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Latest Word on Adventists in the SOVIET UNION

By **A. F. TARR**, President, Northern European Division

We are happy to share with Messenger readers some current news of Seventh-day Adventists in the Soviet Union. Knowing of our interest in their welfare, and of the denomination's desire to send a delegation to Moscow, the Soviet Embassy in London recently invited three of our Division representatives to attend a reception for a group of Russian churchmen now visiting Great Britain. The group comprised the leaders of the Russian Orthodox, the Lutheran, and the Baptist churches. It was suggested that this contact might give opportunity for discussions as to how we could best arrange a visit to Russia.

At the reception held in the spacious Soviet Embassy we were presented first of all to Ambassador Malik, who received us most cordially. Then followed our introduction to the Russian Baptist leaders, whom we had wanted particularly to meet. When the General Secretary for Russia caught the name Adventist he was most cordial. Time and time again as we talked of our churches in Russia he distinguished between the two by saying, "Your Baptist brothers," or "Your Adventist brothers."

He then stated that the Adventists have three ministers and some five hundred members in Moscow. He told also of what a wonderful man our former leader, Pastor Mazanov, was, and what a godly man. Now he has been transferred to Rostov. He promised

to greet him on our behalf immediately on his return to Moscow. He told also of the wonderful choir we have in Moscow and how everyone loves to listen to it. It is led, he said, by an outstanding woman musician, one of our own church members. He reported that we have freedom to preach.

While I talked with him, Pastor G. A. Lindsay conversed with another of the Baptist ministers, this one from Kiev. As we compared notes later we discovered that when we asked of their church activities, both had spoken immediately of the power that had attended their service for God. One had termed it "rivers of power of the Holy Ghost." As we listened to them, and also to the president of their organization, we could not help but be impressed with their deep earnestness and sincerity and their unwavering faith in God. Our Baptist friends assured us that when our "Adventist brothers" in the Soviet Union learn of our desire to pay them a visit, a cordial welcome will be extended.

After that first meeting in the Soviet Embassy I met again with the president of the Baptist organization in the Soviet Union and some of his colleagues, this time in the Royal Albert Hall, where they were attending the Jubilee meeting of the World Baptist Alliance. Dr. E. A. L. Payne, the secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, had very courteously invited me there. During our discussions Pastor Zhidkov, the Russian

leader, gave me an even closer picture of the Baptist and the Seventh-day Adventist work in Moscow. He told of the good work done by the women in "home evangelism," of how, in the absence of denominational training schools, "young preachers are taught preaching by preaching." He told of the arrangement we have regarding the use of the building in which we both have our services, and in which they also have their offices, and of the rent we pay each month for our share. He gave me the name of our local pastor in Moscow, whom he sees twice each week, and he promised, as did the secretary, to convey to our church members the very sincere greetings of their fellow believers in other parts of the world.

We said good-bye to these stalwart Christian leaders with renewed confidence in God's great programme and a new awareness of His protecting, prospering hand over His work. We were impressed that the fulfilment of the hope of a visit to our brethren in the Soviet Union may not be far distant.

Planning Your Work

Part 1

By C. B. Mensah

It is important for all Mission workers to have a fully prepared plan of the work to be done throughout the year. Solomon the wise man said, "where there is no vision the people perish." Pro. 29:18.

Yes, where there is no mental outlook, no foresight, no plans, no organization, the result is coarse, confusion and a heavy loss of strength, time and money. When arrangement of work to be done is made beforehand, it makes performance of that work easier. A work thus planned, enables the worker to know how to begin and to end. Any work that begins in a haphazard way ends in like manner.

We have the record of the disappointment of a man who did not plan and organize his work in the first Book of Kings. A special responsibility was placed upon this man to care for, and keep a captive. He was warned that his life would be in danger, should he allow the captive to escape. When the time came for him to produce this prisoner he embarrassingly found out that because of ill management of his affairs, he was gone. Turning to the captain he said, "And as thy servant

was busy here and there, he was gone." I Kings 20:40. "Busy here and there," which means, "too much ado about nothing," thinking that he was doing much, but really he was "beating about the bush." He was in mental confusion because he had no plan for his work.

