

MESSENGER

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MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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A Letter to You —

from Pastor E. W. Pedersen

Dear Fellow Believers,

Upon my return to Europe from a very interesting and enjoyable tour of our rapidly growing mission fields of West Africa, I wish to send a few words of greeting to our large Advent family scattered throughout the territories of the West African Union.

It was indeed a pleasure and a privilege to become acquainted with so many of you. I only wish I could have met every one of you. Wherever I went I found friends and enjoyed genuine Christian fellowship in my association with both Europeans and Africans. Truly, the third angel's message removes the barriers which otherwise normally exist between strangers. It unites human hearts and binds them together in mutual love and understanding. What a wonderful message God has entrusted to us!

I must express my gratefulness to every one who had a part in making my tour so enjoyable. I trust it proved a blessing to others as it was to myself. It will be impossible for me here to list the names of all who really deserve to be mentioned, but as my visit was primarily in the interest of the Home Missionary Department I do not



Pastor E. W. Pedersen.

suppose it will cause any misgivings if I confine myself to a special reference to the Home Missionary Secretaries who associated with me. They had a large part in the programme, and the success of our institutes is to a very large degree due to their excellent contribution and fine co-operation. Of these there is first and foremost Pastor Cowin, the Union Home Mission Secretary, who had planned the programme and who remained with me right up to the last minute in Northern Nigeria. He was director, teacher, preacher, song leader, photographer, cook, driver, an unflinching alarm clock even at the most unearthly hours of the night when we had

to get up and off for our next destination—all in one; and he was good company. Pastors Mensah and Dickay, Home Missionary Secretaries of the Gold Coast and East Nigeria rendered very fine service at our institutes in their respective fields. With more African leadership of their calibre we would see mightier results of our Home Missionary activities. The field presidents were actively with us and that in spite of their many other duties. This was a most appreciated support.

Brother Chappell, who met me in Liberia, may disclaim the honour of being called a Home Missionary Secretary. Nevertheless he is a 100 per cent one when it is ingathering time, for he is in charge of our ingathering campaign. When he demonstrated the selling of our magazines and the solicitation of funds, we all felt it was very, very easy indeed. Once upon a time the Bible Correspondence School was an activity under the Home Missionary Department. It is not so in our Division now. But Pastor Coon, director of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School for West Africa, attended some of our institutes and left upon the minds of every one a vivid impression of this influential soul-winning agency. And naturally, the promotion of this school without a class room must mainly be done by the Home Missionary Department membership. Much of the inspiration at our meetings was given by the laymembers themselves. They came filled with wonderful experiences of what God had wrought for them and through them. And they were eager to learn that they might be better equipped for still more fruitful service.

Institutes were held in Liberia, the Ivory Coast, the Gold Coast (4), East Nigeria (8), West Nigeria, and North Nigeria. Some were large others were small, but all were attended by fine groups of men and women: workers, church officers, and laymembers. I do not think that I have seen a more eager and willing laity anywhere in Africa, and in Europe too for that matter. The rich harvest of souls in our West African mission to-day is largely due to the untiring service of these faithful men and women whose hearts God has touched. But more education is needed. And I am not now thinking of our schools and colleges. I am thinking of an extensive and thorough training of our laity in the churches. They have the ability and they are willing. Let us help one another that we all can play our full part in God's great plan for the salvation of man.

You are a grand people, you Advent Church of West Africa. It was good to be with you. Don't forget what you have learned. By practising it you will remember it. May God bless you all. May He use each one of you mightily for the salvation of many. May He ever be with you until we meet again.

Very sincerely your brother,

E. W. Pedersen.

The Youth find Truth

By T. S. Geraty

President, Middle East College

"Behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King . . . for we have seen His star in the east, and have come to worship Him." (Matt. 2:1, 2) Such is the record of an event some nineteen centuries ago.

Today in these lands where magi travelled and sought the King, men, women, and youth are seeking for "the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

Searching for a true religion, having contacted the Adventist worker in the city, a seventeen year old boy waited each night until he could hear the restful breathing of his radical non-Christian parents that they were asleep—then at midnight he would slip down over the wall of his well-to-do parents' home and slither through the darkness to the home of our worker to study the teachings of *the Book, the Holy Bible*.

