurses. For it would be our hope that they would not only help sick folk, but would use their

medical training as a means to win souls. Dr. Nagel will put this matter before us in greater detail.

You will be happy to know that the annual change in the Secretary-Treasurer's office which has become such a feature in the recent life of our Mission once again duly took place. And to show that we really meant it, we also parted with our Otun Station Director. The good work that Pastors Nielson and Farrow have done in East Nigeria since leaving us has been handsomely acknowledged here in the reports you have heard from that Field. We are happy to have been able to help in this way, and pray that they may long continue to make West Nigeria's contribution to the work in the Eastern Field.

The change over, however, was far from being all loss. It has brought to our Field Pastor Bartlett who, with his ripe experience, is doing things at Otun that have not been attempted before. Should it prove that this is his last tour of duty in West Africa, he will be long remembered by his successors at Otun. We also received from Sweden two very welcome young people who are destined, I am sure, to make a very valuable contribution to the cause on the Coast. They are very young, but to a staff whose average age before their coming was 60, their youth is very welcome.

We hear of re-organization. If it comes West Nigeria is likely to profit by it more than any other Field. This, and many other signs and portents, together with our confidence in the power of God to complete His work, enable us to face the future with high hopes and confidence.

accepted, and we are happy to report that North Nigeria has reached this goal. At the close of 1949 our baptized membership was 144, and now the total is 320.

During 1953 more souls were baptized than in any previous year, and also the largest number at one baptismal service. On October 10th, 57 souls were baptized, and on December 19th, 28 more witnessed for their Master and joined with His Church, this making a total of 85 baptized for the year. Other candidates attended the final examination which was held for one week prior to the baptismal service, but as we do not desire merely to produce numbers those who were considered not quite ready were asked to wait until a future period. So firstly we thank God for those souls who have been led to unite with His Church, and secondly we are grateful to our small but faithful band of workers who have worked so hard to produce these results.

Evangelistic efforts were held this year and the results have brought encouragement. In one place called Kuzamini, where a worker had been visiting and an interest had been awakened, so that last year around 30 persons were endeavouring to follow the truth, it was decided to gather the workers and hold an intensive effort in this pagan area. Some time was set aside for the workers to study together, then they visited the people in their homes, and in the evenings a large general meeting was held. Choruses were taught to the people and it was an inspiring sight to see the people coming and going with their native torches to give light, and to hear them singing the choruses they had learnt. At one meeting the head chief who rules over a large area said, "I now hear you, and the words are read in my hearing from the Bible concerning the Sabbath truth. I shall no more hinder my children from coming to your church." The chief pagan priest attended one meeting when the purpose and glory of Christ's second coming was being explained. Later it was learnt he had said to his followers, "We must no longer force people into our paganism." Before the workers left, 80 people had given their names and promised to keep the Sabbath, and about 40 enrolled in the Hearer's Class. It was decided that a worker should be located in this place to look after and develop the interest, so a worker was transferred from another part. The statistical report of the 3rd Quarter

North Nigerian Mission

By W. G. TILL, President

It is with thankfulness in our hearts that we render this report from the North Nigerian Mission. Truly this work belongs to God and without His help and guidance we could do nothing, but with Him we can do all things.

At the Session of the General Conference held in 1950 the aim of doubling the baptized membership during four years was

shows there are now 71 Sabbath School members and 36 in the Hearers' Class. This place is just over 50 miles from our headquarters at Jengre and is a large pagan area. We ask for your prayers that the light of God's Truth may grow brighter in that district.

At another place, Gurum by name, much seed had been sown in the past and last year it was reported that 17 persons were attending Sabbath School. However, it was felt that unless a worker could be stationed there to help counteract the opposition of another society, the work could not develop in a strong way. At least it was decided to hold an evangelistic effort there and the results were good seeing that approximately 100 persons said they wished to join the church. Then came the question how could we care for these people, for it seemed impossible to move another worker, and we had no money for a new worker. The Lord came to our rescue and worked upon the hearts of some to send us a gift to help on His work. One of our Lay-workers who had been helping in the effort was chosen to locate at Gurum as a worker for one year, and we believe the results have justified the expenditure of the gift for this period. In the September report there were 76 Sabbath School members and 50 in the Hearers' Class. We sincerely hope that money will be found from some place to keep the worker at his post for at least one more year, when some should be ready for baptism.

