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FIRST BAPTISM AT CALABAR

By **PASTOR EDGAR E. HULBERT,**
Evangelist, East Nigerian Mission, Calabar

It had been raining, almost without cessation, since Friday morning. Sabbath morning dawned cloudy and rainy. It cleared a little before Sabbath School, but rained heavily again before all had arrived. The preaching service was well attended; would the rain hold off in the afternoon? We had prayed for a fine afternoon, and believed that God would hear our prayers. He did!

Nine precious souls, the first-fruits from our Calabar efforts, were buried in the waters of the Calabar river on Sabbath 18th August. Four were there as the result of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Lessons, three being students and one the illiterate wife of one of the students. One young man first attended the Bible Classes which were commenced in various homes soon after our arrival in Calabar, and was the most faithful of all those who attended my Bible Studies. The friend who first brought him has fallen out by the way, but he himself has stood firm.

Since we last reported in *the Messenger* we have conducted two major campaigns, one in the hall we now use as a church, and one in the Public Library. The response to both campaigns was good, and, apart from an initial drop after the first meetings, we had a sustained attendance of around eighty

in the first series, and of two hundred and forty, dropping later to 150, in the second series. We now have a Sabbath School membership of around sixty, with thirty children, and an attendance in the preaching service of sixty-five to seventy adults.

At one time our visiting list stood at seven hundred. Of course, with only three evange-



Pastor Hulbert standing by the huge granite cross which marks the grave of Mary Slessor, famous lady missionary for the Church of Scotland Mission, who did more than any other to save the towns of Calabar Province.

lists to help us, we were unable to visit these people as regularly as we would have liked. We had to start crossing names off from our list, of those who did not attend regularly, in order to work more solidly for those who did. Even so there were some whom we "cancelled" who later returned, and are now keeping Sabbath. We cannot help wondering how many more we could have won if only the labourers had been more in number. However, we have done our best with God's help, and are very thankful for the good harvest which has been gathered in.

We took out some time each week to go to a little village on the outskirts of Calabar, where an interest had been aroused. These people are preparing to build a school. We held a meeting each Friday evening, showing pictures, and as a result about five adults and a number of children are starting to keep Sabbath. It is only a small village, and we were not able to do a very thorough work, but it is a beginning, and we hope to return to do more later.

On the other side of the river, a lady teacher in a school belonging to another mission bought Bible Readings from Colporteur Achor. She read this book, accepted the Sabbath, Health Reform, and tithing, and two months ago she paid to Evangelist Awuloha more than £12 tithe, which she had kept with her for some time, not knowing where to pay it. She conducts a little Branch Sabbath School in her home (her husband is headmaster of the school) and we are hoping to follow up the interest in a stronger way early next year.

Our greatest desire and need at present is to build a church to house our new and growing membership. We are now using a hall with no ante-rooms where the children can meet for Sabbath services. We are limited to certain times when we can use the hall, and there are many more things which we could do if we had our own meeting place. We believe that the West African Union and the Division will do all they can to help us realize this ambition, but meanwhile we have established our own building fund, so that we shall be able to add it to whatever help comes from the mission authorities. We have some land in mind, and are carrying on negotiations to acquire it as early as possible.

It is hoped that we shall be able to have another baptism this year, in which several more will be baptized from Calabar. Please pray for the work in Calabar, that the Lord may give us the help we need so that the work may be well established.

Enugu Evangelism

By J. Imebuogu

Pastor, Enugu, East Nigerian Mission



A successful series of sixteen evangelistic meetings was held in Enugu township, Eastern Nigeria recently. Many earnest men and women attended the meetings, and the church members united in seeking God's blessing that they might win many souls through the effort.

Before the meetings began the church hall was renovated making it a place of real welcome for the visitors. The compound was also made attractive. Posters announcing the different subjects to be discussed at the meetings were put in prominent places throughout the town. To aid in drawing the people, the church choir sang each Sunday and Wednesday night. Those who were in charge of the meetings made it a point to begin exactly on time, and ushers were appointed to meet the public at the entrances to the hall and to show them to their seats.