After three months of intensive study he knew that he should follow forever Him whom he had learned to love. He attended a regional meeting in another city; he witnessed two baptisms. On the Friday of the meetings he received a telegram from home. Translated into English it read: "COME HOME NOW OR NEVER. (signed) FATHER." The young man wanted to return home—but he wanted to be a Christian. He decided to be baptized; he then would face his father as a true *son* of God. We saw him baptized and rise with a determined smile of accomplishment.

The next day he left the place of meeting for his city and home, but his parents would not permit his return; he was chased off the home street; he could not even enter his house to get his clothes or to say good-bye to those whom he loved. . . .

He returned to the place of baptism and to his Christian friends, and accepted any kind of labour to help pay expenses. He is now planning to attend Middle East College to receive a preparation to enter the Lord's work.

We have attending Middle East College two young men who had been hired by another mission to interfere with an evangelistic series of meetings in a mountain village. They arrived early at the meeting

place and were gathering up the Arabic hymnals while the Adventist worker accosted them and in a most friendly manner invited them with their youthful zeal to join their struggling choir. The young men really enjoyed the music, they joined the choir, and they faithfully attended the evangelistic meetings each night until all prejudice was broken down. They confessed their original intents and plans, repented of their old experiences, and were baptized. Now they are studying to champion the cause of their Adventist evangelist—they want to become workers for God.

In response to an inquiry in a college freshman class in "Life and Problems," one student penned: "... I am here to be educated as John was in the wilderness. In preparing the way in my country for Christ's second coming there is need of educated men, men to know how to reach people, how to study their minds, and most important of all, to know how to prepare people for His second advent.

"I expect to be trained for this heavenly task, and to learn the way of true life."

Dear sabbath school members the world around, let us join the Advent youth who want to preach the salvation of Jesus to all the honest in heart in the Middle East. We all may help by more fervent prayers and greater offerings for a healthy Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow this quarter.

I Will Praise Him

By Pastor William Gayed Khalil

(The story of one of the recent converts in Egypt as told to his pastor)

As I stood in my post of duty at a busy street corner, directing the thousands of cars to go to the right or to the left, I had many serious thoughts. I felt I was sinking in the deep sea of my sins. Yet I also felt the Lord's sweet Spirit leading me to His peace and safety. I desire to praise the Saviour of sinners, Who bought me by His precious blood. These thoughts came to me after I had heard a missionary preach a sermon in the town square. The message was from the Bible, and it seemed to be directed to me.

I enrolled my name with those who wished to study the Voice of Prophecy lessons. Joy

filled my heart when I received the lessons, as I was anxious to receive the true knowledge of the Saviour. I tried not to miss any of the meetings, although it was not easy for me, as I sometimes had to work at that time. But even the very heavy rain could not stop me from coming.

Through the Voice of Prophecy lessons I increased in the truth, and I gained much spiritually. I determined by God's help to walk in the light I had received. I kept the Sabbath for the first time, and it was a little bit strange to me, but I was very happy rejoicing in the victory of keeping the commandment of the Lord.

Since I was working for the government, I asked to be given the Sabbath as a rest day. They said, "Neither Saturday nor Sunday. The rest day of the government is Friday, and if you are absent for fifteen days you will be discharged." Work is not easy to find these days, and absence means dismissal. What about my young wife and the little children? How should I live, where should I go? My cousin was a friend of mine, and he spoke to my wife about what would happen to me, and he reasoned with me that there was no law which would support me in this country if I did this. He advised that I must be wise, and that the Lord is merciful and knows the difficult condition I am in and will forgive me.

But I felt I must keep the commandment of the Lord first, and He will care for me. My wife was the heaviest burden on my heart, as she could not understand any language except the language of food—bread for her children. She said, "We are not going to suffer hunger and thirst and debts from people for bread. You will not leave your work, and if you do I am taking the children and going back home to my father." I tried to read the Bible to her, but to an empty stomach it is not easy. The day of my baptism came near. I had to tell my wife, and I prayed that she might share this happy occasion with me, but she had already said she could not accept people who helped me to lose my work.

There were about sixteen members coming to baptismal class. The man who sat beside me said, "You are an employee of the government. How will you keep the Sabbath?"