From the gift of money just mentioned, the amount of 10s each month for one year was voted to a lay-worker as a cycle allowance to enable him to visit in the area around his church. This faithful member has done a good work, and now comes the report that he has visited a place 20 miles from his home and 64 miles from Jengre, where he has been able to interest a company of 21 young people who desire to learn to read and to be Christians. We have laid plans to hold an evangelistic effort early in 1954 in this place, and again we hope that money will be found so that possibly this lay-worker may become a full time worker and develop the work he has commenced.

Truly there are signs that the harvest is ripening in this vast territory with its 14 millions of people according to the latest census, but the labourers are far, far too few for the work that has to be done. We

pray for the time when many more labourers will be able to go forth and gather in the harvest.

We desire to render thanks to all concerned who have made it possible for us to carry on a large building programme. In Jos a good stone Church has been erected and will be completed as soon as the materials are available to put glass in the windows and decorate the building. Then a new Church has been built on the Jengre compound, and now when general meetings are called, instead of the old meeting place being filled and many people sitting around outside, it produces a thrill to be able to stand in a large church with about 300 believers seated before you. A new six class-room school is another asset, and we have been happy to make use of part of this building during the year.

On the medical side we were able to get the walls of the Administrative Block completed and the roof on before the heavy rains came, and now Doctor Hyde is busy finishing the interior and preparing the building for opening. He is also making preparations so that when the Union has approved the site, he can begin the erection of the second ward.

Now that Jengre has this year become more important from the political angle and a paramount chief is located there, we are grateful that the Adventists have been able to enlarge their boarding department and to erect such good buildings, and we pray that all these institutions may be used to bring honour and glory to our Father in heaven.

Let us now consider a few statistics. We have 8 African evangelists. Pastor Wosu was the one African pastor we had, but he has now been called to the Voice of Prophecy and up to the present we have not been able to replace him.

During the year 85 were baptized and our membership now stands at 320. 1953 saw a gain of 156 in the Sabbath School membership and the total Sabbath School membership is now 798. Let us point out how one new member in the Primary Department loves the Sabbath School. He is a small boy named Sambo and comes from a pagan home. His father is very angry whenever the boy comes to church. Sometimes Sambo is flogged, other times he is severely rebuked and forbidden to attend again. Sambo desires to learn to read so that he can read his lesson in the Bible, but when

he took his A. B. C. card home his father promptly tore it in pieces. However, Sambo says nothing will stop him from coming to the Sabbath School. Please pray for little Sambo and others like him.

In 1952 we had 208 in the Hearers' Class and this year 242. Last year there were 84 in the Probationers' Class and in 1953 there were 104. Thus we look forward to another good baptism for 1954.

At the end of the 3rd Quarter our finances showed an increase over the previous year, but no final figures for the year can be given now. In 1952 Pastor Wosu made an excellent effort in the Harvest Ingathering Campaign, but came second to a sister in Liberia in an individual effort. This year Pastor Wosu has made a greater attempt and has collected a little over £70, and he now wonders if he has been able to claim the record.

As in other fields we too have our difficulties, and we would mention some of these so that you may more intelligently pray for us.

Jengre School

As mentioned before we have a very good school building, but during the fourth quarter of 1953 we were informed that no Government grant would be given for the Senior Primary department because the enrollment in those classes were too small. No grant was paid for the last quarter so this put us into debt. Then we thought of the future and wondered what we could do. If we had some feeder schools then we could hope to increase our numbers in the central school, but then we found we had got into a vicious circle for we could not open feeder schools without trained teachers, and we could not expect Ihie to supply trained teachers unless we give them Std. VI boys to train, but we could not get any Std. VI boys without a Standard Six school, and we have no money to pay for teachers in the Senior Primary department. Thus we are helpless unless the Union can come to our rescue, and we are appealing in a strong way for help until such time as we are able to qualify for Government grant again. We are doing all we can to awaken the people to the value of education, and the paramount chief is giving us good support and he promises to provide 30 new children for the Infants class in 1954. He will try to do this each year so in a few years the higher classes should have good numbers, but in the mean-

time we do not think it would be good in any way to close the higher standards even though there are but few pupils. So we bring this problem to the Union for sympathetic consideration.