Beautifully coloured film strips dealing with the subjects presented brought out vital points of truth to the audience which averaged about 70 at each meeting. After each lecture subject outlines were distributed and the attendance cards were marked.

Wednesday, the 25th of July, brought the lectures to an end, and appeals were made to those who wished to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. Many responded by oral demonstration. Among these was a mechanic who had won one of the twelve prizes for perfect attendance at the meetings. In his response he said, "I am fully convinced of the message. I have a great joy in the Lord for having kept my health fit so that nothing could debar me from attending the lectures. I thank our heavenly Father."

We express our gratitude to God, also, for answering our prayers in that throughout the time of the lectures there was no hinderance of any kind. Sixteen people have accepted the message and ten have already started to keep the Sabbath. We earnestly need your prayers in behalf of these new believers, some of whom are having difficulty in keeping the Sabbath.

Invest for God

By R. D. Mawutor

Publishing Secretary, Gold Coast Mission

While attending some Sabbath School-colporteur rallies held not long ago, I found myself especially impressed by some of the subjects presented. The duties of the various Sabbath School officers were fully explained to all, and questions were answered on how the different offerings are used. Birthday and Investment offerings were also explained and encouraged. As to how many people have since been giving birthday and Investment offerings as a result of the rallies, I cannot tell. However, I do know of one colporteur and his wife besides myself and my family who have been giving investment offerings ever since. Far from claiming glory for any good that this might do, it is rather my purpose to appeal to the brethren to follow suit, since I firmly believe that it will help the Lord's work as well as the individuals who invest for Him. Let me tell you what we have been doing.

Colporteur J. K. Dankwah's wife saves all the kernels collected when she makes a palm soup. These she sells and the money she gives as Investment. She also does part time colporteur work and gives one penny for Investment on every book sold. Occasionally she hems headkerchiefs, and the money paid for this work is added to her Investment fund.

Colporteur Dankwah pays Investment, too, on every book he sells. He also rears chickens as a hobby and some of the money received from them goes for Investment. Several pounds has come in as a result of these efforts.

Mrs. Mawutor and I selected one hen as a special Investment offering for the Lord. For the past two and half years we have collected more than £3 from the sale of eggs and chickens realized from this hen. We hope to give more than 50s. investment from the same source this year, for we already have 40s.

We feel that others can do the same. Farmers can invest a small portion of land and cultivate it for the Lord as special Investment. One pawpaw now costs no more than 3d., and if you plant only two pawpaw trees for Investment you will wonder at the great contribution you make towards God's work after a few years. Little deeds are sometimes the greatest deeds. Let's get busy and invest for God.

An Appreciation

By H. S. Pearce, Manager, Advent Press

It is sometimes felt that the colporteur work can only be carried on in the larger towns of our country, but to the colporteurs and members who will visit the more remote parts with our truth-filled literature comes the joy of a friendly reception and heart-felt thanks for disseminating the truth.

The following letter was sent to us;

"To the Agents and Proprietors of The Advent Press:

"I must confess the fact that the agents and proprietors of the books *Health and Longevity* and *God's Answers* are doing a very excellent piece of work by going round towns and villages introducing the books for us in the hinterland of the country to see them and purchase them.

"I pray you to keep on like this,

I am your patronizer,
P. M. Bossey, Ilorin."

I likewise join with him in praying that all will be encouraged to distribute the pages of truth—EVERYWHERE.



Brother and Sister Dankwah figuring out their investment on palm kernels. What have you invested for God?

SUCCESS BY CHANCE OR BY DESIGN

By E. W. PEDERSEN

Home Missionary Department, Northern European Division

Some people are lucky, or think they are. Others work for the success they achieve. Luck as such does not enter into man's ministry for God. What is accomplished is the outcome of divine favour and the human elements of willingness, consecration, talents, and doing. To this we might add technical aids and skill. The point I want to make is this: the law of cause and effects is operative also in our soul-winning service.

What lies at the root of a successful Harvest Ingathering Campaign, viewed from the membership angle? What is the secret? What are some of the essentials of success?

