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PRAISE, PRAYER and SACRIFICE

A personal message from
our Division President

Pastor A. F. TARR

In common with the Advent family all over the world, we in the Northern European Division approach with grateful hearts the coming of another week of prayer and sacrifice. We are deeply conscious of the many mercies and favours of which for the past twelve months we have been the unworthy recipients. And we want this coming week to be an occasion when fervent gratitude shall ascend from every heart to the One who has guarded and guided and blest us so abundantly.

The Psalmist, so irrepressible in his praise, declared: It is good to sing praises unto our God: for it is pleasant: and praise is comely." Praise is less comely today than it was in David's day, and we believe that this week of prayer would be singularly inspiring to our churches and pleasing to the heart of God if praise might be accorded a dominant note in all of our gatherings.

We want this coming week of prayer also to be a time when fresh and hitherto un-receivable blessings shall be sought. And, dear fellow-members and workers, how greatly these added blessings are needed! As a church we have set our hands to a task that can never be accomplished by human resources alone. Too long have we struggled in our own strength and with the limited power that our faith and prayers have claimed. With earnest supplications and unbounded faith let us during this week of prayer reach out for the promised power and the latter-day showers of His Spirit that God has wanted so long to bestow.

When the first advent was due, it was while the "whole multitude" of people were praying, that God honoured their prayers and set plans in motion for the coming of the Messiah's fore-runner and for the Messiah Himself. Of this great occasion we read:

"And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And there appeared . . . an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. . . . And the angel said, 'Fear not,

Zacharias . . . thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shall call his name John. . . . And many of the children of Israel shall be turned to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias . . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1:10-17.

In these days when we, too, must "make ready a people prepared for the Lord," is it not reasonable to expect that God will again acknowledge with His power the united prayers of His remnant people? And what better time to ask Him do this than during this coming week of prayer?

But for more than our service for others do we need to pray. In our individual lives there are needs—needs that we may never have expressed to others and of which we alone, save God, are aware. Some of these needs may embrace that "weight," that "sin which doth so easily beset us." what a joy this week will bring, and how long it will live in our memory, if by God's grace we surrender every cherished idol, and find ourselves at the week's close on that "higher ground" of which we love to sing.

In addition to this being a week of prayer, it is a week of sacrifice. Our desire to see

the work of God advanced, and our plea that God will do great things toward that end, should ascend from willing hearts. "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power" is a picture God cherishes of His remnant people. It may be that in past years sacrifice has not been given a large enough place in our personal programme and that in this respect we should examine ourselves and now give to the Lord what we believe is His due. Sabbath November 19, when, the annual offering is taken, would be a good time to make any personal adjustment in respect of our offerings. The normal offering suggested for that day is the equivalent of a week's salary which we earnestly hope all of our workers, and as many of our lay members as possible, will give. Let us all be generous with the Lord, reflecting in our gifts to Him a measure of the love He showed in His supreme gift to us.

And so we commend this week of prayer and sacrifice to every member in the Northern European Division, earnestly believing that our united praise, prayer and sacrifice will honour God's cause, multiply His church, and hasten His coming.

THE HOUR IS LATE

By A. V. OLSON

Vice President, General Conference

Another year is rapidly drawing to a close. It has been a hectic year—the international situation has been fraught with danger and the whole world has lived in fear of another blood bath. We thank God that the winds of strife have been restrained and that the tension has been eased somewhat. People are breathing more freely again. The immediate future, they feel, looks a little more promising. What God will permit to come upon the world tomorrow, He only knows. We must trust Him and press forward with courage and confidence.

Notwithstanding the stress and strain of the year that is now passing into history, the work of God has moved steadily forward. Great victories have been won. Thousands of souls that were bound in the chains of superstition and sin have been set free to rejoice in the

"Blessed Hope." The Advent Movement has lengthened its cords and strengthened its stakes. When the records are all in and tabulated, we believe it will be seen that the year 1955 has been the most prosperous year in our history.

