

# MESSENGER

VOICE OF THE WEST AFRICAN UNION

MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

VOL. 10.

JULY, 1956

No. 7

## OPEN-BIBLE EVANGELISM

By J. L. SHULER

How many Bible instructors would you like to have in your church leading souls into present truth, and bringing them into church membership? Two? Five? Twenty-five? Some may think, "You are simply beside yourself to talk about having twenty-five Bible instructors in one church."

But have you considered the statement made by Ellen G. White, found in *General Conference Bulletin*, Vol. 3, No. 2, dated April 11, 1899? Here it is. "Every Christian is bound to be a Bible worker, to do something in imparting to others the great present truth for this time. Communicate what you do know."

Does your church have twenty-five or more members? Then you ought to have twenty-five or more Bible workers. "Every Christian is bound to be a Bible worker."

This means that among all our evangelistic methods we need some simplified plan by which every member can give Bible readings. Some help along this line is offered in the little book known as "Helps to Bible Study." It presents a simple plan for marking chains of reference in one's Bible on various subjects of present truth. By this method any person may give a Bible reading on these subjects on the spot anywhere, anytime, without any note-book, with nothing in his hand but an open Bible.

Some laymen are blessed with more ability than others. They can make pertinent comments, and effective application of the words of the Scriptures as they bring forth the chain of texts. But, let this not be overlooked—the humblest layman, who can read, can at least take a marked Bible and read a list of six or eight texts to a person. Mrs. White says, "A great work can be done by presenting to the people the Bible just as it reads."—*Review and Herald*, July 10, 1883, page 434. "The words of the speaker bringing the form of sound doctrine into actual contact with the hearers, will result in the saving of souls."—Ellen G. White letter 4, 1910.

This plan of marking the Bible is based on three, easy-to-follow rules.



Brethren Hammond and Kodjo conducting a Branch Sabbath School at the village of Apreku about 13 miles out of Accra. Interest was aroused in medical work by Mrs. J. O. Gibson. Brother Swaniker another layman also assists them.



1. Select two or three key letters to represent the various subjects that you desire to use as a series of Bible readings. To illustrate: New Jerusalem—N.J. New Earth—N.E. Second Coming of Christ—2C. Signs of the Times—S.T.

2. On a flyleaf of your Bible, list these key letters with the first reference in the chain of references dealing with this particular subject. To illustrate: Second Coming of Christ—2C. Begin—Heb. 9:28.

3. On the margin of your Bible by the first text, list the second reference on this subject, and just above the reference place the figure 2 in parentheses, followed by the key letters that represent this subject. Then on the margin where this second text is found, list the third reference, and above it write the figure 3 in parentheses, followed by the key letters of this subject. Continue this procedure until you come to the second text from the end of the chain. On the margin list the last reference and above it write "End," followed by the key letters of this subject.

The Southern New England Book and Bible House has printed gummed sheets for fifty cents a set, which list the subjects of the Home Bible Course with key letters to represent them; also the chain of references on each subject, with the progressive key letters and text arrangement, and a key thought of what is found in the next text. In this case one simply cuts them out with a pair of scissors and pastes them on the margin of one's Bible. This makes for a better, neater, more readable system than handwriting. It is almost a must for India-paper Bibles.

With a Bible thus marked it is possible for every Adventist who can read to be a Bible worker within the limits of his ability. With a Bible thus marked, anyone can obey the command, "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you the reason of the hope that is within you." (1 Peter 3:15). Every member is prepared to carry out the injunction, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season." (2 Tim. 4:2).

God has made a blessed promise to those who will give Bible readings: "If the teachers of His Word are willing, the Lord will bring them into close relation with the people. He will guide them into the homes of those who need and desire the truth, bringing them into situations best suited to their talents."—Ellen G. White, *Welfare Ministry*, page 101.

One of the main items in all evangelism is to have God working at both ends of the

line. Then you will see results comparable to those in the case of Philip and the Ethiopian treasurer (see Acts 8), and in the case of Peter and Cornelius (see Acts 10).