Oh, should workers in the cause of God, into whose hands has been entrusted the destiny of mankind, not be more vigilant and careful in the planning of their work, that none of their trusts be lost sight of, as the man in the story.

Careful planning and organization can do more to bring about success even in strategic moments, when all seems to be dark and uncertain.

The five Kings who came to conquer Sodom took Lot captive and carried away his possessions. Abraham with only his 318 servants was able to defeat the numerous host of five Kings, and he rescued Lot because of his organizational ability.

The inspired record says, "He divided himself against them, he and his servants by night and smote them." Gen. 14:15. This shows the importance of organization and planning.

Business managers spend time to work out plans whereby they can foster the successful running of their business. One can see well designed posters by the road sides advertising in striking words their merchandise. People often buy something they have no need of because of the careful plans of approach that the shop-keepers adopt. The sales methods that were used 25 years ago are not being followed today. Those are out of date, out moded.

Here in the Gold Coast, when the white-men came to trade with the nationals for the first time, each could not understand another's language. The white men exhibited their wares on the sea shore and the natives put gold-dust which they thought was equivalent to the value of the particular articles they wanted by the articles. The white men either took the gold-dust offered and left the article behind for the purchaser or rejected the offer by leaving the gold-dust there alone. That is what is termed "Silent Trading." This method is not being followed today in the trade in the Gold Coast. As time goes on new plans and ideas are adopted. The Gospel worker should not come behind in this.

Fine cars, big automobiles, swift running locomotives, the jet planes piercing through the skies like lightning and all modern inventions came through skilful planning.

Can an architect build a magnificent house without a plan. Go to New York and see those

skyscrapers towering into the the clouds. Did they grow up overnight like the mushrooms and not through well prepared plans?

Our farmers here do have plans by which they sow and reap successful harvests. Should not the sower of the word of God and the reaper of souls have better plans and methods than these?

Which teacher in charge of a class could do a satisfactory work without his well drawn syllabus prepared at the beginning of the School year? Apart from the syllabus there are the weekly notes to be prepared and the time table to be followed closely. The evangelistic and administrative workers should heed the admonition of the Master. "Be therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

Okitipupa August Effort

By G. A. Solademi Evangelist, West Nigeria

The sun was sinking slowly towards the West, on the cool evening of Tuesday the ninth of August, 1955. The attention of the natives was directed to the Native Administration Court hall where there was to be a Bible lecture. The president of the West African Union of Seventh-day Adventists had arrived during the afternoon of that day to help to work out the programme and to render any possible assistance.

Pictured here are the Gold Coast colporteurs who attended the Kumasi Institute conducted by Pastor G. D. King, Publishing Secretary of our Northern European Division, in October. From left to right (seated): R. D. Mawutor, Gold Coast Publishing Secretary, D. L. Chappell, G. D. King, G. Meredith, J. Rigby, and I. K. Ampofo, Assistant Publishing Secretary.

These faithful bookmen sold £5, 830 worth of literature during the first nine months of 1955. Thousands of homes in West Africa are not blessed with a "silent messenger" of Truth, therefore, they earnestly appeal to YOU to enter the colporture Ministry NOW.

The first meeting started on the same evening and there was a record attendance, the atmosphere was lively and the presence of Pastor Gibson did a lot to inspire the congregation. The gospel choruses filled the air and these were melodiously sung by the congregation. A short prayer followed, and the subject of the day was, The Plan of Salvation, which was given by Pastor Gibson supported by a picture. There was a feeling of the presence of God, because the people reverently followed the programme, and the meeting was brought to a close with a prayer offered by Pastor Gibson. The attendance of the day was about five hundred.

The second morning, saw the evangelist's team busily planning the programme for the day. The teachers and evangelists were engaged throughout the day, visiting and acquainting themselves with the people. In corners, in front of houses, and in mercantile houses, people were seen making the subject of the former night the object of their discussion.

The aim and the objectives of the effort was explained to the people. And many willing people promised to enroll their names as Sabbath school members. During this effort our faith was kept and shared and talked.

