

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT

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WEEK OF PRAYER AND SACRIFICE

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

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." 1 Peter 4:7.

These words addressed to those living in earth's closing days, are fraught with grave significance to the church today. On every hand we see unmistakable evidences that the end of all things is upon us. Such proof as the pioneers never dreamed of we see today. Yet it was upon their faith in fulfilling prophecy that the foundations of our movement were laid. What might their testimony have been could they have witnessed the overwhelming evidence that floods our world today? In the moral, religious and scientific world; in industrial and international relationships; conditions are crowding in upon us that proclaim in clarion tones that we are living in the very closing days of earth's history. Perhaps in no way is the evidence more startling than in the present lining up of nations and the part that the lands of Bible days are being called upon to play again in the affairs of men.

It is in view of the increasingly serious conditions about us, and the certainty of the hour to which we have come, that the words of Peter strike us with such tremendous import: "Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."

At what better time could the heralds of the Advent message respond to this divine summons to pray than during the coming Week of Prayer? Many are the weeks of prayer to which we have been called in years

gone by. But no call ever came to us so pregnant with eternal issues as that which calls us 'now. Let us with solemnity and earnestness accept the invitation and seek from Him the specific help so urgently needed in this hour.

Let us pray for the rulers of nations: Satanic agencies are viciously at work inciting to bitterness and hatred and violence.



WEEK OF PRAYER 17-24 NOVEMBER

We need the Latter Rain now. Shall we not pray earnestly for it?

They too know the lateness of the hour, and with unabating vigilance seek to tear out from nations, from homes, and from the lives of individuals all love, peace, goodness, and faith—the attributes of God's own kingdom. Let us pray that the hearts of rulers may be touched and the hands be strengthened of those that seek to do right. Thus did men pray for rulers in Bible days, and in miraculous ways God answered their prayers.

Let us pray for the Church! Satan's attacks on the family of God will be even greater than those on nations, for here is the seat of God's power on earth. Let us pray that it may be strong and united to meet the coming crisis: that all dissension, criticism, and bitterness be eradicated from us so that united we may open our doors to troubled hearts.

Let us remember our youth and children, that in their inexperience they may not be imperilled by the confusion and distortion about them, but rising up in God-given strength may guide other youth to the shelter that is found in God's church.

And let us not forget to pray for ourselves—that in our hour of need we may be strong, and that within our own hearts there may be found that faith and trust and peace which will carry us through every trial, with enough to share with those in need around us.

Finally, we would remember the millions in the whitening harvest of our mission endeavour. Only when the gospel has gone to these will our task be finished. But it is not prayers alone that are needed here. For many years the Week of Prayer has been marked by sacrificial giving. Can we not this year bring an offering that will be commensurate with the urgency of the times in which we are living? And can we not demonstrate our belief that "the end of all things is at hand" by bringing a gift that will really count in the programme to which we have set our hands?

It is recommended that where possible a week's income be placed in the offering on Sabbath, November 24. What a blessing would be ours and what advancement to God's cause were we to set our hearts to reach this goal.

May God send new and unprecedented blessings into the life of every Seventh-day Adventist as unitedly we seek Him at this time. May He bless our homes, our communities, our countries. May He bless our gifts as in confidence and with generous spirit we place them in His hands for the speedy finishing of His work.

Inspection

By J. Wolfe, Principal,
Adventist High School Ihie, Nigeria

What a chill that word "inspection" brought to our hearts! But what a challenge! A telegram had arrived from the Inspector of Secondary Schools telling us that in six days time he would arrive to inspect our Adventist High School here in Ihie. Only six days left! Six days in which to make everything in the office, school, and compound ready for the searching eye of the Inspector.

When I announced it to the school there was a sort of stunned silence. But not for long. Soon the silence was shattered by the noise of spades and buckets, of hoes and crow-bars, of the voices of the prefects as they organized and led their houses in the Herculean task of demolition and construction; of scattering and tidying, and of making everything within their domain spick and span. Without any urging from the authorities, the students worked long hours in the rain and darkness, knowing the importance of the coming inspection.