It would be good for a Bible-marking class to be conducted in every church. Membership in the class should be based on adherence to three rules.

1. I agree to take time before each class session to study the assigned subject and to have my Bible marked with the assigned chain of references before I come to the class session where this subject will be presented.

2. I will, if given notice one week in advance, present this subject in a Bible reading to another person in the presence of the class.

3. After each subject is presented in the class, I will before the next class session present this Bible reading to at least one non-Adventist.—*Review and Herald*, March 15, 1956.

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## INFLUENCE

*I spoke a word,  
And no one heard.  
I wrote a word,  
And no one cared,  
Or seemed to heed.  
But after half a score of years  
It blossomed in a fragrant deed.  
Preachers and teachers all are we,  
Sowers of seed unconsciously.  
Our hearers are beyond our ken,  
Yet all we give may come again  
With usury of joy and pain;  
We never know  
To what one little word may grow.  
See to it, then, that all your seeds  
Be such as bring forth noble deeds.*

—John Oxenham in *Sunshine Magazine*, February, 1956.

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Criticism should leave a person with the idea that he has been helped.—*Sunshine Magazine*, February, 1956.

The great thing in this world is not so much where we are, but what direction we are going.—*Sunshine Magazine*, February, 1956.



## Student Evangelism in East Nigeria

By H. E. Rieseberg, Principal,  
Nigerian Training College

This year the Nigerian Training College, in Eastern Nigeria, has tried a somewhat different method of practical evangelistic work. During the two weeks in which the students in teacher's training did their work in practical teaching, the evangelistic students did some very intensive practical evangelistic work. They were assigned for nearby churches which have been extremely needful of leadership and told to hold revival meetings there. They spent their days in visiting the people in their homes and on their farms and in the evenings they gathered them together in the community hall of each village and gave them the Gospel Message.

The results were extremely gratifying. What began as mere practice in preaching and an effort to revive interest in four small churches which lacked leadership grew far beyond these limitations. Soon a regular evangelistic programme on a small scale was in progress.

Twenty-nine meetings were held in addition to Sabbath services and a number of smaller open-air meetings. Average attendance was fifty-one, although some meetings had 105 in attendance. Over half of these were non-Adventists and in some meetings over ninety percent of the people were non-Adventists. Over 125 Bible studies, 250 calls, and 215 visits were part of the work done these two weeks. Over 400 pieces of missionary literature were distributed in both the Ibo and English languages.

The Lord poured out abundant blessing on the students in their labours. Pagan charms were publicly destroyed, leading men in the villages expressed themselves favourably concerning the message, and even one entire congregation of another denomination came with the desire to join our church. Of course, they did not realize all that it involved at the time, but even now many of that group are attending Sabbath services.

The men were under strict supervision in their work. Each morning they came for a Worker's Meeting where Pastor R. O. Wosu, the Bible Teacher, along with the Principal criticized their works and made suggestions for improvement. Their sermons, organization, visitation technique, order of service, and other items dealing with evangelistic

methods were scrutinized and discussed. The men all agreed that the two weeks had been extremely valuable training.

The work is not finished in these churches. There are over 25 new Sabbath School members as a result of the meetings. Hearer's and baptismal classes have been organized and regular services are being provided for. Many of the people have expressed a deep appreciation for the meetings. One man claimed that God had shown him these men in a dream and that he had been shown that God was going to do great things in His village. We find it hard to question the sincerity of this brother. We hope that God will do great things in that village and many more in Eastern Nigeria.

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## News Notes

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✘ We were especially favoured recently by having a visit from Pastor T. L. Oswald, General Conference Home Missionary Secretary. Pastor Oswald arrived on June 4 and left on June 18 for South Africa. During his stay he visited the Union Headquarters, The Advent Press, the Accra church and spent about ten days with Pastor Keslake holding Laymen's Institutes in several districts in the Gold Coast Mission. Pastor Oswald's years of experience and enthusiasm for the Laymen's work enabled him to give invaluable help and counsel which we are sure will greatly aid our laymen.