The Result of Sharing Faith

It is difficult for most people to talk about their religious feelings, but I have discovered that to tell others about them, to share one's treasure is important. For the best way to keep one's faith is to give it away freely. Obvious-



ly, I am no theologian but the satisfaction and richness plus the result of the faith that Pastor Gibson shared can not be told simply. Pastor Gibson gave a book each to the two literate chiefs in Okitipupa town, and he sold one, and gave one to a well known man in the town. It was a surprise to see the man preaching in the town, and stating, "Seventh-day Adventists are preaching and spreading the right and true Gospel." Whenever they asked why, he would also give the reason. Because of what this man was preaching, two men promised to enroll their names as Sabbath school members, and they did so on the second day.

Before Pastor Gibson left for Ibadan, he prayed for me that I may be able to carry out the work successfully. He also advised me strongly that it is my first task to bring up a strong church at Okitipupa. Brethren, towards the end of the effort we had 15 men enrolled as Sabbath school members.

We are grateful for what Pastor Gibson has done by bringing his motor to travel on water visiting people in their villages. We are also grateful and thankful for what our medical department did in our August effort. A doctor, two sisters and five nurses came from Ife, to run a clinic. As we are feeding people spiritually, we are also treating them physically.

Friends, the main reason for our failure is our unbelief and divided motives. There are only a few who continually have a burden for souls and who trust God wholly, but there are many who are striving with the help of God to become better evangelists. I pray to be in this group, and perhaps some of our experiences in West Africa can encourage the young fellow workers to open their hearts to the grace of God.

Investiture Service at Ile-Ife

By Beryl M. Turtill Master Comrade

Glancing at my watch I noticed it was 6.25 p.m. I had promised to be at the church by seven, so after clearing the supper table, I finished the last minute preparations for the evening. So many little ones wanted caps to complete their uniforms that I had spent all my spare time Thursday and Friday making them.

As I arrived at the church, Isaac, one of our Companions, was quietly opening the doors and doing a last minute check to see that all was in readiness. The children started to arrive in twos and threes. Our special guest for the evening was Brother Nwoabia who had just arrived back in Nigeria from the Congress in Sweden.

By 7.30 the candidates were all in their places and we were ready to begin. The young people's leader, M. A. Sankoh, who is a student nurse and Comrade in the Missionary Volunteer Society, led on to the platform, followed by myself, and M. V. Watson, Master Comrade, who was elected by the Secretary of the Union for the M. V. S. to act in his absence as the officiating officer. Mr. Nwoabia and Dr. Peterson, the faculty adviser for our society, completed those conducting the service.

In front of the platform hung our Senior Pledge; on either side our Aim and Motto. On the extreme right hung our hospital banner which I had been privileged to carry to represent us at Youth Congress in Paris, 1951. To the extreme left hung the banner for Yoruba Land which Brother Nwoabia had brought that evening.

Our opening song was "Give of your best to the Master." This was followed by Scripture reading and prayer by Brother Watson. I gave a talk on the importance of the Law and Pledge which was followed by memory work from the Preparatory and Friends classes. Among the children were Busy Bees, Sunbeams, Builders, Helpers and Friends. A talk on the importance of Bible memory work was given by Mr. Watson followed by a very fine quartet of our young men, which had been arranged and accompanied by Miss E. Rose the Matron of our Nursing School. Dr. Peterson gave a very interesting talk on stars, after which two of the boys who had both completed the Friends and Companions course gave short talks on Trees and Birds.

The candidates took their places in front of the audience to receive the charge after the presentation and certification had been solemnly declared. Among the older students who are also student nurses were two Friends, four Companions, and four Comrades. One Master Comrade, Miss Sylvia Turtill, is at present on furlough in England, and is a nursing and midwifery instructor here. Following the award of insignia, pins, and certificates, the candidates quietly returned to their seats.

Brother Nwoabia then took thirty-five minutes to bring us greetings and to share some of the most interesting experiences of his tour of England, Scotland, Germany, Denmark, and Sweden. He was so full of happiness he just couldn't keep from singing. And interwoven with his experiences were choruses and songs from the Youth Congress in Sweden. We could have listened to him for much longer, but all good things must come to an end. He closed by once more singing the chorus. "Wonderful, Marvelous, Oh! Yes! it is marvelous since Jesus came into my heart."

