

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT

# MESSENGER

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## A HIGH DAY IN IBADAN

By G. M. Ellstrom, President,  
West Nigerian Mission

Our church in Ibadan was packed on that beautiful Sabbath day, the 16th of February, for many visitors had come to witness a special service. It was a day long to be remembered for two of our evangelists, J. A. Adeogun and J. A. Makinde and their wives, for it was the day of their ordination to the gospel Ministry. West Nigeria rejoiced with them as this added two more Pastors to help carry increased responsibilities in the Mission.

A deep reverence was felt that day in the House of God. An attentive congregation listened to Pastor E. W. Pedersen, our Division Home Missionary Secretary, as he so earnestly preached a message appropriate for members as well as for those who were to be ordained.

With Pastor Pedersen on the rostrum were other Pastors who took part in this important service: Pastor H. J. Welch and Pastor N. B. Nielsen from the Union, Pastor R. W. Coon, the local Pastor, who is Principal of the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School, and Pastor G. M. Ellstrom of the local Mission, as well as two of our African brethren Pastor J. M. A. Adeoye and Pastor J. O. Olomojobi.

The service of Ordination that followed the sermon was a solemn and reverent, yet blessed and joyful occasion as these two faithful evangelists were set aside to do the full work of the Ministry.

As the Ministers kneeled around these two candidates for ordination, Pastor Adeoye offered a sincere prayer of consecration and

dedication. After this earnest prayer Pastor Welch, our Union President, read the charge in which he pointed out the greater responsibilities that now would rest upon them.



Ordination of Pastors Adeogun and Makinde,

It was then the writer's happy privilege to welcome these newly ordained ministers into the fellowship of those already ordained to the Gospel Ministry.

It was truly a wonderful day and we look forward to similar days when still others will join the faithful, though at present small, group of ordained Ministers in the West Nigerian Mission.

## The President's Letter To All Workers

Dear Fellow Workers:

I write these words to you as to men who have been called to positions of leadership in the cause of God. What I shall write is nothing new or strange but rather to stir up our minds by way of remembrance. How easy it is for us all to get so busy with the multitudinous duties of running a mission, a school, a hospital or a district that we lose sight of our real objective.

Our real objective is to give God's message to the people; to give it in such a positive yet winning way that men everywhere are brought face to face with its challenge and earnestly invited, yea urged to heed its warning and find shelter in the Lord Jesus Christ. This we call *Evangelism*. Fellow overseas missionary, *Evangelism* is your business. Dear African brethren, *Evangelism* is your business.

Let us ask ourselves, 'How have I related myself thus far in 1957 to Evangelism? What have I done personally? What have I done as a leader in organizing, planning and promoting soul winning in my mission, school or hospital? Could I have done more? Has my vision been clear as to my real task?'

Then with hearts humbled by our own insufficiency let us seek God for vision and power and understanding that we might do a much greater work of winning men and women, boys and girls to Christ in the remainder of 1957. Let us make definite plans now. And then as God leads the way let us carry them out with vigour and enthusiasm.

Wishing you all God's richest blessings, I remain,

Sincerely your brother and fellow worker,

Howard J. Welch,

## Ghana Remembrance Service

By R. D. Vine

ONE of London's most famous churches was the scene of a special service dedicated to the interests of Ghana, at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 14th.

The church was St. Martin-in-the-Fields, located in the very hub of the Empire at Trafalgar Square. This is the church which was the centre of the great Advent movement which swept Britain in the early nineteenth century.

Several hundred Gold Coasters were present, as well as high dignitaries from Britain. Also present were Pastor G. D. King, Brother G. L. Annis, and the writer. As I sat in a portion of the gallery overlooking the pulpit, together with many West Africans, I was able to look straight down at the most distinguished member of that impressive congregation, the Duke of Gloucester, uncle of Queen Elizabeth. His presence gave added dignity to a fine service.

Ghana's new status as an honoured and independent member of the British Commonwealth, was being celebrated at this time, and prayers were offered for God's blessing upon it. The first Scripture lesson was read by a West African, Rev. E. S. D. Martinson, whose impeccable English and resonant voice made it a real pleasure to listen to the inspired words of 1 Chronicles 16:8-15, 21, 23-36. Mr. Martinson is attached to the High Commissioner's Office in London.

The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Peterborough, and I thought that our members in West Africa would be interested to read a few of the thoughts he expressed. His text was Hebrews 11:8: "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed."

Gold Coast, he said, was built on faith. A Crown Colony for 83 years, Gold Coast, thanks to the faith of its inhabitants, the missionaries, and the administrators, has developed to its present status. The Christian Church has given to Gold Coast much that has made the present status possible. Despite occasional tensions between Europeans and Africans, deep down they have had faith in each other.

The Bishop reminded us that the very first non-European Christian minister to be ordained since the Protestant Reformation, was a West African from the Gold Coast.