I said, "For this question I need your prayers. Please pray for me that the Lord may help me." I stopped going to work on Sabbath, and it was not long before I received a letter of dismissal. I went out trying to find work, but during the month I found none. About this time I felt myself getting very weak and ill. My dear wife, seeing my condition, re-

turned to her home. My heart was broken when she left more than when I lost my work. Now I was left alone, and I was also sick, and with no money to pay a doctor. Then our pastor was kind enough to take me to a government hospital for examination. The doctor looked very sad as he said I had tuberculosis. The government hospital could not promise to find a bed for me for a month.

For a whole month I went from hospital to hospital searching for a room, but there was no vacant place. I became worse daily, but I had no hope except in Jesus, to whom I prayed, saying, "Oh Lord, give me rest and healing. I will serve Thee and witness for Thee. I am Thy child, and I leave myself in Thy care." After one of the meetings one of the missionaries saw me and spoke to the pastor to buy food for me. The next day I was taken to the hospital. There they consented to give me a mattress, but there were no beds. Hundreds were sick and suffering, but there was no place for them. For nearly another month the hospital was only able to feed me, but I received no medicines.

The Bible and the Sabbath School Lessons were my comfort. I used to read with a loud voice to let every one hear. Yes, it was a time for me to witness for Jesus. Many of the patients were Moslems, good kindly folks, and they respected the reading of the Word of God. After the third month I started to improve, and by the sixth month I was completely healed. How did this happen, when some take a year or more to find a cure? I thank the Lord who heals the soul and the body, for everything is possible to Him.

When I came out of the hospital I went to see my children. How happy I was to see them and to see my wife, who was very anxious about me, after six months absence. I told her how I had prayed for her and for the children. "Yes," she said, "I felt that. The Lord has blessed us and supplied our needs through my brother. We were sorry for you because you were sick, but are you still keeping the Sabbath?" I told her I was keeping the Sabbath and that I had been baptized and become an Adventist. She asked, "What does Adventist mean?" "What does an Adventist work at?"

"It means that I believe that Jesus will come again very soon. An Adventist has a lot to do. He is the busiest man now. He must tell everyone that Jesus is coming soon."

My pastor spoke to the mission committee, and they appointed me as a colporteur. This wonderful work is to leave in every house the message of a soon-coming Saviour. I praise

God that I was sick and I am healed. My wife has given her heart to Jesus and knows now what it means to be an Adventist. Yes, I am thankful to the Lord, but I often remember those in the hospital to whom I read the Bible. I pray often, "Dear Lord, are there no more doctors to treat Thy children when they are sick and wait for months for doctors and medicines?" Dear Sabbath School members, won't you help with your offerings this quarter to provide medical care for some of these thousands who need help in our country?

A Boon to Every Alert Adventist

That Volume IV of *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers* has just been released by the publishers will be hailed as good news by a large number of our laymen, as well as by all workers. It is now available. The production of this four-volume set constitutes the most extensive research project in our denominational history. It required twenty years to complete it, and necessitated three extensive trips to Europe to compass the Old World archives and great book collections, as well as combing all the leading libraries of North America. Even Mexico and South America yielded their quota.

Many thousands of dollars were invested by the General Conference in securing the seven or eight thousand "source" documents—originals, photostats, and microfilm copies—which constitute the matchless Advent Source Collection. These are the priceless documents upon which the *Prophetic Faith* set is based. And many additional thousands of dollars were added by the publishers, and the General Conference, in order to bring this great project to completion. But the results to date have already fully justified the investment.

These volumes correct popular misconceptions concerning Adventism. They lift our whole movement—and its fundamental teachings on the second advent, eschatology, the prophecies, the Sabbath and Sanctuary truths, and the Spirit of prophecy—to a new level, and establish their historic soundness

and certainty as never before. They remove us from the category of the cults, and establish us as the continuators and champions of the soundest and most orthodox interpretations of the Early Church and Protestant Reformation expositors. They show that we are their spiritual descendants, and constitute the present-day heralds of the truth they once held.

They provide the appealing approach to each leading religious group—Protestant, Catholic, and Jew—for all major contributions in our interpretation were anticipated and introduced by former leaders in these categories.