✘ The mid-year Union Committee will convene in Accra from July 3rd to 17th. We ask for the prayers of each one of our workers and members on behalf of this important meeting.

✘ We are happy to announce that Brother F. C. Barfoot of the South England Conference has accepted a call to be the Union Publishing and Sabbath School Departmental Secretary. We hope that Brother and Sister Barfoot will be with us in Accra before too long.

✘ At the Advent Press, staff are very busy installing a large printing press which was generously given to us by the Stanborough Press. We are deeply grateful to our Sister Publishing House for their continued generosity.

(Continued on back page.)



## Are All The Children In?

By Jesse O. Gibson

### Part II

Last month we studied some of the duties and responsibilities of parents in the home. Our homes should be "Little Heavens" here on earth. They should be places where the angels and Christ love to dwell. They should be havens of rest for father, mother and our children. Yes, they should be such lovely places that they will attract other children to them and through the Christian home lead them to Christ.

Two of the greatest factors in helping to keep our large family together and in the faith was (1) A Christian School—always—at all cost and (2) The family altar in our home. Every morning, no matter how rushed we were, we had family worship before breakfast.

Thank God I was born into an Adventist home. Father and mother were great students of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. They read and followed such instruction as this: "Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, do not fail to gather your family around God's altar. Ask for the guardianship of holy angels in your home. Remember that your dear ones are exposed to temptations."—*Ministry of Healing*, page 393.

"Each morning and evening gather your children around you and in humble supplication lift the heart to God for help. . . . Each morning consecrate yourself and your children to God for that day."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, page 44.

Those seasons of song, Bible study and prayer have meant much to me. They laid a foundation for a life of service for Christ.

#### The Hour of Worship

"In arousing and strengthening a love for Bible study, much depends on the use of the hour of worship. The hours of morning and evening worship should be the sweetest and most helpful of the day. . . . Let the services be brief and full of life, adapted to the occasion, and varied from time to time. Let all join in Bible reading and learn and often repeat God's Law. It will add to the interest of the children if they are some-

times permitted to select the reading. Question them upon it, and let them ask questions.

"To make such a service what it should be, thought should be given for preparation."

—*Education*, page 186.

"In childhood, youth, and manhood, Jesus studied the Scriptures. As a little child He was daily at His mother's knee taught from the scrolls of the prophets."

"In all that men have written, where can be found anything that has such a hold upon the heart, anything so well adapted to awaken the interest of the little ones, as the stories of the Bible? . . . In these simple stories may be made plain the great principles of the law of God."—*Education*, page 185.

#### Father normally the Priest and Leader

"In a sense the father is the priest of the household, laying upon the family altar the morning and evening sacrifice. But the wife and children should unite in prayer, and join in the song of praise. In the morning before he leaves home for his daily labour, let the father gather his children about him, and, bowing before God, commit them to the care of the Father in heaven. When the cares of the day are past, let the family unite in offering grateful prayer and raising the song of praise, in acknowledgment of divine care during the day."—*Ministry of Healing*, page 392.

"The father, or, in his absence, the mother, should conduct the worship, selecting a portion of Scripture that is interesting and easily understood. *The service should be short.*

"Fathers and mothers, make the hour of worship intensely interesting. There is no reason why this hour should not be the most pleasant and enjoyable of the day. . . . A song of praise may be sung. As circumstances permit, let the children join in the reading







Prayer at school is an important part of child's training. This however cannot take the place of family worship where all the children should be taught to participate.

## Inspired !!!

By Virginia E. Moyer

"Inspired by the example of the love and kindness shown to others by Dorcas, a notable character in the Christian Church," the women of the Seventh-day Adventist Churches of Sierra Leone have promised to take an active part in the work of the Dorcas Society, "training themselves to do what they can to help the poor, sick, and needy, for the joy of serving Him who said, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.'"

Bo has been the only active Dorcas Society in Sierra Leone in 1955 but we are very happy to say we have three sister societies to the Bo Society now. We are looking forward to having more.