Recognizing that these achievements of the past has been due to the good hand of God that has been upon us, we humbly give all praise and honour and glory unto Him from whom all blessings flow. With courage and confidence we face the future, determined to press forward in the battle until the final victory is won and the Lord of heaven shall come to gather home His saints. The only thing that stands between us and that glorious event is the finishing of the work of God on earth. This is a stupendous task. At times our minds may almost stagger when we think

of the size of the unfinished task. But not for one moment must we permit our faith to waver. With the help and blessing of God it can and will be accomplished.

God stands ready to do His share. There will be no delay because of failure or neglect on His part. How is it with us? Are we ready to do our share? God has chosen us to be His co-labourers. We are to be His ambassadors, His witnesses, His messengers. By consistent lives, by voice and by pen, we are to proclaim God's last message to all the inhabitants of earth. To every land and clime, to the most wicked city as well as to the most peaceful island, the message must go.

This will call for faithful, devoted service and for sacrificial giving. The reports that come to us from many a mission field tell of marvellous openings and of urgent needs. Heart stirring appeals come to us for more men and means with which to meet the most urgent needs. Think of the South African Division, for instance, with 90,000 souls in the baptismal classes and more converts constantly pressing in. To properly instruct and establish these growing multitudes in the faith and to garner in the golden grain calls for a vast army of workers. Yes, it calls for a growing army. Unfortunately, the leaders have been compelled, because of lack of funds, to ask some of the missionaries who have come home on furlough, not to return. The same thing has happened in some of the South Sea Islands.

This has been a crushing blow to our struggling, over-worked labourers. Brethren and sisters, if you could have been present at some of these mission committee meetings, you would have seen strong, stalwart and experienced committee members, heart-broken and weeping bitterly over the situation. They know not how to cope with the problem. This ought not to be. They must have help. New recruits should be going forward to swell the ranks.

For this to be realized there must be a more liberal flow of funds into the treasury of the Lord. It is high time that our members around the world join in earnest prayer for God to send a new spirit of sacrifice into the hearts of His people in every land in order that more workers may be employed without delay. May God help us increase Sabbath School offerings week by week, and by His grace, shall we not make the Annual Offering on the last Sabbath of the Week of Prayer, the biggest in our history? God will bless every cheerful giver.

The 1955 evangelistic team, S. D. A. Church, Yaba, Lagos.

1955 Evangelism In Lagos —A Success

By Hope Oriaku

The Lord, on the last meeting of our public evangelism (which began on April 24 and ended on Sunday, May 29, in the Lishabi Hall, Ebute Metta), surprised our evangelistic team with encouragement as He increased the number of the audience on the last night of the effort by an average of 40 per cent. No doubt, the topic of the lecture of that night "The Gate-way To A New Life"—(Baptism), contributed to the increased attendance.

We thank all the brethren who prayed for the success of this effort. Never in our previous public efforts in this city had the children attended our lectures more than this and never before has the audience sang so well the choruses with the members as of the recent one.

Our regular audience included some nursing mothers with their babes on their backs and some ministers of other denominations.

Some of the questions that worried the minds of the people were: "What sign will show that Christ will come again?"; "What is the evil effect of tobacco and alcohol?"; and questions about the true Sabbath.

A Period of Dead Silence

The audience were held spell bound when the lecturer read from the Holy Scriptures about the second coming of Christ, and when he narrated moral principles as being the only true and sure ways of maintaining the body.



Lecture on Battle of Armageddon

I glanced at the faces of the people in the hall that night, I noticed that some mouths were agape and some eyes were gazing on Pastor Adeoye and his interpreter Mr. Ola while he discussed the points concerning the "Battle of Armageddon."

Decision Cards Signed

On Wednesday, May 25 during the lecture on "Why Did Jesus Die?" I saw two of my faithful prospects in the hall including Mr. E. O. Ita of the Marine Department, who bought *These Days of Destiny* in 1952, and has attended our Sabbath School this year three times. Mr. Ita has written to our church to pray for him because he has decided to keep the Sabbath but his employers refused to grant him "off duty" on Sabbath Days. After the lecture of that night, our evangelist team left the hall with names of the people who signed the decision cards to serve the Lord and observe the Sabbath Day.