They provide a particularly favourable approach to all Protestant bodies, for each major group—Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, Christian, Disciple—once held what we now hold on many vital interpretations. We are thus able to emphasize points of agreement with their spiritual forefathers, before noting present-day differences caused by modern departures.

They are already in the hands of hundreds of key non-Adventist religious and educational leaders, both in the Old World and in the New, and are now in over 1,000 of the leading University, Seminary, College, Public, and special private libraries of North America, Great Britain, Europe, and other lands.

They are impressively illustrated with facsimile reproduction of title pages and key extracts from these older expositors, with original portraits of famous interpreters, scenes of historic episodes and dramatic moments specifically painted for this set. They are also an ornament to any library, as they are attractively bound in green Fabrikoid. Every progressive Adventist needs them.

SPREAD THE MESSAGE

BY SELLING

The

“West African Tidings”

No. 2—Now Ready

Getting More Stars in Your Crown

By Sarpong Mensah

The approach of 13th Sabbath should be a happy experience to every member of Sabbath School. To many, it means quite a little; that is going to church on that day and coming home to rest. But on the contrary it means quite a lot to others.

Every 13th Sabbath is the time when each and everyone is privileged to stretch his hands in contribution to the poor and the needy in other fields. But a need fully supplied is a need fully satisfied. Churches all over this country could contribute on every 13th Sabbath to fulfil the need of other fields in our Advent Mission, should a little more effort be made in planning and concentrating more also on the importance of this day.

Most churches have been doing well to raise reasonable contributions on the 13th Sabbaths, but it was found out that they could still do more when the Kumasi S.D.A. church raised an amount of £28 on the 13th Sabbath of the last Quarter of 1954.

To do this was not to sit down and warm their chairs. They had raised £14 on the previous 13th Sabbath, but the brethren found out that the question is not the amount raised but the need in the fields. They fixed a goal of £25 to be reached, and their enthusiasm and ambition was rewarded when they over rode their mark by the sum of £3.

The Sabbath programme included some interesting features, among which was a dialogue staged to introduce to the attendance more fully the importance and the need of the occasion. Memory verses were recited with willingness and increased enthusiasm. Invitations were extended to non-Adventists and this bore fruit when a visitor who was of the Anglican denomination rose holdly among the congregation amidst the songs of the Singing Band, and standing in front of the congregation, she opened her mouth and said “This is my first time of visiting an Adventist church.” And citing from the book of Matthew she continued, “and truly, Ye are the salt of this earth and I charge you not to loose the sweetness of your salt. I am looking forward to visiting you every Sabbath.” So the task was finished a grand sum of £28 realized by a small church to help the needy fields.

But how did they raise this amount? You may ask. This is as simple as it is easy. Each member did his part. Sabbath school was made more interesting. Time was taken to

plan it. There are a great many folks who would like to share with you, the interest of your Sabbath school, and you should invite them. Make some more friends and send them invitations and you will soon have them fixed permanently on your Sabbath school list.

The more impressive you are able to recite your memory verses and learn your lessons, the more success you will have in your Sabbath school. Soul winning is a privilege which the Lord has given to us in His wonderful plan of redemption.

We need to gird up our loins. This is not the time to sit down, but to work harder, this is not the time to make money but the time to give money. Plan effectively and contribute still more on our 13th Sabbath to help win souls in the fields for more stars on your crowns.

My Overseas Journeys

By Pastor C. B. Mensah

(Continued)

At the Accra Air Port, my heart began to beat faster and faster as the time approached. Like the midnight cry the call came, "all passengers to London, Tripoli, Kano and Lagos are to board the plane." The passengers who had already been separated from the others and were in a room by themselves, started the "marching in." Is the separation not being made today of the wheat from the chaff, the sheep from the goats of the peoples of this world, dear reader? Careful scrutiny and self examination to see whether you are in the faith is an all important question.

With few hand wavings to the brethren, I hurried on to take my place on the plane. All were aboard and the door was locked securely. I remembered an incident which occurred in Kumasi at the Air Port. A passenger had bought a ticket and was at the port at the right time, but he was not admitted on the plane. He was left behind, why, because he never went through all the necessary routine of the journey which would have given him the freedom of entry. At the Air Port he loitered around while the plane was waiting and thought that he was a possible passenger but at last he found himself unprepared to take off with the other passengers.