On April 30 we met with a very enthusiastic group of women at Matatoka. After learning of the life of Dorcas and learning that they also had a work for God, they left the group and chose a leader. Twenty-one enrolled their names as Dorcas members.

The next Sabbath we met with the women at Makali who were also eager to get started. They enrolled twenty-six members.

Magburaka has started with only eleven but there was difficulty in getting the women together because of the evening thunder showers. I'm sure they will soon report an increase under the good leadership of Mrs. Nichol.

Many other churches are anxious to start their societies and as soon as we can we shall come to help them.

May the Lord bless these societies, their leaders and each member that they may prove to be a great blessing to God, the Church, the community and in turn receive great blessings themselves.

and the prayer,"—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, page 43.

### What Can We Do?

In the above I have endeavoured to set forth God's ideal plan of saving our children for Him. But some will say "I can't read." God knows that, I am sure. Perhaps in that case He would have you see the teacher and learn to read. But even if you as head of the house can't read. Call your children together morning and evening. You can sing. If you have a child that can read—let him read to you. If not take turns in quoting scripture. It will encourage the members of your family to learn more verses of scripture. After your scripture all kneel and pray. Thank God, we can all, old and young do that. Let us SING, STUDY and PRAY with our families. God will meet with us and bless us if we do. Let us ask ourselves—are all of our children in?

"An old Scotchwoman more than ninety years old was dying, and she asked her aged husband, 'Is it getting night?'"

"Yes," he answered, sitting by her bedside, 'it is getting night.'

"She thought it was the close of the day, but he well knew it was the closing of her earthly life. After a moment's silence she asked, 'Are all the children in?'"

"Her mind went back to the happy yester-years when all were at home, And, mother-like, she was again anxious about all the children.

"Yes, Janet," answered the old man. And again she said, 'And I'll soon be in. Yes, Janet, you'll soon be in.'

There was another long, tense pause. "Then the dying woman whispered to her husband, 'You will soon be in, won't you?'"

'Yes, Janet, said the faithful old partner. By the grace of God, I will soon be in.'

"Then the old woman's face lighted up with a radiance not of this world. With a heavenly smile, she said, 'And God will then shut us all in forever.'

"O glorious thought! Shut in with every member of the family! Heaven at last, with the family circle unbroken."—G. H. Bellah, *The King's Highway*, pages 109, 110.



## Sierra Leone Workers Meeting

By A. M. Moyer

On May 1st over 50 workers of the Sierra Leone Mission assembled on the Bo compound. Pastors H. J. Welch and C. D. Henri led out in the meetings and conducted the morning devotional services. The evening meditations were cared for by the Pastors of the local missions.

The first two days were devoted to general subjects affecting pastors, teachers and evangelists. The following topics were discussed, Sabbath School and Missionary Reports, keeping church records, Voice of Prophecy follow up work, Ingathering—training of the laity, Denominational organization, sermons and how to prepare them, personal work and demonstrations on how to teach vernacular classes. Ten to fifteen minute lectures were given on the aforementioned topics and a like period of time was allowed for discussion from the floor.

For two days all the workers were present. From the 3rd to the 6th only the teachers and the managers of schools remained. Pastor Welch led out in the sessions, assisted by Pastor Henri. The same procedure was used for these sessions as the workers institute with short lectures and discussion periods following. The head-teachers of the various schools gave lectures on topics of their particular interest.

Pastor Henri led out in the Friday evening devotional period. Pastor Welch took the Sabbath morning church service. As an appeal he made an altar call and there was an excellent response to his invitation to rededicate ourselves to the work God has for us to do.

Saturday night a social gathering was conducted with a goodly number present. Volley ball and various other games were played. Light refreshments were served.

We greatly appreciate the services of Pastor H. J. Welch and Pastor C. D. Henri. The workers in the Sierra Leone Mission are looking forward to more sessions of fellowship.

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There has always been a sunrise after a sunset.—*Sunshine Magazine*, February, 1956.

The wood would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.—*Sunshine Magazine*, February, 1956.

## Crowns, Seed-sowing, and You

By Kenneth H. Wood, Jr.