Teacher Evangelists

At present we have to depend on trained teachers from the South to volunteer to teach in the Jengre School, and it is difficult and expensive to find such volunteers. We are very grateful to those who have helped in the past, but we look for the time when we can produce Std. VI boys and girls who can go to be trained as teachers and evangelists, and I might also add the hospital is looking for those who will train as nurses, and then we feel that the Northerners when trained will be able to do a much greater work for their own people. We are happy because one boy is in training at Ihie and look forward to his return at the end of 1954. May many more be able to follow his steps.

Jos

We have an excellent new Church building in Jos but we are faced with the problem that Pastor Wosu has accepted a call to unite with the Voice of Prophecy staff at Ibadan, and he leaves us before we have been able to get anyone to take his place. We can do nothing ourselves but must appeal to the South to provide us with a senior man to fill the vacancy, for it is not good to have a new church but no worker.

Finance

Our field is now in the position where other fields were about 25 years ago. At that time the other fields had to be carried financially and we are still in that position. We desire to grow but find that the lack of finance holds us back. As stated before we are doing new work with a gift given us for one year, and we could open other places if we had the money for new workers. Our present workers are discouraged when they endeavour to open a new interest and we cannot place a worker there to follow up, for another society follows after us. Thus they feel we should not make an effort until we are able to carry it through properly. Also as we get farther away from Jengre it makes the work more expensive. Fourteen millions are in North Nigeria so we have hardly touched the work with the tips of our fingers. We are prepared to make

every effort to carry the work further afield, but we are only able to do as much as you are able to support us financially. However, we look for the time when we will grow as the other fields have done and be able to carry more of our own load, but at present we plead for help, and again state that we can only do that which you can support us to do.

Medical Work

We believe the medical work is the entering wedge in the North, and practically the only means whereby we can approach the Moslems. We ask that this branch of the work may be well supported, and the way made possible whereby many of our young people from the North might be trained to become medical evangelists.

In closing let us say we are of good courage. We know the battle is the Lord's and though Red Seas and Jordans lie across our pathway, the Lord will lead us safely through. We ask for an interest in your prayers, and that the Gospel of Jesus may soon spread among the millions of the North so that when Jesus returns, there may be many jewels for His Kingdom.



An Expression of Thankfulness to God

By D. J. CLARKE

I am now back in Africa, and glad to be home again. During the past few weeks thousands of prayers have ascended to the Throne of Grace on my behalf. Included in those prayers has been a call for sustaining grace for my wife and daughter. For all to know that those prayers have been answered is good. It gives us confidence to approach the Throne of Grace again. It builds faith.

It is not possible for me to speak with many of you, but through the medium of the "Messenger" I want to share with you a couple of sentences from a letter from Mrs. Clarke, received while still in England:—

"I know what He has done for me while you have been gone. Nothing but His power could have given me the peace I have had, and the trust that everything would be for the best. Someone had to stay by the "stuff"; may be that is why He has sustained me as He has. It is good to know that we have shared the trial together and are stronger in love, faith and trust in God because of it."

In a later letter: "God has given us strength and patience thus far; He will not fail us now."

Those prayers and the answers to them put us under a tremendous responsibility. Such experiences must be reasons for a confident, cheerful witness. We must not break faith with you, with God. Continue to pray that souls may be gathered out of Freetown. We only ask, that under the power of God's Spirit, many more from Freetown and beyond may learn to know, to love and to serve the One who releases from the slavery and bondage of sin.

To learn that one must lose one's eye is not pleasant. Such knowledge comes with stunning force. We believed it might be God's plan to test our faith and then work a miracle; so appropriate action was taken according to the counsel of James 5:14. Our hopes proved not to be as the Great Physician wrought, for He used the surgeon's skill to remove the offending eye (Matt.18:9). So now, with an eye single to His glory, we continue to serve.

And there is this consolation. (You have helped bear the burden, you shall share in the reward.) The surgeon told me that the cornea of the enucleated eye is placed in the eye bank for future use. Someday, another will have his sight restored by the grafting of a spare cornea. My earnest prayer is, whosoever it should be, may he be led of the Spirit to use the repaired vision to see or read something that will impel him to look to Jesus and be saved in the Kingdom. If one soul is in the earth made new at the cost of an eye, the price is not too much.

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim.
In the light of His glory and grace."