Oh, what a tragedy it will be to the unconsecrated Christians when Christ comes.

Having the form of Godliness is not enough. Bearing the name "Adventist" will not give one access to heaven. Where is your work in connection with your faith? Will be a candid question at the last day. Playing about with the safety of life is a perilous adventure.

"London, how big would it be? What are the houses like, the streets, the people and the general living in there?" These were my day dreams as I sat with wide opened eyes looking through the window of the plane.

Flying for about 20 hours at the average height of about 12,000 feet above the sea level and stopping at Lagos, Kano and Tripoli, the announcement was made that we were about to land in London.

As we circled round and round—for some planes were ahead of us—we saw the large city stretched below us with its tremendous number of buildings occupying an enormous space of land. It is no wonder if I was surprised for travelling on the bus about 20 miles through this city to the B.O.A.C's office where we had our luggage checked. Tall buildings having four to six flats, the red coloured double-decker buses which sped along the wide streets, the lovely parks and green walks were all an attraction.

Every body seemed to be running to me at first sight, and hardly can the memories of Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Kew Gardens, Madame Tussaud's Exhibition and the Tower of London fade in my mind.

New Gallery

The impressions and aweness which still have some bearings upon my heart from the film, "I beheld His glory" shown in the New Gallery at the very afternoon I reached London is great. The passion of Christ, the price He paid to save us, was so vividly portrayed that my love for the Saviour has grown more and been greatly strengthened ever since.

The Mission programme on Sabbath afternoon in the New Gallery featured a number of missionaries from various fields, including Brother and Sister Annis, Miss Beryl Turtill, also Brother and Sister W. G. Till and the writer. We dressed in West African costumes with the bright colours of Kente cloths and cotton prints. It was a scene of pageantry and attracted much attention, making a deep impression upon the audience.

"The Magazine Speaks"

By J. K. Dankwah

It was a very hot, sunny day. There seemed very little air as I waited, with a number of fellow travellers, at the lorry park. Two men beside me were engaged in conversation one with the other, when I heard the words "West African Tidings." Immediately I was all attention, what were they saying about the paper that I had been distributing in the district just a few weeks before.

"Were you at church yesterday," the one asked of the other.

"No, I stayed in bed and had a good rest," was the reply.

"Well, my friend, you certainly missed a great treat. Our pastor entered the pulpit with a copy of a paper called "West African Tidings" and he preached about that paper for a whole sermon."

"What did he have to say about that paper," asked his friend. "It is quite a new paper out here I believe. Was he against it or for it?"

"Oh he was for it without a doubt." He preached about the sin of gambling, and said that he had received wonderful light on the subject since reading the article in the magazine."

"You know," he continued, "I have been a member of the church all my life and I have never once heard any preacher tell us that as Christians we should have nothing to do with gambling."

"I wish that I had been at church yesterday," answered the other man, "for I too have never heard that Christians should not gamble."

"The pastor was very emphatic about it and has said that while he remained with us he will see that our church does not have any form of gambling in any of its activities, and urged us all to make this rule in our private lives, too."

"You should try to get a copy of that magazine and read the article for yourself," suggested his companion. "I am sure that the publishers of this magazine must be holy men of God."

How thrilled I was as I listened to this conversation and heard the wonderful words of commendation for our new evangelistic paper. Of course, I lost no time in introducing myself to them and before the lorry arrived we had the opportunity to discuss many points of our faith, especially the Second Coming of Jesus.

When we parted they were very happy and made me promise to bring them a copy of every issue of "The West African Tidings."

From Darkness to Light

By S. A. Ihemeje

Secretary, Publishing Department, East Nigeria Mission.

"Behold I will do a *new thing*; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19. I little knew as I walked to church on the first Sabbath of 1955 that I was to witness the fulfilment of this Scripture.

When the service of the Aba Township Church ended, I was told by Elder O. Eke that one of the new comers, Mr. Israel Ogbonna of Umuokpoji, Aba, wanted us to follow him to his home in order to have his idols destroyed. As the visiting evangelist of Aba Church, I went with them.