The Staff too buckled down and saw that everything under their jurisdiction was in order. Pastor Welch and Mr. Rieseberg slaved honourably to complete the installations of our new laboratory in time. For the six days of preparation, all on the compound gave of their best unstintingly and cheerfully. By midnight on February 29 all was as perfect as human effort could make it. Many and earnest were the prayers that ascended to our Father in Heaven to bless with success the effort of His children.

Promptly at 8:30 in the morning the Inspector arrived. Wasting no time he made straight for the classrooms. For the next two days every feature of our school was under scrutiny. Teaching, text-books, exercise books, students, classrooms, academic records, staff qualifications, food, recreation, finance, school history and organization, future plans,—in fact, everything! When it was over one could almost hear a great sigh of relief rise from the compound.

What would the result be? If we did not receive the approval it would prove detrimental to our school for many years to come. It would bring the prestige of our Mission very low. It would bitterly disappoint our church members who have faithfully supported the school since its inception in 1953. We were only too aware of many of our

(Continued on page 8.)

A Message From Your Former Union President

In response to the kind invitation of your Editor we are very pleased to send a message of greeting to the ever expanding family of Adventist workers and believers throughout the West African Union. It is now over five years since we came to England, but the memory of the years spent in West Africa are ever fresh to us. From time to time we meet some of our former missionary colleagues, both European and African, as they come to England, and it is always refreshing to renew fellowship with these brethren and sisters and to learn of the rapidly developing work throughout West Africa. There is nothing more dear to our hearts than to hear of the steady growth of the message we love among people we love.

Then, too, the many letters we have received from our African friends and missionaries have been much appreciated, and as we have not been able to answer them all, we could take this opportunity of saying *adupe* (thank you) to our African friends in particular.

Naturally we have been watching with more than ordinary interest the rapid changes that have been taking place in recent years, both in the political field, and in our own work. These are days of great opportunity for the use of all our talents in the extension of the Advent Message, which, after all, is man's only hope.

It is good to know of larger and better equipped training centres being developed, and of new hospitals and dispensaries being opened for the healing of both the physical and spiritual ills of men and women. May the Lord richly bless all who labour in these institutions.

Here in Great Britain our people manifest a deep love for overseas missions, and they seem to be particularly interested in Africa. They never get tired of hearing stories and reports of the work out there. Not only do they give liberally of their own means, but they work hard in gathering funds for the support of our mission work overseas, and you are all constantly remembered in their prayers.

We are both keeping well, and very happy in our work with the Church in Bournemouth, in the South of England. Our faith and confidence in the Advent Message grows stronger and more precious, and that is how it should



Our good friends, Pastor and Mrs. W. McClements be as we grow older in it; for, after all, it is the one Blessed Hope of all God's children which is as an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast.

As our thoughts go out to all the readers of the "Messenger" in West Africa we cannot close with a better message than the admonition of St. Paul to the Hebrews: "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Hebrews 10: 35-37.

May the Lord continue to bless you all, and keep you ever faithful.

Yours in His glad service,
W. and M. McClements.

A boy loves his dog because it is the only thing around the house that doesn't find fault with him.—*Sunshine Magazine*, May 1956.

And now, among my fading memories, these in the main are my regrets: when I am right, no one remembers; when I am wrong, no one forgets.—*Sunshine Magazine*, May 1956.

A conference is a meeting at which people talk about what they should already be doing.—*Sunshine Magazine*, May 1956.

Two things are hard on the heart—running up hill and running down people.—*Sunshine Magazine*, May 1956.

San Francisco's Object Lesson

By EDGAR KESLAKE, Secretary, Union Temperance Department

In the *Reader's Digest* for the month of July 1956, there is a graphic description of the terrible destruction of San Francisco on April 18, 1906. I recommend that you read it if you have not already done so. The title is "When San Francisco Went Up In Flames."

