

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT

# MESSENGER

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## EAST NIGERIA'S MASTER COMRADES

By Miss A. Ogbonna, Teacher, East Nigeria

Sunday the 12th June was a great day in the East Nigerian Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. On this day the Mission staged a Master Comrades' Oratorical Contest and Vocational Honour Exhibits Programme in which the following districts were actively represented: Aba, Umuobiakwa, Umuakpara, Umuahia, Emii Owerri, Ekpeye, Ogba, Umuocha, and Ibiobio.

The programme started at 3 p.m. promptly in the Aba Church building and lasted till 6 p.m. "Onward Master Comrades" was the opening hymn, after which Mr. Nwabo gave the third angels' message in the form of a recitation and then Pastor W. J. Newman the President and the M. V. Secretary for East Nigerian Field, led us to the throne of grace.

At this juncture, the contestants for the oratorical contest began to give their speeches in succession as was arranged by the chairman. These young and ambitious Master Comrades through their good command of the English language tried to show the general public the evil in smoking and drinking

intoxicants. In trying to bring out the facts point by point they kept their listeners spell-bound for the whole time they spoke. Every attendant on that day witnessed the undaunted spirit with which these youths shouldered the leadership with which they were challenged. They showed through their bold attempts the ability which they have and can use in promoting temperance in all its aspects in this Advent Movement and also to



East Nigeria's fine group of Master Comrades with their Mission President, Pastor W. J. Newman. Isaac Nwaobia, delegate to the Stockholm Youth Congress is seated on Pastor Newman's left.

give the Advent Message to all the people in the darkness of sin.

After the speeches had been made, the judges—Mrs. Newman, Mrs. E. Farrow and Pastor A. J. Dickay gave the results of the competitions excluding that of the vocational honour exhibits.

In the first place Mr. M. Dyboh won the first prize for the Aba District in Oratorical Contest, Mr. J. Ihenacho won the second prize for Umuakpara District while Messrs Odu and S. Okochi tied in the third position for Ogba and Ibibio Districts, respectively.

The Vocation Honour Exhibits which were mostly completed for by ladies were won by the following people: Miss A. Ogboma, winner of the first prize for Aba District, Miss S. Onyendi second prize for Umuocha District, and Mrs. Nzotta the third prize for the Aba District. In the end very valuable prizes were given out by Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Farrow after a very nourishing Master Comrades' dinner had been served. Every member felt cool and refreshed as we left this meeting. So we encourage and welcome more Christian gatherings where the leaders should display our Christian activities and train more youths to serve and work for the Lord, so that this message might be given to the whole world.

## I MUST

By Derwood L. Chappell

The picture on a large road sign showed a haggard youth gazing in bewilderment at a big question mark in the sky. At the bottom were printed these words: "Young man of the 20th century regards the future."

By the expression on his face, one could tell that he had no aim, no hope, no goal in life. He faced the future only in fear.

Now look at the picture of another youth, the Youth of the First Century—Jesus Christ of the Bible. What a contrast! Jesus had a definite aim, a bright hope, and a noble goal in life.

"For the joy that was set before Him He endured the Cross." Heb. 12:2. What was that joy? The answer to this question is found in Rev. 7:9 and 10.

To see this great multitude, saved by His grace, around the throne of His Father was

the aim and hope of Christ. His GOAL was to save as many men, women, and youth as possible. He said, "the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. What a noble goal in life?

Jesus had a slogan or motto to inspire Him in His efforts to reach this goal. Do you know what it was? It is recorded in Luke 4:43. It is only two words—"I MUST."

Each time He thought of His work, this motto, "I MUST," urged Him on toward His soul-saving goal. He felt compelled to labour for lost men. When tired, discouraged, or tempted, He couldn't stop. "I must, I just must, keep going," was the thought ever in His mind. No wonder He accomplished so much in so short a time.

We need the same type of love, the same conviction. How different our Ingathering Campaign would be, if more members had this deep feeling in their hearts,—causing each one to say, "I MUST,—I JUST HAVE TO DO INGATHERING."

Let's notice four ways in which Jesus used this statement, "I must." In Luke 4:43 we read where Jesus said "I MUST preach." Every day He felt that He MUST be preaching. He went everywhere preaching the gospel and helping the people. Those who do personal soliciting during Ingathering time have numerous opportunities to follow the example of Jesus in this respect. And even after they leave the donors, the pamphlets continue to preach the gospel for them.