With the congregation singing "Miss onary Volunteers" our good service was brought to a close. Following the benediction we quietly filed out of the church to congratulate the candidates. Thus ended a very successful evening.

As I walked home with two of the lads who were helping to carry the banners, I passed the remark that I was sorry the meeting had been so long. "It was not a bit long" was his reply, "It was too interesting."

It is my prayer that as these young people grow older in years and spiritual development they will manifest the same zeal for work in the Master's vineyard.

Tribute to Pastor D. J. Clarke

By C. E. Knon Hooke

Sir, Consternation and regret filled my mind when I read of the death of Pastor Clarke whose week-end meditations were sin-killing and soul-reviving to many of us. I loved his meditations so much that I used to paste clippings of them in a book which I kept properly bound.

I shall always cherish these collections for the rest of my life. I regret that I cannot add more to my collections as a result of his death.

I did not know Pastor Clarke in person, yet I loved him. I do not think that such an inspirational exponent of the Bible would pass away so soon, leaving the world poorer today and for that matter Sierra Leone in particular. I hope, Mr. Editor, you will take the trouble of finding a successor, as God buries his workmen but carries on his work.

I think many of us owe much to Pastor Clarke for his great work. I think I am expressing the desire of his many readers in saying, "Requiescat in Peace."

(Daily Mail September 19, 1955)

August Effort in Otta Town

By Evangelist T. A. Adeniji

"The Advent Message shall be preached in all the World in this generation and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14. The above statement prompted us to launch an evangelistic Campaign in Otta Town.

In view of the fact that the majority of the inhabitants are ardent Mohammedans, one could easily get discouraged and lose the sense of preaching the gospel.

To start with, we thought of nothing but prayer. We brought our problems to the Lord in prayer. We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit among us after prayer.

In this town there was no Town-Hall for our meeting place; nevertheless, we decided to hold the meetings in an open place. The evangelistic Team were:— Brother M. Olayemi — Speaker and Brethren J. A. Adeniji, T. K. Popoola, and M. B. Aluko — Speaker's associates.

Pastor J. O. Gibson, President of the West African Mission of S. D. A. and family, and Brother Adusei from the Gold Coast joined us in our first meeting.

As is our usual practice, all who attended the lectures were visited in their homes for personal help.

The most outstanding day fell on Sunday the 21st of August 1955. On this day, we visited one regular attendant. He is married man who has two children. He has an interest in our teachings and he warmly and heartily welcomed us. We asked if he had any point which was not clearly understood that we might explain to him. "Your teachings are clear, plain, and understandable" the man remarked. "In my own personal point of view you are presenting the truth according to the teachings of the Bible. I therefore have no objection to your teachings and I would not like to miss any of your lectures," he further expressed.

He was deeply impressed by certain verses of Revelation chapter 22. We discussed and read these verses together. He was astonished. We offered prayer and he too was happy to join us.

He heartily presented us a shilling. We refused and he persistently opposed the refusal of the gift. He said, "If I had more, let's say in terms of pounds, I would have given it for the advancement of the Advent Message,

but the little I have I should give." We then thankfully received the twelve pennies from him.

He is a member of the Church Missionary Society Church, but he is highly interested in our doctrine. He further remarked "I get much more Bible Truth in your lectures, and that is what I want rather than man's opinions."

We have many people who have the same desire, even the Mohammedans. Let us pray that these people may harken to this National Call to join the Christian Crusaders with their own National Contingent in making the right decision to stand for the truth.

A Marvellous Trip to Komede

By A. D. Mondeh, Sierra Leone

The Thursday evening of the 29th July could, in the actual sense, be styled a "Night of Thrill." Every event that evening was a thrilling one. As the glittering radiance of that Thursday sunlight faded to the western hemisphere, it carried with it several activities for the day.

About 7.30 in the evening, Pastor J. N. Vandt, District Leader, and Pastor A. M. Moyer, Superintendent of the Sierra Leone Mission, came to Moyamba in order to go to Komede. As we started out for this interesting missionary enterprise, our hearts were filled with joy and gladness. As we rode along, we could hear weird shriekings, a gentle and a melodious whistling among the trees, and then the birds and some other creatures added a stanza to the beautiful music produced by the car and the evening wind, as we went on our way. As God would have it, the atmosphere around us was encouraging; it showed no signs of rain.