It is worth reading not only because it is "a vivid account of a city's battle against history's costliest conflagration, but because there is a great lesson that should have been learned, but which unfortunately was not.

The mayor of San Francisco at that time—Eugene Schmitz—laid down certain laws for the emergency, among which was "I forbid the sale of Alcohol."

The amazing results of this emergency ruling are not told in the *Reader's Digest*. However, in the magazine "Listen" for the quarter April to June, 1956, there appears an article on the same subject entitled "Up From the Rubble," in which the author devotes herself primarily to the effect of this ruling which the mayor made.

Newspaper comment of the time speaks most favourably of the improvement that came about due to the ban on alcoholic beverages.

Said the San Francisco Chronicle under the date of May 5, 1906, "San Francisco for the past fortnight has been absolutely free from disorder and virtually free from crimes of violence. There have been no street brawls, no drunken brute has beaten his wife. No gamblers have murdered each other in low resorts. . . . It is a most impressive object lesson in the value to society of the restriction of the liquor traffic. . . ."

"This absolute demonstration that the saloons are responsible for all crimes of violence makes it imperative that, whenever they shall be allowed to reopen in this city their license fees be fixed at a rate which will support the Police Department. . . . The public generally will protect against being taxed for the control or suppression of those forms of crimes for which the saloons are now proved to be solely responsible."

An editorial in the "San Francisco Bulletin" of May 9, 1906, stated: "San Francisco has learned during the past three weeks that it can do very well without liquor."

Just "how well" is told in an editorial of the "San Francisco Examiner," May 16, 1906: "The city has had before its eyes the salutary

effects of closing the rum shops. The decrease in the amount of crime in a disorganized city has caused the astonishment of the people."

"Crime is one of the most expensive luxuries in which a city indulges. If half the crime could be cut off by the closing of the saloons, the cost of running the city government could very easily be kept under the dollar tax limit, and there would be plenty of money left for permanent improvements."

"It is the saloon that makes taxes high by making necessary the maintenance of a large and expensive system of police protection."

Very pertinent remarks were made by the Lord's servant, Mrs. E. G. White, in the "Review and Herald," October 25, 1906, from which I quote: "For a time after the great earthquake along the coast of California, the authorities in San Francisco and in some of the smaller cities and towns ordered the closing of all liquor saloons. So marked were the effects of this strictly enforced ordinance, that the attention of thinking men throughout America and notably on the Pacific Coast, was directed to the advantages that would result from a permanent closing of all saloons. During many weeks following the earthquake in San Francisco very little drunkenness was seen. No intoxicating drinks were sold. The disorganized and unsettled state of affairs gave the city officials reason to expect an abnormal increase of disorder and crime, and they were greatly surprised to find the opposite true. This remarkable freedom from violence and crime was traceable largely to the disuse of intoxicants."

The editors of some of the leading dailies took the position that it would be for the permanent betterment of society and for the up-building of the best interests of the city, were the saloons to remain closed forever. But wise counsel was swept aside, and within a few short weeks permission was given the liquor dealers to reopen their places of business, upon the payment of a considerably higher licence than had formerly been paid into the city treasury."

Notice the reason given for the catastrophe in the last paragraph of the passage being quoted: "In the calamity that befell San Francisco, the Lord designed to wipe out the liquor saloons that have been the cause of

so much evil, so much misery and crime; and yet the guardians of the public welfare have proved unfaithful to their trust, by legalizing the sale of liquor. . . . They know that in doing this, they are virtually licensing the commission of crime; and yet their knowledge of this sure result deters them not. . . . The people of San Francisco must answer at the judgment bar of God for the reopening of the liquor saloons in that city."

What is to be expected in West Africa as we see the marked increase in the consumption of alcoholic beverages, and the increasing numbers of bars and night clubs in which these beverages are sold? Think also of the breweries in Lagos and Accra, and Abidjan and the proposed new breweries in Kumasi, Gold Coast, and Aba, East Nigeria, and in other places. With such a course being pursued in West Africa, can we hope to escape God's judgments as have been visited upon other places of which San Francisco is an example?