In the time of Jesus there were no cars, but this did not deter Him from doing His heaven-appointed work. He solved His transportation problem with just three words—"I Must walk." Luke 13:33. He walked the narrow road of truth. What He thought He lived. People could see that He had a real hope, a high aim, and a worthwhile purpose in life. As a result, many concluded, "I MUST walk with Him." You may be sure that He is *walking* with you, when you are busy ingathering funds to spread His truth.

There was never a worker like Jesus. He measured not His work in hours, nor did He work with one eye of the clock, longing for "quitting time." He thought only of His sacred goal, and declared daily, "I MUST work." And work He did. He worked long days, and pray through many nights, that He might do "a large work" for mankind. He kept saying "I MUST." The Lord is waiting for more of His children to determine with Christ, "I MUST work" during the ingathering campaign.

Why did Jesus feel that He must, preach, walk, and work? John 10:16 reveals the answer. Speaking of the "other sheep," He stated, "I MUST bring." He knew that all His preaching, walking and working would be in vain, unless "I bring souls." And isn't that the ultimate goal of our Ingathering Campaign—to bring souls to Christ?

Ingathering brings three types of souls to Christ. The donors are invited to seek after God; the funds gathered carry the gospel to people afar, and as solicitors enter into the blessed experience of being "co-labourers with God," their own souls are brought into a happier fellowship with their Saviour. This is especially true for those whose motive for soliciting is, like that of Christ's, "I MUST BRING SOULS."

Christ is calling every member to follow His example of self-denial and self-sacrifice in working for the conversion of sinners. It is this self-sacrificing spirit—the spirit of Christ which made him say "I MUST"—generated in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, that will enable us to achieve our Ingathering goal.

"IF YOU WOULD HELP MEN,  
HEAVEN TO GAIN—  
DO YOUR HONEST PART  
IN THIS CAMPAIGN."

NOTE: We encourage the pastors, evangelists, teachers, colporteurs, and other English literate men to read this appeal to members who can't read English.

## Publishing Department News

By D. L. Chappell

Union Publishing Dept, Secretary

The West Nigerian Mission recently appointed Brother Hope Oriaku of Lagos to the post of Publishing Secretary. He is the first African to hold this important position.

Hope entered the colporteur ministry in the city of Lagos in October 1952, and has since laboured faithfully as a literature evangelist.

The "West African Colporteur of 1955," Israel K. Ampofo of Jasikan, Togoland, who delivered over £1,100 worth of Adventist literature last year, has been appointed Assis-

tant Publishing Department Secretary for the Gold Coast Mission.

With a background of three years of successful literature evangelism, Brother Ampofo will be able to render valuable service to the colporteur force in the Gold Coast.

Pastor G. D. King, Publishing Department Secretary for the Northern European Division of Seventh-day Adventists with offices in London, will assist in conducting colporteur institutes for the colporteurs in the Gold Coast, East Nigeria, and the student colporteurs at Nigerian Training College during September and October. He will also spend a short time with the colporteurs in the Ivory Coast. We welcome him to our promising field.

## Helps in Testimony Study

We have just been advised of the reprinting of the Outline Studies from the Testimonies by Clifton L. Taylor. This is a wonderful book for one who desires to study the Testimonies by topics. Following is what the Review and Herald Bulletin says about it.

Elder Taylor's work of teaching classes in Testimony study has been widely known and appreciated throughout the years. Four editions of his book have been used by students in Seventh-day Adventist schools. In this revised and enlarged fifth edition the author, following the counsel of the trustees of the White Publications, has reorganized his book to meet the needs of the average Adventist home. In the wider use of this material as a home and personal study guide, additional thousands of our people can now share, since educational features have been minimized and personal character development and home organization sections have been expanded. Many will welcome this new book as the answer to their long-felt need of guidance in reading and studying the writings of Ellen G. White. In the popular Christian Home Library format this book will be easily within the financial reach of all. Will contain around 500 pages fully indexed. Price, cloth \$2.00, deluxe \$2.75, about 15/- and £1.0.0. plus postage.

I trust that our workers and members will take advantage of this opportunity to get this good book which has been out of print for some time. It is excellent for home or class study. Order through your Book & Bible House.

Editor.



The Royal Palace, Stockholm

What a privilege is afforded some of our West African Youth in being able to attend the Northern European Youth's Congress held in Stockholm, Sweden. As I write this I hear of good reports of their visit under Pastor D. V. Cowin's leadership to Britain and the New Gallery Evangelistic Centre. May God bless them and bring them back full of inspiration to lead the West African Youth forward in a great drive of Youth Evangelism.

Editor.