Home Missionary Secretary, Columbia Union Conference

How long have you been a Seventh-day Adventist? How many souls have you won during that time? Ten? Five? One? None?

Perhaps you cannot point to anyone definitely that you have won, yet you have done your best. God will bless you for this, for remember that the "Well done" is spoken to the "good and faithful servant," not to the brilliant or spectacular one.

We may not be able to measure results accurately in this life, but we can be sure that in the day of final judgment God will distribute the crowns with unfailing accuracy, . . . and every crown will contain at least one star, for every redeemed soul will have helped lead someone else to the eternal mansions.

Are you wondering how your crown will look, and how many stars will glitter as you wear it? That may depend on how faithfully you have helped circulate life-giving literature like the *Signs of the Times*, for "it is a fact that the circulation of our papers is doing even greater work than the living preacher can do" (*Review and Herald*, December 19, 1878).

The outstanding harvest of souls which will be reaped in the near future will doubtless be partially credited to you if you have patiently and faithfully sent out the light of truth year by year through our literature. "God will soon do great things for us if we lie humble and believing at His feet. More than 1,000 will soon be converted in one day, *most of whom will trace their first conviction to the reading of our literature*" (*Review and Herald*, November 10, 1885, italics supplied).

Have you ever been guilty of saying, "I have sent the *Signs* to my friends for years. Others have said the same thing. But is this a fair criticism? We think not, for we can name MANY who have been won through the *Signs* alone. With countless others it has been a contributing factor, arousing an interest in the truth and convicting the heart. Inspiration states: "Our publications are now sowing the gospel seed, and are instrumental in bringing as many souls to Christ as the preached word. Whole churches have been raised up as the result of their circulation. In this work every disciple of Christ can act a part" (*Review and Herald*, June 10, 1880.)



Remember, that harvest comes long after seed-sowing, and there will never be a harvest unless the seed is first sown. "In the morning sow thy seed" (Ecclesiastes 11:6). "The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11). After it has been planted, it should be watered by prayer and cultivated by personal contact if possible. God will bless such a programme, and stars will shine in your crown as a result.

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## Ihie Week of Prayer

By H. E. Rieseberg

A question-and-answer period covering all subjects imaginable related to the problems of young men and women brought to a close a truly inspiring Week of Prayer at Nigerian Training College. The devotional meetings were held by Pastor Edgar Keslake, Union Home Missionary Secretary, during the first week of May.

The morning chapel periods were a very satisfying experience for all in attendance. They were scholarly and yet spiritually beautiful discussions of some of the greatest problems in religion. In these meetings Pastor Keslake spoke on the great controversy between Christ and Satan. In each meeting he brought out one of the basic issues of the conflict such as "The Sonship of Christ" and "The Law of God." On Friday he spoke on Satan's accusation that God could not forgive and closed with a stirring and dramatic description of the "innumerable company of witnesses" who would for all eternity prove that God could forgive sinners.

The evening meetings centered on the idea of the joy which is found in Christian living. He spoke on "Joy in the Promises of God," "Joy in Prayer" and "Joy in Witnessing for Jesus." On Thursday evening Pastor Keslake spoke on "Joy that our names are Written in Heaven" and at the close of the meeting 27 indicated their desire to join the baptismal class and unite with the remnant church.

It can well be said that this week was one which was far above and beyond the ordinary. The presence of God's spirit was felt in a remarkable way in the meetings and seasons of prayer held by the staff and student prayer bands. The week closed with all feeling the need of more earnest preparation to meet the Lord when He returns.

## Restitution Follows Confession

"Meetings have been held at the Tabernacle twice each day for two weeks, and the message presented has taken hold of hearts. The testimonies borne have the right ring. I am thankful to the Lord for this good work. We have also had some special meetings at the Tabernacle. This church being large, after we had called the people forward for prayers Sabbath afternoon, the last Sabbath of the old year, we invited those who felt that they must make confession, to go into one of the vestries, and here a special opportunity was given them. I had spoken upon the last chapter of Malachi. 'Will a man rob God?' Bring ye all the tithes into the store house, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.' Many confessions were made upon this point.