He quoted the words of the famous Admiral Drake; "There must be a beginning,

but the continuing unto the end yields the true glory;" and that, for true success in Ghana's new venture, the people must keep in focus "the city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

"Material progress does not make a nation," he said. "It is men, not walls, which make a city; and it is only men of faith in God who can successfully lead a people."

The Bishop continued: "Ghana now has a unique privilege of showing what she can contribute to the good of the world."

A unique service was concluded with the following benediction by the Archbishop of Canterbury:

"Remember, O Lord, what Thou hast wrought in us, and not what we deserve; and as Thou hast called us to Thy service, make us worthy of our calling: through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

As brethren in Christ we look forward to the time which we know to be just ahead, when the Lord will welcome us all into that Heavenly Kingdom where our citizenship truly belongs.

## Born—A New Nation

By G. M. Ellstrom, President,  
West Nigerian Mission

We left Nigeria on the 3rd of March to visit the Gold Coast. Just over a week we spent on local leave when we had to return to our work in Nigeria. We went to visit the Gold Coast, but we returned from Ghana. During our visit a new nation had been born, one of the first African colonies to join the commonwealth of nations.

Accra was in a gay mood and in gay attire. Ghana's national colours; red, yellow and green, were displayed everywhere in banners and flags flying from the roof tops and bunting draped from almost every building in the city. Many good Ghanaians were attired in these colours, with the picture of the Premier and the words Freedom and Justice in bold letters imprinted in the cloth. Joy and laughter, with extreme politeness, was the order of the day.

The festivities were grand, from the fireworks display on the evening of independence to the great morning, the 6th of March, when the Ghana parliament held its first session, yes, and to the colourful Durbar on the following day. Everything was very well planned, taking place at the time appointed with no disturbance and no confusion.

It isn't every day that a new nation is

born and rarely does a new nation begin with such a lack of turmoil and difficulty and with such seeming peace and unity. May the spirit of its beginning long continue. A new born nation as a new born babe will surely have some tumbles and bruises, but we hope that the new Ghana will only be stirred to greater achievements by these. It must now find its place among the nations of the world.

World affairs with its problems must now be met by Ghana as an independent nation and may its strong convictions on Freedom, Justice and Peace be an added influence to help put in practice these high ideals in a world of unrest.

## IS IT I?

"Among church members 'in good and regular standing,' there are, alas! many Achans. Many a man comes stately to church, and sits at the table of the Lord, while among his possessions are hidden unlawful gains, the things that God has cursed! . . . Achan's sin brought disaster upon the whole nation. For one man's sin, the displeasure of God will rest upon His church till the transgression is searched out and put away. The influence most to be feared by the church is not that of open opposers, infidels, and blasphemers, but of inconsistent professors of Christ. These are the ones that keep back the blessings of the God of Israel, and bring weakness upon His people."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," page 497.

## Granose Health Foods Available

At a recent meeting of the Granose Foods Limited Board of Directors, at which Pastor A. F. Tarr was present, he expressed the wish that all our workers could have access to our foods. It was pointed out to him that many have them quite regularly by a direct mail service, which really is the only satisfactory way of obtaining them in the mission fields, because through the ordinary channels of trade the demand is so small that packet goods soon become out of condition, while, of course, canned goods would always be satisfactory. We thought it would be good to let the workers know of this provision through the medium of the West African Advent Messenger.

The following gives an idea of what it would cost to have parcels sent direct to workers' homes:

7-lb . . .	7/6;	11-lb . . .	10/-	22-lb . . .	18/-
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It may also be interesting for workers to know that Granose Foods Limited give them approximately a 20 per cent discount on all foods which they purchase in this way, and we trust that the many whom Pastor Tarr felt would like to have our foods on their tables, will be able to avail themselves of this offer.

# OUTSTRETCHED HANDS

By Willis J. Hackett, President,  
North Philippine Union Mission

May I introduce to you Domingo, 28, Juanito, 26, and Paz, 22, three children of Mr. and Mrs. Villagomez who live in Camarines Sur, the territory of the Southern Luzon Mission in which the North Philippine Union proposes to build a vocational training school from the Thirteenth Sabbath overflow of the second quarter. We hope that this school will meet the needs of the hundreds of young people who stand with outstretched hands, looking to the leaders of the denomination with the hope in their hearts that somehow they will be provided with Christian education.

Domingo, Juanito and Paz, are typical youth of the Southern Luzon Mission who constantly struggle to secure an education. These three youth with their parents found the advent message in the year 1940. As little by little the message opened their minds which had been steeped in the doctrines of Catholicism since their birth, their hearts responded to the anointing of the Holy Spirit to step out and keep the Sabbath. It was a real struggle to leave a large Catholic church which in the Philippines is always located right in the very centre of every community. Their friends and neighbours would ask, "What is this that you are doing? How can you leave the Mother church to enter into that small and unknown sect, the 'Sabadistas'?" But like loyal Seventh-day Adventists all around the world, their hearts were moved and they continued to be true to their God. They joined the Seventh-day Adventist people in their community and started to teach their neighbours and friends the new found faith.