## W. B. Ackah—Gold Coast



Mr. William B. Ackah a native of Kikam, of the Nzima tribe was born in Kumasi on the 30th November, 1924 of Adventist Parents. He was educated at the Obuasi Catholic Middle school and entered Bekwai S.D.A. Seminary in 1944 to do a year's course in Evangelism.

He was one of the pioneers who entered the Training College to take the certificate "B" course. In 1948 he took the certificate "A" course at Bekwai, being one of the first four to take such a course in the Mission.

While in the field as a Teacher he took an active part in leading young people in the M.V. work. He was the district M.V. leader at Agona and held several Youth Camps in the district.

He has been a headmaster in several of our Gold Coast schools. In 1952, he was called to become the Assistant M.V. and Sabbath

# West African Deleg The Stockholm

School Secretary of the Gold Coast Mission. He is now the acting M.V. and Sabbath School Secretary. Brother Ackah has a wife and two children.

## Isaac Nwaobia—East Nigeria



Isaac Nwaobia is an enthusiastic youth leader and loves his work of teaching young children. He is 29 years old, married to a girl with 7 years teaching experience and now has three children. He has been teaching for 12 years including four years training in our college.

Why was Brother Nwaobia chosen to represent East Nigeria as the Stockholm Youth's Congress? For some time we have been looking for a suitable M.V. Leader to lead a great throng of young people of over 10,000 strong. In looking over our 250 workers both evangelists and school teachers the committee was unanimous in agreeing that Isaac Nwaobia was the best qualified to take up the leadership of our young people.

When he was approached regarding the call it was pointed out that his salary would not necessarily be as much as he would receive in the teaching profession. However, in expressing himself he said how happy he was that God has opened up the way for him to do the kind of work he loved. While it would be a hardship to him financially, yet he could not refuse to respond to what he believed to be the call of God.

# Union Mission ites to Youth's Congress

We have confidence that we have chosen a man that will be a loyal and enthusiastic leader of our young people throughout this large field of East Nigeria.

## J. A. Oyelakin—West Nigeria



If you could travel 250 miles into the jungle of Nigeria, you will find an interesting village with the name Ipoti, a place where Christianity has broken down the old heathen temples, a place where the Seventh-day Adventist Mission plays an important part.

This is the home of Mr. J. A. Oyelakin, who was born around 1918. There were fourteen children in the family but only two of them are today living. Mr. Oyelakin, who is a Yoruba man, has got all his education in schools belonging to the Seventh-day Adventist Mission. He is to-day holding a certificate as Higher Elementary Teacher. He is the Supervisor of all our schools in West Nigeria. Teaching is his life calling and nothing interests him so much as a group of children who are anxious to get more education. But he is not yet satisfied. He is looking forward to a higher examination and he is planning to stay in England after the Congress in order to fulfil his plans. When returning to Nigeria he will continue to work for God which has been his great interest through the years.

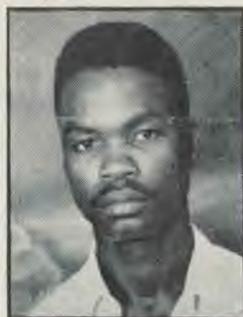
What kind of hobbies has Mr. Oyelakin? If I tell you the fact that Mr. Oyelakin is



House of Parliament, Stockholm

father to five beautiful children between one and ten years of age, can each one of you understand how much time there will be left over for hobbies. Mr. Oyelakin loves his home. It is a good Christian Home, where the family altar has its given place. If there should be any time left over after looking after the family, Mr. Oyelakin likes to spend it out on the farm or in the little garden.

## Charles Karmo—Liberia



Charles Karmo, the Liberia delegate, is one who for years has been keenly interested in evangelism. Back in 1948 his deep interest in evangelism led to his being sent to Freetown to join Pastor Simons in his evangelistic campaign. Returning from Sierra Leone he pursued

this line of work with a new zeal. He has been very active with the teaching and evangelistic work at Konola as well as other places outside.

He is very much interested and has been very active in the Missionary Volunteer work. This was a big factor in his being chosen as the delegate to the Youth's Congress. May God give him a new vision there of the work to be done by our young people and the best methods of doing it.

# SIERRA LEONE

## *Field of Possibilities*

By Pastor A. M. Moyer

President, Sierra Leone Mission

Too often the Sierra Leone Mission is referred to as the Field of many problems. While it is true that it probably has more than its share of problems, yet there are great possibilities. Elisha and his servant were in the same house and looked at the same window but saw differently. It was with this thought that the members of the field committee approached the long list of items on the Agenda which included the approving of the budget.