Leaving aside the missionary leader's part and duties as regards plans and organization, let me briefly mention something fundamental for you who read this.

Firstly: Your Own Personal Attitude to the Ingathering. You must believe in it. You must see in it a God-given opportunity for acceptable, fruitful Christian service. To ask you to love it may be asking too much—at least to begin with; but become acquainted with it through personal contact. Give it a chance. After a meeting in one of our churches here in Britain a sister came to me and said,

"Brother Pedersen, I have not taken part in the Ingathering for several years, but I am going out to-night."

"How come?" I asked.

"Your meeting," she replied. "I believe in it now."

Sister White says, "Some may question the propriety of receiving gifts from unbelievers. Let such ask themselves: 'Who is the real owner of our world? To whom belong its houses, and lands, and its treasures of gold and silver'. . . . God is ready to move upon the hearts of worldly men, even idolaters, to give of their abundance for the support of His work; and He will do this. . . ." *Southern Watchman*, March 15, 1904.

Secondly: Do What You Believe. With such a clear-cut statement from the Spirit of Prophecy it is impossible not to believe in the Harvest Ingathering. Put the breath of life into your faith. Put it to work. Practise what you think is good and right, and do it immediately the Campaign begins. Do not wait. Faith and works are twins and twins are born simultaneously, or not very far apart.

What you should believe about Ingathering may not be the same as what you feel about it. Feelings are poor judges. Believe that Ingathering is not just a money-raising campaign, but a spiritual service for God and man, for yourself as well as for others. Ingathering saves souls, in the home lands through the contacts we make, and in heathen lands overseas through the means we collect.

Thirdly: Regard Ingathering as a Privilege. It is a privilege for the solicitor as well as for the contributor. In one of the countries here in our Division we went to a big business firm and saw the proprietor. We explained our work carefully to him. He listened attentively and was amazed at what we were doing. When he heard what he used to give he turned red, ashamed. On his own accord he multiplied his usual donation by twelve. Following us to the door he thanked us for the privilege he had had of becoming better acquainted with our work and of giving to it.

A gentleman I met here in Britain the other



Pastor C. B. Mensah, presiding as chairman of the West African Coast mission during furlough periods, has taken in the work as leader of a large Board. He is one of several who have returned from East Nigeria is taking the same course. He is taking a one year's special course, taking longer overseas courses to prepare part of our training Africa

day was very critical of what we did. Standing with him at his door he said among other things that as a church we did not go far enough. We had lost out in Luther's day, and where were we as regards the seven sacraments? Obviously we were not where he wanted us to be. That was the end of it as far as he was concerned, until I just said, "Well sir, I am sure you and I can agree that what I am doing here is a good work, and that it is a privilege for both of us to have part in it." He looked at me and said, "Certainly it is a good work. Privilege you said . . . Well, I suppose a fiver. . . ." This was a comparatively large donation. When I had thanked him he closed the door, opened it again and—against common British practice—extended his hand and said, "Glad to have met you, God bless you."

...*Fourthly: Ingathering Is Interesting.* We meet all sorts of people; and people are interesting. We have something they lack and need. That is in itself an interesting challenge. It is interesting to represent a world-wide mission like ours. It is interesting to see people's reaction to our appeal; to listen to their reason for giving, or not giving; to meet their rebuffs with courteous grace and their arguments in a friendly Christian way so as to arouse their interest and gain their favour and friendship.



... of the Bekwai College Board, acting president of the Gold Coast, appreciate the strong lead he has given as field and chairman of the College Board, and hope to send some of the students overseas for further study. Pastor A. Nzotta of Newbold, is also a member of the Board for this year. Several other students are also being sent overseas for greater service. This is all a part of our leadership plan.

...*Fifthly: Ingathering Is Destined to Grow in Volume, Intensity, Results.* There is naturally a close relation between the total amount your church gathers and the number of people taking part in the Campaign. In the same way each one of us receives in proportion to the time spent at it, and the devotion and skill with which we work.