On May 28 being the Sabbath Day, five among the people attended the Sabbath School, and they were presented to the congregation and prayers were offered for them. On the following Sabbath, two others joined the crusade.

Historical end of the Lecture

Before 7.30 p.m., the hall had been half full but the lecturer had not come; when he arrived and started the lecture on "The Gateway To A New Life . . ." (this was the eleventh lecture and the end), all the seats in the hall had been occupied.

The lecturer, in explaining the spiritual significance of baptism, also testified that baptism is not enough without the love of God shed abroad in the hearts of men, and without a complete surrender to Christ, there can be no change in the life of the person baptized.

Silence followed this little speech, and the people were eager to hear more but it was time for the final prayer. On Sunday, May 29, the two District Evangelists brothers J. A. Adeniji (from Otta) and J. Ottoide (from Abeokuta) departed to their respective stations.

"As did Abraham, they are to pay tithe on ALL they POSSESS and ALL they RECEIVE. A faithful tithe is the Lords portion. To withhold it is to rob God. Every man should freely, willingly and gladly; bring tithes and offerings into the storehouse of the Lord, because in so doing there is a blessing. There is no safety in withholding from God His portion."—E. G. White, In MS 159-99.

EAST NIGERIA**NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT****Hospital**

The foundation stone for the Ahoada hospital was laid by the Hon Dr. I. Okpara, Minister of Health, Eastern Region. We are to operate this hospital, the agreement having already been signed. Dr. Nagel our Medical Secretary for West Africa, the Resident and other high officials were present at the ceremony.

Evangelism

Evangelistic efforts are operating in all of our 18 districts. So far we have baptized over 300 souls this year. Pastor Hulbert has over 40 interested people in Calabar with whom he has been conducting Bible Classes. Pastor Onwere reports of growing interest in the Warri area.

M. V. Department

Brother I. Nwaobia our delegate to Sweden has been sending back glowing reports of the congress and his visits to the churches. We look forward to his inspiring leadership when he returns to this field.

Treasury Department

While Pastor and Mrs. Nielsen are on furlough Pastor A. J. Dickay has been Acting Secretary Treasurer. He is doing an excellent work which speaks well for the future African leadership.

"God Speaks to Modern Man"

This has been received very well, already we have ordered 250 copies and orders are still coming in. We believe it will accomplish a wonderful amount of good as it is placed in the hands of the leading men of this region.

Woman's Institute

25 women delegates from all of our districts are attending a ten-day Women's Institute at Ihie. The individual districts have been responsible for the expenses involved so that the women can return and conduct similar classes in their districts to help the women in our churches. Miss Nuka and her co-workers are to be commended for this splendid course for I believe much good will be accomplished in this needy sphere of God's work.

Sgd. W. J. Newman.

GOLD COAST NEWS

The Gold Coast ministerial Council held in April which was opened with the 36 evangelists and later joined by the 86 certificated teachers brought inspiration and revival to the Gold Coast Mission. The timely counsels of the Union Superintendent, Pastor J. O. Gibson, the president, Pastor H. J. Welch and the African workers presented a new sense of duty and encouragement. With determination to win more souls for the Master the workers pledged themselves to give an unreserved service as they scattered to their fields of labour.

Work has been started on the two dormitories of the Secondary School at Bekwai. This indeed is encouraging as a need for them has long been felt by the Seminary Board and the students.

Laymen Activities. The laymen are grouping themselves for an active service. In the Kumasi district they have organized themselves into bands visiting and strengthening the new and weak churches. One band went to a dying company with only 4 members left and held a revival meeting, visiting the homes of the people and the back sliders, resulting in 36 more souls being won, before they left. Thank God for our laymen.

Another band has been holding a series of meetings and has opened a new company of about 6 believers. They hope to win more at the end of the campaign.