"Because of the wickedness that follows largely as the result of the use of liquor, the judgments of God are falling upon our earth today. Have we not a solemn responsibility to put forth earnest efforts in opposition to this great evil?"—*Counsels on Health*, page 432.

Division Secretary Bids Us Good-bye

Pastor E. B. Rudge, Secretary of the Northern European Division writes that because of family health problems "my wife and I have felt impelled to request permanent return to our homeland, (Australia)." He further states "I look back with considerable pleasure upon my visits to West Africa and the privileges I enjoyed of meeting our workers and members. I shall be glad if you will kindly convey to the national workers when you meet them, my good wishes and good-byes."

I am sure we all join in thanking Pastor Rudge for his deep interest and untiring service in the behalf of our field. Our prayers will go with them as they return to their homeland.

J.O. Gibson.

Health Book Reforms Alcoholic

By S. A. Ihemeje, Publishing Secretary,
East Nigerian Mission

This is a portion of a letter which I recently received. It comes from a customer of Mr. E. A. Onumadu, our colporteur in Benin City, and is a real testimony to the good that can be done through our colporteur work.

"I was once an ardent smoker and a lover of alcoholic drinks to the extent that a great portion of my salary was lost in them. Years of efforts to stop these evil habits proved extremely unsuccessful.

But a turning point was reached in my life when a friend, Mr. E. A. Onumadu, slipped into my hands a book entitled *Health and Longevity* which only cost me twenty-five shillings. Anybody who has a good regard for his life will not hesitate in stopping smoking and drinking in their entirety after reading the medical opinion about them as set down in this book. In short, this book written in a simple, straight forward and attractive style is, generally speaking, the key which opens to you the door of a healthy long life. This great book has brought a tremendous change in me and all my friends who have taken my advice to read it."

E. C. Mkpuru, Benin-City, Nigeria.

Undoubtedly many of our friends and neighbours who now have intemperate habits would leave them if they only understood the great harm they are causing themselves. Let's do all we can to get these informative and educational books into their hands that they may enjoy better and healthier lives.



Mr. E. C. Mkpuru on the left with E. O. Onumadu, Colporteur-Evangelist at Benin-City.

Electing Church Officers

By J. O. Gibson, President,
West African Union Mission

This year is fast drawing to a close. It is now time to arrange for church elections for the coming year. In the past there has been some laxness in certain churches in respect to holding church elections regularly. Whether the church is organized or only a company duly appointed leaders should be selected.

Organized Churches

In organized churches officers are recommended by a nominating committee. Before a nominating committee is elected a special committee is chosen to suggest names—but members to be on the nominating committee. I do not think this has always been practised but shall we not do it correctly this year? For your guidance we quote the following from the *Church Manual*.

Nominating Committee

"It is the rule that a nominating committee be appointed to give careful study to the needs of the church and to make careful inquiry into the fitness of members to serve in the different offices. This committee should be appointed as early as possible in the closing quarter of the year, so that the church election may be held not later than the second Sabbath in December. The minister or pastor in charge of the church, or in the absence of a minister, the church elder, should bring the matter to the attention of the church, the understanding being that the church itself shall determine how the nominating committee is to be chosen.

How Nominating committee is Appointed.—It is recommended that in harmony with the practice followed at our conference elections, there be provided in the larger churches a special committee of from seven to fifteen members who shall nominate the nominating committee and designate its chairman. In churches of twenty-five members or less a committee of from three to nine may be chosen. This special committee may be chosen in one of two ways:

1. By nominations from the floor. Should this method be followed, it must be understood that no member may nominate more than one individual. The effort of one individual of a small group to dictate to the entire membership of the church is disapproved. Everything of a political nature should be avoided.

2. By voting to authorize the church board, together with five to seven persons nominated

from the floor, to recommend the personnel of the nominating committee. The nominating of officers from the floor or by general ballot is disapproved.