The seven African members of the committee which consists of five Pastors, one teacher and one wife of a former missionary (who died in Sierra Leone) from Jamaica, have combined service of over 200 years. With this wealth of experience we were fortunate to have the help of our Union President, Pastor J. O. Gibson. Plans were made for the advancement of the work in this challenging field.

While we don't anticipate opening many new schools within the next year we do plan to strengthen our present ones. From the beginning of the year, two of our schools have increased with pupils that additional teachers had to be employed. Two school buildings are now being built, one of which is nearly completed. We now have three schools which are offering standard VI. These schools will turn out candidates from which workers can be chosen. Plans have been made to send two down the coast for Teacher Training in 1956. Our evangelistic work has been strengthened by the addition of three new evangelistic interns trained at Ibie. They will contribute greatly to strengthening our present work as well as opening new work. Provision has been made to send two young men for evangelistic training next year.

God in His providence is raising up young men to carry the burden of the older men in this field who have given of their lives to the cause of God.

Another stride forward, giving way to African leadership, was the reorganization of Sierra Leone Mission into four Districts with African leaders over each. District committees will consider the details of each local district

before recommendations are brought to the field committee. This reorganization will give more time to the problems of the various departments and special projects which are cared for by the Mission officers.

With the able support of our Pastors, evangelists and teachers in the field and the co-operation of our office staff, I am confident that the work will go forward. Thus far this year, substantial gains have been made in tithes and offerings. We look forward to having a good number baptized this year. We solicit the prayers of our sister mission fields and institutions that God's spirit may be poured out upon us here in this field where the Advent message first started in West Africa.

### Ministerial Institute Bo, Sierra Leone 16-19 May, 1955

Our Mission compound is beautifully located on a hill on the out-skirts of the largest commercial centre in the Protectorate of Sierra Leone. A tree-laden roadway leads up to green carpet lawns surrounding the Mission office, the school, and the houses of staff members and of Mission officers. The view from the compound is a very scenic one. We are surrounded by majestic hills and valleys adorned with the crowns of the very prevalent palm trees.

This was the setting for the eight Pastors and seven Evangelists as they come together from their various stations throughout Sierra Leone. Pastor Gibson opened the Institute on Monday evening with a challenging message from Deuteronomy 31:6, "Be strong and of good courage."

The various Pastors and Mission officers took part in the devotions and the discussion. On Tuesday morning, Brother A. Karlman, auditor of the Northern European Division took the devotional period. Pastor J. B. Terry, a worker of many years service, made a very fine contribution as he drew from his wealth of experience.

Unfortunately Pastor S. F. Tharawoli became ill on the same day the Institute began. He was taken to the hospital and operated on. He missed all the meetings but by this time he has left the hospital and is recuperating at his home. We thank the Lord for his speedy recovery.

The closing meeting was in the form of a testimonial and consecration service conducted by the writer. In the short time we were associated together, we beheld the wonderful possibilities of the work in the Sierra Leone Mission.

## Open Doors in Calabar

By Edgar E. Hulbert

A few Sabbaths ago I stood with my family in front of the huge granite cross which marks the last resting place of Mary Slessor, intrepid pioneer missionary to the peoples of Calabar. Used mightily of God, this daughter of Scotland led many of the Efik people, and not a few Ibos, to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and of His saving love. As we stood near that silent cross, dominating the whole cemetery, and overlooking the broad expanse of the Calabar river; as we thought of the sacrifices and heroic efforts of that great woman, our hearts were moved with the consciousness of our mission—to carry to these same people the knowledge of the soon return of Jesus. She taught them the gospel of salvation; we, with God's help, must complete the work by preparing all whom we can persuade to listen to get ready for the great day when Jesus will finish that work of salvation by coming to claim His own. With heads bowed, we prayed God to help us so to surrender our lives to Him that He might use us as He used Mary Slessor, and give us many souls in this new town and among the Efik people.

Good ground work has been done by Brother Achor, whose zealous colporteurship has placed many books in the homes of the people and inclined many hearts to hear the truth. Our first work was to begin a plan of Home Visitation. On our first visit we would go two by two, then, on subsequent visits we went alone. In this way we are able to cover more ground. In each home we left literature and had prayer. After four or five visits we invited those who are interested to form Neighbourhood Bible Classes, where from two to eight or ten people would gather in one home to study the Bible. We have prepared test papers which follow quite closely the material in

the new tracts put out by the Advent Press. We studied the lesson with the class, then leave the tract and test paper, which they answer and give to us the following week. Here in Calabar we have ten such classes, with a total membership of forty three. There are other interested people, and we hope to form more classes shortly.