"Some had not dealt honestly with their neighbours, and they confessed these sins, and have since made restitution. During the following week, some of those who had not been dealing justly with God, and consequently had been separating themselves from Him, began to restore that which they had withheld. One brother had not paid tithe for two years. He gave his note to the secretary of the Conference for the tithe he had withheld and the interest on it, amounting to \$571.50. I thank the Lord that he had the courage to do this. Another gave his note for \$300. Another man who had backslided from God so far that but little hope was cherished that he would ever turn his feet into the path of righteousness again, gave his note for \$1,000. It was proposed that these long-withheld tithes and offering be devoted to the Central European Mission; so with these and the Christmas donations, nearly \$6,000 has come into the treasury from this church to be applied to the missionary cause."—*Testimonies* Vol. 5 pages 643, 644.

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When you help someone up a hill, you find yourself closer to the top.

The darkest hour is only sixty minutes long.



## News Notes

(Continued from page 3)

✘ Pastor Keslake spent most of the months of April and May in East and West Nigeria holding Laymen's Institutes. According to the reports from the fields, these have been very favourably received and we shall look forward to good results of the Laymen's work in these two as well as in our other fields throughout our Union.

✘ Some leading French Officials in the Ivory Coast are sponsoring an international Anti Alcoholic Committee. They are having a meeting from July 23rd to 30th at Abidjan in the Ivory Coast. They hope to have representatives from many African Countries of the territories south of the Sahara. Their vigorous campaign against alcohol in the Ivory Coast has greatly reduced the imports of alcoholic beverages. Pastor Keslake will represent the Seventh-day Adventists at this large gathering.

### IVORY COAST

✘ The middle of January was the time when the Advent believers of the Ivory Coast held their annual camp meetings in the Divo district at Iroporia which is away in the big forest. The meetings were both interesting and inspiring and the kind leadership and help which Pastor E. Keslake, our new Union Home Missionary Leader, gave us during these meetings was very much appreciated by all present and the four days which he spent with us were considered all too few. Six new members were baptized on the Sabbath, January 21st and on the following day a very impressive and stirring ceremony of the ordinances of the Lord was conducted in the presence of many interested friends of the church.

### *The Advent Messenger*

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

P. O. Box 1016, Accra, Gold Coast.  
Editor - - - - - J. O. GIBSON.

✘ More than forty youth took part in the Junior Youth Camp in the Ivory Coast from January 23rd—29th. The presence of several non-Adventist children of Iroporia and of our Primary School at Bouake was very encouraging. The children were looked after by our two Bouake teachers A. Ba and A. Kone, our Iroporia Evangelist and Church School teacher J. Ehuman and D. Nguessan. The campers enjoyed their time fully and learnt much spiritually in their prayer bands and socially in their dormitories.

✘ February 1st was the beginning of the second term for our Bouake Primary School with an enrolment of 111.

✘ In March, Abidjan and Bouake had the privilege of a short visit by Pastor N. B. Nielsen, our Union Secretary-Treasurer. We are very grateful to him for his visit and he travelled long distances, without hardly any rest, to get acquainted with far off and unknown people and places. The African workers will long remember the heart touching prayer circle they had with Brother Nielsen the evening before he left Bouake.

✘ We are glad to extend a very hearty welcome to our new President Brother G. Gutekunst and family as they come to Abidjan from Strasbourg, France.

### EAST NIGERIA

✘ A large contingent of Senior Primary School children of the Seventh-day Adventist schools surrounding Aba took part in the annual parade held here at Aba May 13th, 1956 on the Corporation Field. Our over a thousand strong army of Adventist Youth was by far the most conspicuous body of youth. Many were wearing the distinctive M. V. uniform. A brief service was afterwards held in the church attended by the Hon. S. W. Ubani-Ukoma who spoke words of encouragement to our youth.

✘ Welcome to Bernard Theodore Rieseberg, born to Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Rieseberg at Ihié on May 7th.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.