In any case the personnel of this special committee to nominate the nominating committee must be voted on by the church. It has not been elected nor can it function until this is done. Its report as to the membership of the nominating committee and its chairman must also be brought to the church for action.

"Who Should Be Members of the Nominating Committee.—Only members who are in good standing should be chosen as members of the nominating committee. They should be persons of good judgment and, above all, have the welfare and prosperity of the church at heart. There are no ex-officio members of a nominating committee. The pastor of the church or the district leader may properly be chosen as a member of this committee, as his appointment to the church does not rest upon any action by the nominating committee. If not elected as a member, he should be invited to sit with the committee." *Church Manual* (1951 Edition) pages 171-173.

I would suggest you read other items in respect to elections in your *Church Manual*.

Organized Companies

On page 64 of the *Church Manual* (1951 Edition) procedure is given for organizing companies who are not fully organized churches.—

"The organization of such a company may be effected by the district pastor or by some other minister appointed by the conference or mission committee, who, in counsel with the local members, shall appoint from the baptized membership of the company a leader and a treasurer.

"All other appointments such as Sabbath school officers, church missionary society officers, and Missionary Volunteer Society officers should be made by vote of the baptized members of the company at a meeting presided over by the district leader or by such person as may be authorized by the conference or mission committee.

"The leader of such a company shall not be ordained to office. He does not have the authority to perform those functions that are vested in an elder of the church."

"Such a company of believers should grow and eventually develop to the point that would call for a regular church organization. The company leadership should therefore promote and foster all the church campaigns and

activities that are usually carried forward by regular churches, thus preparing the members for the wider responsibilities that are associated with full church organization."

Each district leader should care for the appointment of the leader and treasurer of these companies at the end of each year. Discuss the procedure with your President. (I would suggest the district committee might well handle this matter if the field committee approves) After the leader and treasurer have been appointed then the other officers should be selected with the aid of the district leader.

May God guide you as you endeavour to have a better organized group of churches and companies.



A Six-day Evangelistic Institute

By **A. M. Moyer**, President,
Sierra Leone Mission

Nine Evangelists and four teachers actively engaged in evangelism gathered around the large table in the Sierra Leone president's office. This number was increased by five members of the office staff and a District Leader.

The motto for the meetings were "Whatever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord." Colossians 3:23. The meetings opened at 8:30 a.m the 21st of August with a devotional talk by the President based on the motto. The sessions began each morning at 8:30 with a devotional service and closed at noon. They began again at 2:00 and continued until 4:15 p.m. The evening session began at 7:30 and closed with a fifteen-minute evening vespers at 8:30.

The sessions were conducted as a discussion group rather than the formal lecture methods. The meeting was directed by the President, who acted as chairman, and an agenda of items for discussion was followed. These items included Voice of Prophecy follow-up work, conducting of the various church services, personal work, denominational history and organization, sermon building, and also a speech clinic was conducted. Numerous other phases of the work of an evangelist were discussed.

Here are comments from those who attended the Institute:

Thomas Momoh: "The institute was vivid and interesting. . . ." James Koroma: "I

wish we would have more meetings like this." E. S. Thorlie (teacher): "It was indeed a very pleasant, cheerful, enjoyable institute. I wish all the workers could have been present." D. A. Follah: "Having discussed many matters concerning our work, I really feel that I have gained something worth while both mentally and spiritually." M. T. Ngeyewo: "I have gained much. May the Lord bless us to win more souls into His kingdom." F. B. Boima, (teacher): "The Evangelistic Institute has given me a wider range of my services among the people for whom I work." Albert Lansana (newly appointed evangelist): "I appreciated the meeting. I know how to do my work better now. I desire to attend more meetings like this one." A. A. T. Sesay: "What a wonderful thing the Lord hath worked to make it possible for such inspiring meetings to be held at Bo." J. U. Foray: "This Evangelistic Institute has done great things for me." Pastor J. S. Myers, Bo District Leader: "I have greatly enjoyed the institute, and it has been a real inspiration to me."