In addition to these, we also have two Hearer's Classes, one in Calabar, and one in Oron across the river, where there is also a Probationer's Class formed of three very interested people, who have already shown themselves well acquainted with the Advent Message. We hope to baptise these, with possibly one other from Calabar, before the end of the year.

One week-end I spent in Oron with our little group of interested people there, under the care of Evangelist Awuloha. I found a very good interest, which is largely due to the zeal of Paul Ekpendu, a lay-member who is not yet baptized, but has interested many in the message. I believe that the work in Oron will grow quickly, though separated from us in Calabar by fifteen miles of water and an expensive ferry trip.

We hope to begin shortly some public meetings in the Masonic Hall here in Calabar, where we shall also hold our church services. The Lodge Committee is favourably disposed toward us, and we are getting it at a very reasonable rate, largely due to the good offices of my landlord, who is an influential member of the Lodge. This is a providential opening, as many of the Lodge members are likely to attend who might not attend in a less suitable meeting place.

Several of the chief men of this part of the town are showing a very real interest in our work. As one of them remarked to me the other day, "We are watching to see what you will do!" We have heard many such remarks. Our visitation programme has stirred up a very real interest, and we believe there will be many of these dear souls who will turn from looking to see what we will do to see what God will do in their own hearts and lives.

As we look at the promising openings, we are encouraged to go forward in faith; yet as we look at ourselves and realise our own weakness and insufficiency, we know that we cannot go forward without the consciousness of your prayers. Please pray for us, that as workers together with God, the Holy Spirit may use us as His instruments to gather out a remnant from this beautiful town of Calabar.

## News Notes

An Evangelistic Institute including all evangelists and many leading teachers was recently held in Ibadan, West Nigeria. The West Nigerian workers are keenly interested in Evangelistic Plans. More complete report will follow in a later issue.

Dr. H. Lamp returned on July 25th to take up his work as Medical Director of Jengre Hospital. He has just spent 3 months at the Ife Hospital during which time Dr. Petersen has been caring for the Hospital at Jengre.

Dr. Bergman is arriving in Lagos on the 21st of September with his family. He is from the Southern European Division, and will spend a few months gaining experience at Ife Hospital, prior to his joining the staff at the new Hospital in North Cameroons.

The West Nigerian field has been re-organized in the 6 districts and district Committees are being appointed to put the district leaders in their respective districts. Pastor Adeoye has been appointed as a Field Evangelist in addition to caring for a district.

By the time this paper reaches you, the August Efforts in West Nigeria as well as the Gold Coast will probably be over. In West Nigeria this plan was tried out for the first time and 18 efforts were held. We hope to tell you more of the success later.

We welcome Mr. and Sister J. Farrell to the Secondary School, Bekwai. He will teach Science.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Fordham and their family to Jengre. Brother and Sister

Hubbard are leaving Jengre soon to join the Staff at the Kwahu Hospital. We are happy to hear the report that the Kwahu Hospital has the ward space full and some of the ward patients have been of necessity cared for in private or semi-private rooms. Out-patients attendances are very heavy.

We appreciate the strong support giving by the Ife Hospital staff to the Effort in Ilesha. We trust many souls have been won.

We are sorry to announce that Sister H. Pearce has been very ill and has undergone a surgical treatment in England. Many of us have been praying for Sister H. Pearce, and we are glad to report that she is getting along nicely. Let us remember her in our prayers.

Congratulations to Brother and Sister H. Pearce on the arrival of a new son.



## Tithe

### Arrangement Made by Jesus

"All should remember that God's claims upon us underlie every other claim. He gives to us bountifully, and the contract which He has made with man is that a tenth of his possessions shall be returned to God. The Lord graciously entrusts to His stewards His treasures, but of one tenth He says, This is Mine. Just in proportion as God has given His property to man, so man is to return to God a faithful tithe of all his substance. This distinct arrangement was made by Jesus Christ Himself."—6T 384.

## At Rest

### A. A. Phillipps

East Nigeria has suffered a great loss in the death of Mr. A. A. Phillipps the headmaster of the Elele School. For a period of 18 years, brother Phillipps gave valuable service to the Mission as a teacher. The writer together with Pastor Imebuogu, Mr. Ihemeie and three other of our teachers from the Aba School went to Bakana to conduct the burial service on Wednesday 22nd June. The large attendance at the funeral service demonstrated the esteem with which our late brother Phillipps was held in the eyes of his townspeople.

We offer our sincere condolence and sympathy to the wife and children of the deceased.

A. F. Farrow.

## *The Advent Messenger*

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