Yes! this was Pelewahun. The car that brought us was left with a friend at Pelewahun and we went by foot to Komede. Fortunately, the glowing embers of the evening fire were still blazing as we reached the village.

Men were telling some interesting folk stories, as their wives sat laughing and commenting carelessly on each story teller as he tried with all his games to impress the audience. Silently we passed between houses and at last stood in front of the chief's compound.

After the chief was greeted, we told him the purpose of our visit. He thanked us and

expressed in friendly terms his sincere gratitude to the Pomoi (meaning a European) and how he was happy to receive people that are trying to bring his subjects from the strong hold of heathenism to a better light, whose beams show and reveal the soon coming of the Saviour. As the fine chief spoke with some eloquence, all the men and women beamed with smiles, which is a symptom of satisfaction to an average Mende man.

At the conclusion of the Chief's oration, we all assembled on the verandah of a house of a prominent citizen. People came streaming from all the corners of the village. And within a quarter of an hour, the little place was full of anxious faces.

The meeting was then opened by singing a newly taught song of "Amuwa! Amuwa Mbaumoi Lato Va" (Let's come and praise God). The voices of the villagers filled the cold evening air, and if it were possible their voice might have lifted up the little building from its location. After the song was sung, Pastor J. N. Vandt, made a vivid introduction to the people.

Pastor A. M. Moyer spoke to them about signs of Christ's Coming. As he spoke, the people, once tightly held and greatly influenced by Catholicism, listened and actually showed some signs of appreciation and admiration as the Scriptures were searched text by text.

Dear brothers and sisters, the impression made here in this village is very great. Though the devil is still at work with his strong force of evil, yet we must still press forward. The words Despair and Failure are never found in the dictionary of those who wish to succeed in life. After all, what is man? He is only the sum total of his thinking habits, strongly guided by God. We who are labouring in the Lord's vineyard must possess all the faith and confidence which goes to make up a successful pastor or evangelist. Optimism and an unwavering courage should be our qualities. God has promised that His sheep would hear his voice and would follow Him. And He shall gather them and deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. Ezekiel 34:12.

I am sure this statement made here in the book of Ezekiel by God is a true one. For here in Komede, through the help of the Holy Spirit, He is calling out His own sheep to come out of Babylon Rev. 18:4 that they might not be partakers of her sins and that they receive not of her plagues.

First Fruits from the North

By A. M. Moyer,

President, Sierra Leone Mission

Two years ago, Pastor S. F. Tharawoli was asked by the Mission to open up new work at Makeni. Makeni is a very important centre in the Northern Province of the Protectorate of Sierra Leone. The Roman Catholics, Church of God, and the American Wesley Mission have established schools and churches. Also the Muslem religion is very active.

Pastor Tharawoli's efforts were confined to personal work and conducting morning and evening worship in his home. Satan tried to hinder the work by bringing sickness into the home, but the Pastor and his good wife continued their labour.

Today, I had the privilege of leading a small group of believers down to the river to conduct a baptism. This was the first baptism in Makeni. Four women and one man publicly testified for their Lord and Saviour by this sacred rite. The flowing water symbolized the washing away of the sin.

Pastor Tharawoli has been teaching several to read and write the vernacular. By this means he is preparing some of the young men of his group to lead out in the Sabbath school and other services of the church. His work has not only won these members to Christ, but he is also reclaiming several backsliders. Our prayers go with Pastor Tharawoli as he labours in the North land. By God's grace we look forward to extending work further North.



Pastor A. M. Moyer conducts five consecrated souls through the waters of baptism.

Tips or Tithe

Part 1

By C. B. Mensah

"Bring ye all the tithes" is clear enough to be understood. Tithe is the tenth part of our income. It can never be the seventh, eighth or the ninth part. On the other hand, nobody is rendered poor by giving more to the Lord. The more we give to Him, the more we receive from Him."

"And all the tithes of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's, it is holy unto the Lord."

"And concerning the tithe of the herb, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord." Lev. 27:30, 32.