Pastor Myers, Modu Greene, John Fofana, Brother Muderspach, and the writer led out in the discussion periods. The spirit of the Lord was felt through the meetings. The testimony of Brother M. A. Jaya, recently appointed teacher at Waterloo, sums up nicely the spirit of the meetings.

"It is sad to say that for a long time I had lost contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Mission and, worst of it all, with God. The Evangelistic Institute has helped to educate me more about the history of the mission, the denominational principles, and what sort of life to live up to as a true Adventist. This is really a stepping stone for me in the field of work in which I am engaged. I am very grateful to the organisers, and I pray that God may bless them for their valuable instructions they have given me. May God also help me to use these instructions so as to be able to save many souls."

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

News Notes

✘ We welcome Dr. and Mrs. John Hyde and daughter Roselea back to the Gold Coast after their furlough in England. During their furlough Dr. and Mrs. Hyde attended a Medical Convention held in Finland.

✘ We welcome Miss Betty Jenkinson to our hospital at Ile-Ife Nigeria. Miss Jenkinson has had wide nursing experience in England and is joining the hospital staff as a Nursing Sister.

✘ We welcome Miss Margaret Sanders to our hospital at Mpraeso, Gold Coast. Trained at Shroddell's Hospital, Watford, England. Miss Sanders is to be a second Nursing Sister at the Kwahu Hospital.

✘ Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Hubbard and daughter sailed in the "Auriol" on 26th September for their furlough in England. We wish them a safe journey and an enjoyable furlough.

✘ Mrs. C. G. Meredith and two children sailed in the "Auriol" on 26th September for their furlough. Brother Meredith is to follow by air a little later in the year. We wish them a safe journey and a happy furlough as they join their relatives in England.

✘ Pastor C. B. Mensah of the Gold Coast writes that he was well received and cared for in Britain. He spent the first two weeks visiting some of the churches with Pastor Newman and Brother Rigby. He is now enrolled at the college at Newbold.

✘ We extend our deepest sympathy to Pastor and Mrs. Moyer on the loss of Maurita their two-year-old daughter. May God bless and sustain them during this time of great sorrow.

✘ Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Tharawoli, and her family on the loss of her husband, Pastor Tharawoli, who died in Sierra Leone on Friday 14th September. We assure them of our prayers at this time of sorrow.

INSPECTION

(Continued from page 2.)

shortcomings and weaknesses. What would the Inspector say?

A few days ago word came from the West African Examination Council that the Adventist High School has been approved to offer candidates for the West African School Certificate in General Subjects and Science. Let us thank the Father for His leading.

The Inspector, in his report, made many criticisms. That is his job. But he also made many complimentary remarks, showing that he realized that we were trying to run a respectable school. He showed special interest in the work of our Missionary Volunteer Department, and in some of the other religious aspects of our school life. He summed up his impression by saying, "This is a pleasant young school to visit. . . . The atmosphere is one of enthusiasm."

Our first great hurdle is over. Let us pause to pay tribute to those who went before, to plan and to start our school. Said the Inspector, "Good foundations have been laid." Let us again thank our Union Mission authorities and the faithful members overseas and in West Africa who have made the school possible. Above all, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory." We recognize the fact that but for the guidance and help of the Lord, such a victory could not have been won.

Let us therefore look ahead. Great problems have still to be faced and overcome. Accommodation and staffing must continue to be improved. But we know that "He who has led will lead." We beg you to continue to support us by your prayers and your interest. Let us work together so that in the day of the final great Inspection, we may be able to present to the Lord Himself the youth, whom we together have helped to win, as being worthy of the Divine approval.

GOD IS PROVING YOU

"God is proving you, and it is for you to determine whether you will come out *gold* or *valueless dross*. Should your probation close tonight, how would your life-record stand? Not a dollar of what you have gained could you take with you."—"Testimonies," Vol. 3, page 250.