The size of our donations will increase when we learn to go about it in the right way. Here tact is most essential. We are to induce people to desire to give. We must intelligently give them opportunity to form in their own mind and of their own volition, a desire to contribute liberally and happily. Our inducement should be the proper presentation of our work and its needs, our friendly smile and Christian attitude, and their privilege to support what we represent. Even in house-to-house solicitation this can be successfully done.

...*Sixthly: Ingathering Is a Limited Opportunity.* That is to say, we are limited to a certain number of weeks each year. In Britain the authorities have allowed us five weeks. We cannot begin before the set date, nor can we go beyond it. That is why our British people launch a full scale offensive from the very beginning and keep at it until they have reached their goal.

In other parts of the Division we are not in that way limited by the law. But we have set aside five weeks. We believe it is ideal to confine ourselves to this period. And we can do it. When we begin on time and work right through, we shall be able to end up in triumph at the end of the Campaign.

...*Seventhly: Ingathering Is for All,* therefore also for you. Yes, especially for you who have physical health and ability to do it. Are you on the inactive list? Listen: Try to do something this year, won't you? Don't think in terms of fear or failure. There is nothing to fear, and God knows of no failure. It takes us all to finish God's work, also you. Ingathering has become our most popular missionary campaign and therefore the most successful. Everybody can do it. Also you.

Because we have got into something of a bad habit of playing up those who solicit great amounts we may be discouraging others. Remember that great value is attached to a penny of the right sort. It is your attitude of mind and heart that determines the sort of the penny and the value God gives it. Your motive counts. "It is not the result we achieve, but the motive from which we act that counts," says Mrs. White.

(Continued on page 8, col.2)

The Restoration of God's Truth

PART III

By J. C. Clifford

Former President, Gold Coast Mission

When God gave His law concerning marriage He stated "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife." Genesis 2:24. This important rule was repeated by our Saviour in Matthew 19:5. This principle is essential to happiness in the marriage relation, and applies both to men and women. A man who is not willing to leave his parents and put his wife first in his love should not think of marriage. Neither should a woman think of marriage unless she also is prepared to leave her father and mother, and put her husband first in her life and love.

Much unhappiness is caused by the wife deserting her husband and returning to her parents home because of some petty quarrel, and too often such a practice is encouraged by the parents. No Christian parents can encourage this practice and expect God's approval, for in this way they are helping to break up the marriage rather than bind it together. Romans 7:1,2, tells us clearly that "The woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he liveth."

It is true that husbands and wives may have differences, and among heathen people these develop into quarrels and separation. But Christians should not act this way. They are God's children. God is love, and God's true love in our hearts will enable us to settle our differences as we talk them over in a friendly manner. Every married couple should frequently read together 1 Corinthians 13 and take its lessons to heart realizing that Christian marriage is a life-long partnership in which we help each other to be good, and invite Jesus to be our constant guest and helper.

But it is not always the fault of the woman that a marriage is broken. Often heathen relatives interfere. I remember the case of Kofi Gyebi who was our church elder at Ntonso, and his wife. One day the wife's relatives came to the home and said that according to a certain custom the marriage was to be broken off, and they had come to take her home. But she was a true Christian and determined to serve God, so she told them that they had agreed to the marriage, and that she loved her husband and her children. They could do what they liked, but she would stand

by her husband. It is good to see Christian women taking such a stand for God and for right.

In counsel with the church elders of the Gold Coast, a Form of Agreement to Christian Marriage was printed, whereby the woman's relatives, on receiving the bride price, signed a covenant agreeing that the woman should not be expected to follow any heathen customs, and that the family had no further financial claim upon the husband. An agreement of this kind goes a long way to prevent interference by heathen relatives in a Christian marriage.

There are also some husbands who need to change their ideas about marriage. I knew a man who sent his wife home because she had lost her front teeth, and took another woman in her place. How unkind and unchristian. Too many men put away their wives for some trivial excuse, and think they are then free to marry another. God is highly displeased with this. He warns us: "Let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth." Malachi 2:14,15. He tells us further that God "hateth putting away," verse 16. Yet, through the evil influence of Satan, thousands of men put away their wives for unscriptural reasons (Matthew 5:31,32). Thus Satan has "cast down the truth to the ground."