There is a clear cut case here. "All the tithe," it says, not a fraction thereof. It can be much; it can be small. It can be the right tithe or not a tithe at all. There is no half or three-quarter tithing mentioned in the Bible.

While examining a candidate for baptism one day, she introduced her tithe card to convince me of her faithfulness to the Lord. After an examination of this card I saw that she paid six pence each week as her tithe. I questioned her whether she was a wage earner, but she said "No." "But how did it come about that you always had the same amount as your tithe." I queried. "You see, when I have any money I take two shillings and divide it up into 4 parts for the 4 weeks, thus I have something to give every week."

Is this correct tithing that the Lord requires of us? Of course you will say no. How sad it is to see people give only just to convince others to believe that they pay their tithes regularly, while in substance they may be giving tips to the Lord instead of that which is holy and solely His own.

To receive the blessing mentioned by God through the prophet Malachi, "I will . . . open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it," one should not forget that He first mentioned above, "Bring ye all the tithes into the store house. The blessing is based upon fulfilling the condition of bringing "All the tithes." To stress the command given to the Israelites through Moses in the giving of the tithes, the "ALL" in the book of Leviticus is still emphasised in Malachi, which shows the importance, of how and what to give.

A member asked me one day, "Pastor, in your instructions you mentioned that our foodstuffs and even those we eat and do not intend to sell should be tithed, but on our farm we only have enough for our family consumption; how can this be tithed?" My answer was, "The Good God that gives you enough day by day, will give you more than enough if you will divide the foodstuff into ten parts and give Him one-tenth." She went away to try it and after sometime came to me and said, "The Lord has fulfilled His promise to me since I started giving Him His share. We have surely had more than enough." Yes, the Lord is not slack concerning His promise. What He has said He will surely fulfill. It behoves man to be honest with Him.

Another woman said, "Please, I am living far away in the bush, farming. Nobody nearby cares to buy food, because each of us has enough. There are no motor roads by which we can convey them to the nearest market. What must I do?" In reply I said, "You are very lucky, for the Lord has given you much and from you He expects much." I told her about the man that was given five talents and how he doubled it. He worked and toiled hard before he gained the other five, therefore she should give the portion of the Lord, in foodstuff, to the church treasurer in that place, or if there was no treasurer she should bring the Lord's portion, to the nearest station where there is a church treasurer. "The seed of the land" and "the fruit of the tree" are all to be tithed accordingly.

The garden and the poultry products, trade, gifts and presents are included in the "ALL" tithing system. How essential it is to be faithful in all our obligations to God. May the words of welcome from Christ, that will be given to those who will inherit the Kingdom, and which mentions explicitly faithfulness to all trusts, be pronounced for each of us; because we will be found to have been faithful in our financial and daily living to God.

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

Appreciation

From William B. Ackah, Gold Coast



I would like to express my deep appreciation to God for preserving my life throughout my travels and granting me good health. I am very grateful to the Gold Coast Mission for appointing me as a delegate to attend this great Youth Congress of the Northern European Division and the West

African Union and the Division for providing additional funds.

The Congress has been a great inspiration to me. Never will I forget the happy fellowship I had with thousands of other Adventist Youth who were present at the Congress. I have the hope that the fellowship we had together and all that took place at the Congress in the beautiful City of Stockholm will bring a change in my outlook as a youth worker of this great Advent Movement and will urge me to work harder for my Lord and Master. The spirit with which we separated at the Congress will enable us to achieve great things in our various fields and we expect good results in due course. It was really good that I went to Stockholm.

My visit to several Churches in England and on the Continent has helped me to know how fast the Advent message is spreading to the ends of the earth; and has made me conscious of the great Advent family to which I belong. Wherever I have visited I have been highly impressed with the faithfulness of our believers in giving all they have to support the work in the Mission fields to enable people in heathen lands to know Jesus and His redeeming power. I do appreciate this very much and I am very confident that believers in the Mission fields praise God for this.

On the whole I have been highly inspired by the faithful work of others and pray that the Lord may use me likewise to accomplish great things for Him. May all Youth in this West African Union be also inspired to do diligent work in preparing a people for Him "Who loved us so much and gave Himself up so that we might live" and so live that others may be led to Him through our faithful labours.