On Sabbaths they go to the nearby churches that do not have efficient leadership and teach them Sabbath School and baptismal class lessons.

One of our workers held an effort at a village and won some members from another denomination. They were convinced of the true Sabbath. The minister of that denomination after hearing the conversion of his members into our faith was embarrassed and to win his members back threw an open challenge for the discussion of the Sabbath in public.

Miss Ruth F. Smith, instructor in the Secondary Department at Bekwai is seen here, demonstrating to an interested group, the preparation of balanced meals for the family.

Assisted by another minister they tried in vain to prove their points before a large audience. In consequence of that more souls were won who are now preparing to build a church.

The District Committees have started making their plans for the August effort. They hope to win many more souls this year. Pray for them.

Institute Held at Bekwai for Pastors' wives

The first institute for the minister's wives in the Gold Coast was held recently at the Bekwai Training College under the direction of Miss Ruth F. Smith, instructor in the Secondary Department. Closely associated with Miss Smith was Miss Mary Amponsah who gave willingly of her vacation time to help with the meetings and the translation.

The purpose of the institute was to help the women to be better minister's wives in the home and in the community. The nine-day programme was full of interesting talks and demonstrations.

Staff members participating on the programme were, Mr. J. A. Mensah, who had a series of Twi lessons, Mr. E. K. Boateng, a talk on health and Pastor J. K. Amoah, who had charge of the evening meetings. Mrs. Norman C. Maberly, wife of the Secondary Headmaster helped with the sewing classes, and Mrs. Arnold C. Sparks wife of the Principal of the Training College gave a demonstration on Child Care. The guest speakers were: Pastor C. B. Mensah, acting President of the



Gold Coast Mission, Mrs. John Rigby, wife of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Mission and Mrs. W. A. Addo, wife of one of the staff members.

A two-day session was held on foods stressing how to provide a well balanced diet for the family. The women were eager to learn how to prepare their local food attractively. The high-light of the foods session was a demonstration on various ways to make dessert. The women not only watched when the food was being prepared but were given an opportunity to sample each dessert.

As the Dorcas Society is the major auxiliary in the church, instruction was given on how to become good Dorcas leaders and members. To demonstrate Dorcas spirit, the women visited many needy persons, and the local hospital where they sang and prayed.

They were also instructed on how to select materials wisely and given a chance to purchase materials at the market to make clothes for their little ones.

In many of the places where the women live, there are no Dorcas Societies; however, these women have determined to go back to their villages and take up the work with the help of God. This was the first meeting of its kind and we hope and pray that it will be the beginning of a series of them. May God ever bless the wives of our ministers as they go forward proclaiming to others a soon coming Saviour.

Bekwai District Revivals

By N. C. Maberly, Headmaster
Bekwai Secondary School

Three churches in the Bekwai District—Kokofu, Abodom, Jacobu—were recently greatly strengthened and blessed through revival meetings conducted by the seven Advanced Evangelists in Training at the Bekwai Seminary.

Using a technique of approach that was somewhat new to them, the evangelists held five meetings in each place. The first night was used to build up interest and create the sense of a need in the hearts of members. This was done by use of the topic "Be Ye Also Ready" showing the certainty of Christ's coming; the nearness of His coming; and the need to be ready. This was followed by a strong appeal based on the parable of the Ten Virgins

and the people responded in a wonderful way.

On the following nights the cry, "Be Ye Also Ready" was repeated again and again. It was shown that in order to be ready it is necessary to have Christ in the life and heart; to live a life of prayer; to have Christ in the home; to be honest and faithful stewards; to be loyal, active members of God's true church on earth.

Coloured film strips were used, prayer bands organized, after meetings and testimony meetings called for and literature given to those who read. Music on several of the nights was provided by the Bekwai church choir and other groups from the Seminary.