The truth of God's way concerning marriage is very important. Samson lost his soul because he allowed impulse, not principle, to guide him. When his parents advised him against marrying a heathen woman, he replied "Get her for me, she pleaseth me well." Judges 14:3. The results of that wrong course ended in imprisonment, blindness, and death. How important that young men and women meditate carefully their course before marriage, and ask counsel of God and good Christian friends.

The Lord's servant tells us: "Let those contemplating marriage weigh every sentiment and watch every development of character in the one with whom they think to unite their life's destiny. Let every step towards a marriage alliance be characterized by modesty, simplicity, sincerity, and an earnest purpose to please and honour God. Marriage affects the after life both in this world and in the world to come. A sincere Christian will make no plans that God can not approve. . . . Let a young woman accept as a life companion only one who possesses pure, manly traits of character, one who is diligent, aspiring, and honest, one who loves and fears God. Let a young man seek one to stand by his side who is fitted to bear her share of life's burdens,

one whose influence will ennoble and refine him, and who will make him happy in her love." *Ministry of Healing*, page 359. (The full chapter should be read by all Christians who are contemplating the important step of marriage.)

Let us be most particular to marry in the faith. God says "Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers." 2 Corinthians 6:14,15. And in Deuteronomy 7:3,4, speaking of the heathen God said "Neither shalt thou make marriages with them . . . for they will turn thy son from following Me."

We have seen that Satan has in many ways tried to destroy God's sacred institution of marriage, but when God's plan is followed, this becomes a great blessing to man. A happy Christian home with its peace and love brings to man a foretaste of heaven. As with marriage, so with the Sabbath, we do well to ask for the old paths, God's good way, and walk therein. Jeremiah 6:16.

Bo Temperance Rally

By E. T. Wilson

Student, Bo Secondary School, Sierra Leone

It was August 3, and the last minute rush was on. The Native Administration Court Barrie was almost ready. The evening was fresh cool, and there was not a cloud in the sky. This was a surprise, as the month of August is one of the wettest in Sierra Leone. Hanging up on the dais was a large Missionary Volunteer banner with golden letters on a black background and bearing the motto.

Every preparation was completed, and the Missionary Volunteer march had started. You certainly would have liked to be in Bo to see the Missionary Volunteers on parade in their smart uniforms. As they marched towards the place for the meeting, a crowd accompanied them. Music from the tape recorder and a gramophone had also attracted many others, and soon we realized that the seating accommodations were inadequate. That did not matter to our audience. Those who could not sit on chairs and benches provided soon made themselves comfortable on the "kaki" or stood around. The place was packed full. There were both young and old, small and great, totalling about 400.

The music on the tape recorder stopped. At 6:35 p.m. the opening remarks were made and the audience listened respectfully. The welcome song so sweetly rendered by the school children was one you too would have

enjoyed. Following this, Pastor J. S. Myers led out in prayer. The rest of the programme consisted of recitations, songs, dialogues, music on records, and talks.

Amongst the recitations were such ones as "The Hotel Bar,"—which told of the poverty, misery, broken homes, and wrecked lives which such a place is causing. There could have been no stronger appeal against the selling of alcohol than the words and music of that record "Don't Sell Daddy any more Whisky," which was played just after the last recitation.

Brother M. S. Greene, the Missionary Volunteer Secretary for Sierra Leone, who instigated the programme, gave one of the two talks. His topic was "A Plea for the Barkeeper." He made it clear to begin with that he was himself against alcohol and that he had no dealings with it in any form whatever. He then went on in a rather sarcastic manner to plead on their behalf. Among other things he pointed out that the barkeepers were directly or indirectly responsible for the erection of such buildings like the prison homes, insane asylums, etc. His advice was that all those who desired to be humiliated and wretched both in manners and appearance should always call at the bar keeper's.