The church elder and S. A. Ihemeje, (with Bible) standing with Isaac Ogbonna and his idols.

Colporteur Report for Year 1954

Colporteurs	Hours	Deliveries		
Achor, M. N. Y.	1,464	157	15	0
Agomo, M. W.	1,263	191	19	0
Emelogu, Paul	1,325	477	1	3
Etufugh, R. N.	1,556	223	16	4
Ochingwa, T. M.	1,610	325	17	1
Onuiri, S. O.	1,321	351	18	9
Onumadu, E. A.	1,623	189	9	2
Owuala, N. E.	1,328	395	12	0
Ubani, A. A.	1,334	268	11	6
Akwalaka, I. O.	1,058	158	17	6
Miscellaneous	4,972	670	3	0
Total for East Nigeria:	18,854	3,411	1	1
Agyei, Danso	975	456	0	7
Ampim, J. K.	729	209	1	6
Ampofo I. K. (top man)	1,603	1,130	5	9
Arthur, I. G.	406	272	12	7
Baffour, H. K.	1,473	284	12	9
Boakye, Abraham	828	196	9	8
Clerk, C. A.	1,980	672	14	6
Daitey, John	1,556	522	16	6
Dankwa, J. K.	1,817	698	8	4
Glover, Vincent	279	578	14	3
Kusi, J. K.	982	271	18	4
Nkansa, E. D.	924	169	11	6
Odai, David	1,073	342	17	3
Ofori, Samuel	700	352	12	9
Quarten, J. A.	2,005	673	6	9
Twum-Antwi, B. A.	2,127	811	8	9
Brown, E. L.	1,629	523	0	0
Enim, M. A.	1,284	222	12	6
Duko-Boateng, W. O.	1,358	300	16	0
Agyemang, E. T.	1,271	329	12	8
Mensah, Dabla	346	282	1	0
Miscellaneous	4,255	1,273	1	3
Total for Gold Coast:	29,600	10,574	15	2
Assagou, George	1,383	358	4	3
Gbessin, Jacob	2,077	502	12	1
Zakka, John	777	290	18	6
Vaysse, George	417	380	12	0
Miscellaneous	60	21	15	6
Total for Ivory Coast:	4,664	1,554	2	4
Liberia Mission, Misc.	462	182	19	0
Oriaku, Hope	1,882	375	11	4
Joseph, Ladipo	1,760	274	7	4
Miscellaneous	1,394	170	0	0
Total for West Nigeria:	5,036	819	18	8
West African Union Miss:	58,616	16,542	16	3
W. A. Union in 1953	57,257	12,479	0	5
Incr. in 1954 over 1953:	1,359	33% gain	4,063	15 10

Prior to burning his idols, Mr. Ogbonna made the following statement.

"As a heathen, I have served idols for many long years, but at last I found that as there is no life in idols, so there is no salvation in them. Therefore, my hope for prosperity through idols has gone out.

"Being a bachelor, I tried to get a wife and money by the aid of my idols who promised me both, if I would only put them in a basket. Being anxious to get a wife and money I gladly purchased a basket and other things required by the idols. Instead of getting the things requested, I became hopeless and a debtor.

"It was then that I learned of the true God through a member of the Aba Church of the Seventh-day Adventists. Today I gladly burn these idols which have deceived me so long. Please pray that I shall always be free from them."

Wedding Bells Ring Again

Mr. Charles A. Kwashie D'Alphoncio and Miss Agnes Atchwei Adjetey, daughter of the late Sergeant C. F. Adjetey, were married by Pastor Horacé S. Pearce in the Accra Seventh-day Adventist Church at 4:00 p.m. on January 20.

Miss Doris Tiockor Anum, the Bride's cousin, and Mr. Derwood L. Chappell, served as Bride's Maid and Best Man respectively.

The Bride was given away by Mr. S. O. Adjei, a cousin to her late father.

A large group of friends and relatives attended the reception given by Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Pearce at the Advent Press in Christiansborg.

Both employees of The Advent Press, the newly wedded couple will make their home near Labadi. We wish for Brother and Sister D'Alphoncio God's rich blessing as they journey together in the Christian way with Jesus.

The Advent Messenger

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