Although the meetings did much in making the revivals successful, it is certain that most of the success came as a result of the personal visitation work done by the evangelists day by day. Many backsliders and luke-warm members were prayed with and encouraged to renew their determination to be ready for that soon-coming day of the Lord. As a result, each of these three churches now have members with them that have not enjoyed true Christian fellowship for many months or years. Also, the regular members have been left stronger than ever.

We need more revivals in our churches. We need workers who will devote more time to the soul-needs of those in their care. We need more men who will take time to visit and pray with discouraged and backsliding friends in the churches. A systematic revival plan based on proven and accepted techniques and regularly carried on throughout all the churches in all the districts of West Africa would assure the Lord of a bountiful harvest when He comes.

Bekwai District Partial Report

By O. K. Amoah, District Leader

We have a busy time during the second term of this year. The members of the Bekwai Church "share your faith" group have worked very hard, and have won ten souls, who are attending our Sabbath School regularly. This group is composed of Seminary baptized students.

Also we are happy to report that eleven souls were baptized at Jacobu of whom two were Seminary students, more are preparing for baptism.

Our *Evangelistic Campaigns* have just ended and our workers through the grace of God won 78 souls in five efforts. We praise the Lord for these additional souls, and pray earnestly that they may be established.

Spot News from Bekwai

Mr. and Mrs. John Farrell and 15 month old son Ian arrived via the M.V. Accra August 22nd. Mr. Farrell will be the science and mathematics master in the Secondary Department. He has spent several years in a similar position in Scotland.

Pastor Amos Amofah from the Agona district has been invited to be the guest speaker for the fall week of prayer. We are looking forward to a good number of baptisms at the close of this spiritual season.

As the students are returning to school from the August efforts the reports are varied, but interesting. Some report very good results while others report considerable opposition from various quarters. The advanced Evangelists had a wonderful opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge into practical use against some of this opposition. We are also happy to report that the advanced Evangelists have had amazingly good results in some of their church revivals.

The building programme is continuing strong as ever. Among other things the new kitchen will be in operation at the beginning of the 3rd term. The new Secondary dormitories are started. The field has done an excellent job in raising sufficient funds, with the Mission help to build two dormitories. However this will not completely satisfy the need so we hope and pray the people of the Gold Coast keep behind the programme until the goal is reached.

IVORY COAST MISSION BOUAKE MISSION STATION

The compound is 24,000 sq. meters and since 1953, 4 buildings have been erected: A double garage occupied by our African colporteur and school teacher, the Mission house, the 3-classroom school, and one semi-detached house for the African Evangelist and one married Evangelistic student. A second similar house is being built at present.

Quick growing "cassias" have been planted along the limits of the compound; new drives have been made and decorated with trees and red leaved border plants. The bush has been cut to plant the school children's vegetable and flower gardens, the workers' gardens and to make the school sports field including football and volley ball fields. Now, with the rainy season, the Mission Station looks quite presentable and nice and the parents and other visitors who come to see us every now and again can really admire it.

David John Clarke

David John Clarke was born in England on the 29th of January 1909. He fell asleep in Jesus at the London tropical Hospital on the 23rd of August 1955. He had devoted 19 years of his life to the ministry and missionary service.

Brother Clarke received his higher education at Newbold College in England. He entered denominational work in August of 1936 as an assistant minister at Middlesborough, England. He spent nearly ten years as a Gospel Minister in England and early in 1946 he was called to West Africa. He had longed to share his faith in a mission land and readily accepted the call. He arrived in the Gold Coast in May of that year and took up the task of Secretary-Treasurer for the Gold Coast Mission. Along with this work he always took a keen interest in preaching the message to those around him.

In September of 1949 Brother Clarke was asked to go to North Nigeria to care for that field during the furlough period of Doctor Hyde. He was much loved by the workers there. In May of 1950 he moved to Koforidua as Station Director for a short time and was then called as Secretary-Treasurer of the Gold Coast Mission. He served in this capacity for about a year and then he was transferred to Ibadan where he served as Secretary-Treasurer for that field for a year.