Pastor A. M. Moyer who gave the second talk spoke on "The Power of Alcohol." He maintained that although alcohol was very good as a preserver and useful in medicine and industry, yet it is *poison* to man when he takes it in. His appeal was that all should abstain from the practice of taking alcohol in any amount whatever.

Mr. K. W. Brown, the Bo Missionary Volunteer Leader, gave the closing remarks and emphasized his hope that the audience would leave that evening determined to live better temperate lives. Music from the tape recorder was followed by the benediction given by Pastor C. F. Galow of the Evangelical United Brethren Mission. The audience then left, carrying home with them some truth-filled temperance literature.

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

News Notes

✘ We welcome Brother and Sister Hugh Dunton to our Secondary School at Bekwai. The Duntons have come to us from Stanborough Secondary School in England. Brother Dunton is the new headmaster for the School.

✘ We welcome Pastor M. E. Lind, the Division Missionary Volunteer and Sabbath School Departmental Secretary, to our field. He arrived by plane on the 28th of August and his first appointment was at the Youth Camp at Anamabu in the Gold Coast. By the time this paper is out he probably will have made his visits to East and West Nigeria. We are sure that his visit will mean much to the advancement of the Young Peoples and Sabbath School work.

✘ We welcome Brother and Sister Barfoot and young daughter to Accra. Brother Barfoot is our new Union Secretary for the Publishing and Sabbath School Departments. We wish him God's richest blessing as he joins with the work in West Africa.

✘ At a recent meeting of the Union Committee it was voted to approve the purchase of a plot of land in Lagos at mile eight on the Ikorodu Road. This site is for the new Voice of Prophecy headquarters.

✘ Pastor C. D. Henri and his family have just moved to Lagos. He is the former President of the Liberian Mission but he is now taking up his post as Union Evangelist. He hopes to start an effort soon in Lagos.

✘ Sister Beryl Turtill recently spent her local leave in Accra with the Gibson family. She also made a visit to the Kwahu Hospital.

✘ Ten people have signed up to keep the Sabbath in Pastor Gibson's Bible Class which is held in the Accra Community Centre. Let us pray that they will be faithful.

✘ Many copies of the special "Desire of Ages" are being ordered and we trust that every mission committee and worker will do their very best to give this good book a wide distribution among friends while it is being offered at this special price.

✘ Many efforts have been conducted in the Gold Coast during August and September. We trust that many souls have been won.

✘ Pastor Farrow of East Nigeria reports "Many District Efforts are under way and good interests are being raised up. Our greatest problem is workers to take care of these interests."

✘ We welcome Brother and Sister Battle to Liberia. Brother Battle is the newly appointed President for our Liberian Mission. We wish them much of God's blessing as they enter the work here in West Africa.

SIERRA LEONE

✘ The readers of the *West African Messenger* will be happy to hear that the programme "Your Radio Doctor" will be heard on the Sierra Leone Broadcasting station once each week for fifteen minutes. Negotiations have been completed with the Public Relations Officer, Mr. Freestone. This programme which is produced by Dr. Clifford Anderson will be announced as being under the sponsorship of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission.

✘ Mr. Joel Kamara, head teacher Yele, sat for his General Certificate examination. The results will not be given for several months. Mr. Kamara received his Elementary Teacher Training at Bekwai. Later he received his Teacher's Certificate at Fourah Bay College.

✘ Mr. A. S. M. Brima has been accepted for the Teacher's Certificate course at Fourah Bay College. Mr. Brima is teaching at our Bo Primary school. He has been teaching for the mission for the past six years. At the beginning of 1956 he was elected Elder of the Bo Church.

Success by Chance or by Design

(Continued from page 5)

...*Eighthly: Follow up Your Ingathering* with visits and literature to those who may have shown interest in some phase of our work. Write down good experiences and share them with others. Reports are good and necessary. Oral testimonies to the glory of God for what He has done for you and through you throws honour on His name, brings happiness to your own soul, and inspiration and courage to others.

In the past our Division has done splendidly. For this we are indeed grateful to God. And we thank you. Success is not by luck, nor by chance. It is by design—by God's own design. During this coming Campaign God has ordained us all to success, also you. May God bless you.