In November of 1952 he took up duties as an Evangelist in Freetown. Here he worked faithfully until just a few weeks prior to his death. Freetown, as we all know is a hard city in which to work. Brother Clarke did much, however, during his stay there to break down prejudice towards our mission and to win many friends for it. His many articles from time to time and his feature "Weekly Meditations" which were published in the Daily Mail brought much favourable comment to himself and for our work. He held the record in West Africa for number of column inches in the Press over a given period. Certainly his good articles will live after him.

He was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in the Freetown church on the 29th of February this year. On this occasion he gave an inspiring testimony of his life's work to that time and his deep desire to continue as a servant of the Master. Crowning his efforts was a baptism which he held on the 11th of June when two of his converts were buried with

their Lord in baptism. Shortly after this he returned home on furlough. When examined by the doctors he was found to be very seriously ill. He had, about 18 months previously, had a tumor of the eye and was flown home to have his eye removed. He had endured this hardship as a good soldier of Christ and quickly returned to his post of duty.

Pastor Clarke will be greatly missed in Freetown and by his co-workers both African and Overseas throughout West Africa. He leaves to mourn, a wife, Doris; one daughter, Ruth; one sister, Margaret Gwynedd, who is in mission service in East Africa; and a brother, G. J. Clarke, who is in business in Brazil.

Jesse O. Gibson.

TITHING TESTED

By T. F. Amara

Headmaster S. D. A. Primary School, Bo

In conversation with a converted member at Giema, Sierra Leone, he told me, "Teacher, when I was a heathen I was always in debt. I owed nearly everyone in this big town and at times I ran into the bush for days just to avoid those whom I owed.

"I worked hard from year to year in order to get rice and other crops for sale to clear off my debts. But at each harvest my farms produced so little that I could not manage to sell and keep my family from hunger. I did not understand why I was disappointed from year to year. I worried all the more because a Seventh-day Adventist church member, Momon Gbese, lived next door to me and he always had a good harvest every year. I got angry with my neighbour, thinking he was bewitching my farms and also causing me, through his witchery, to fall into debts.

"A Mohammedan priest advised me to offer sacrifices before beginning to brush my farms. I tried that but it was useless. The Adventist teacher told me to trust in God and leave suspecting my neighbour. I began attending church. That very year I got so much from my farm that everyone was astonished. I paid my tithes of all and cleared every bit of my debts leaving sufficient to live on. To cut the matter short, Teacher, those whom I owed before are now owing me heavy amounts, and I have made up my mind to live with the Lord forever."

You too no doubt have some interesting tithe experiences. Please send them along to the Messenger Editor so they can be shared with others. Ed.

The Colporteurs are Few

There's a weary longing in brain and heart,
A pain that I cannot make depart,
As I think of the crowds that walk in sin,
The tares that the tempter has gathered in,
Of the waiting ones in the dark that stand,
Fainting for bread from a Saviour's hand:
Soon will the years of probation end,
But where are the colporteurs the Lord of
the harvest can send?

The fields to be gathered are broad and white,
And the grain for the sickle is fully ripe:
But the colporteurs—Oh, how few on the
plain!

While, alas! is wasting the golden grain!
The day is waning, the sun's glad light
Will soon be followed by gloom of night,
And many a sheaf that the wind has tossed,
For the lack of colporteurs will fore'er be lost.

Soon will the last sheaf droop and fall,
And the mantle of night will cover all:
The work of the colporteur will then be done,
And the grain that is saved will be gathered
home;

But, oh! must we plead, and plead in vain,
For colporteurs to gather the precious grain?
Once more we pray, and we plead with tears,
For colporteurs to work till the Lord appears.

—Selected

Note to Pastors, Evangelists, and Teachers:
You can help your publishing secretary find capable men to enter the literature ministry. We encourage you to discuss the Lord's need of more colporteurs with some of your devoted members. God may call them through you to this sacred work. Thank you kindly for your interest and co-operation.

D. L. Chappell.

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Editor - - - - - J. O. GIBSON.