They had not been long in the church before they found that Seventh-day Adventists operate a system of schools and colleges where they could be trained for service. They determined in their hearts that they would have a Christian education at any cost.

After finishing the intermediate grades in his home town, Domingo came to Manila and applied at Philippine Union College as a self-supporting student. Juanito came two years later, and his sister, Paz, the next year. There is no school in their mission, and these young people without funds wish

to support themselves while seeking a Christian education. And so they have secured employment in the Manila area and are living together in a small room helping each other in their educational projects. Paz takes care of the laundering of her brothers and cooks for them. They are taking turns in attending the school. One works to support the others, while they go to school, and the next year he drops out and becomes a worker while the brother or the sister attends the academy the next year. They have been working now for nine years for that great prize of Christian education. And still Domingo has more years to go to complete his work. Even though he is 28 years of age, he is not discouraged, and says, "It is worth it to have a Christian education."

These three youth are industrious, conse-



Domingo, Juanito, and Paz.

crated and willing to sacrifice in order to obtain a Christian education. There are hundreds of youth like these in the North Philippine Union stretching out their hands to the leaders of the denomination, saying, "Give us only an opportunity. We are willing to work. Our great desire is to have an education in the schools of the prophets."

We appeal to the brethren and sisters of the world field to help us to provide that opportunity which our students so much seek. We have already purchased the land for an academy in the Southern Luzon area. It has a fine location with good rich land. We have already planted over 6,000 citrus trees which will begin to bear fruit in three more years. We have 20,000 pineapple plants, papaya, bananas, and other fruit crops coming on. We have found that the land is well suited for the production of soybeans. This will provide a good crop which is in demand here in the Philippine Islands.

We are attempting to build a school where we can not only give vocational training to our youth but where they can earn a large portion of their way. These students come from rural areas where there is little industry and where their finances are insufficient to pay their way to a school when cash is required.

We are working against great odds to provide these earnest and consecrated God-fearing youth a means of securing Christian education. Will you help us find that way? May God bless you as you dip deeply into your purses on 13th Sabbath.

## Your Opportunity

By F. T. Barfoot,  
Union Sabbath School Secretary

Attention all church officers and members of West African Union. The overflow of the 13th Sabbath offerings for this present quarter will be directed to the Far Eastern Division to help build this academy in the Southern Luzon area. God is appealing to each one of you to respond to this spirit filled appeal by giving of your means generously on June 29, when the 13th Sabbath Offering is taken. We are all working toward one common objective. That of finishing the task which the Master has commissioned us to do.

May the Lord richly bless you as you respond to this appeal and give generously on June 29.

## A Dream Realized

By Pastor G. M. Ellstrom, President,  
West Nigerian Mission

It was hot, especially as we were hemmed in by scores of people who crowded around us, thus cutting off the little breeze that was blowing. Many present had umbrellas and some held these over our heads to protect us from the direct rays of the sun, for which we were very thankful. It was the 14th of March and the opening day for our dispensary at Erunmu.

Over 400 school children from our Secondary Modern School at Erunmu and our nearby Primary Schools were present, plus many of the villagers from Erunmu and the surrounding villages. There was great rejoicing as this large crowd gathered to witness the opening of the dispensary, for a long hoped for dream had become a reality.

After Pastor Adeoye had offered a prayer of thanksgiving and had petitioned God for His blessing upon this new venture, a short programme of speeches and music was given. Dr. Donald Petersen gave a short address of encouragement to an appreciative



Part of the congregation at the opening ceremony at Erunmu

audience. He came from our hospital at Ile-Ife to officiate at this dispensary opening. When the ceremony had been concluded at almost 12.00 o'clock the Doctor began the most important part of the day's programme, i.e. to care for the sick. Seventy-five patients were examined and treated on this opening day and we trust that many more may be cared for in the days and weeks to come.

Until a few weeks ago we saw no possibility of beginning this new venture. The building had been well prepared for a temporary dispensary, but we had no nurse to send to Erunmu as there are not enough nurses to adequately fill the needs of our hospitals in West Africa. Then Mrs. Makinde, the wife of our District Leader in that area, who was a graduate of our Ife hospital, volunteered to do this work. The Lord had opened the way. As soon as possible the Makindes were moved to Erunmu and the dispensary was opened.

We appreciate the interest of our Medical Staff at Ife in this new project and we sincerely hope that the work of Mrs. Makinde and the visiting doctors will strengthen our soul-winning efforts in that area and that any barrier between our people and others, or any prejudice that still exists, may soon be broken down.

## Arise! Arise!!

By Evangelist Joseph Sarpong Dwumoh  
Ghana

"Arise shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1-2.

This prophecy of the old prophet is indeed for this present time, in which we live. We are to arise otherwise the Lord will appear the second time as it is recorded in the book of John while we have not yet prepared.

Freedom! Freedom! is the slogan of some of the people in the land of Ghana. Would there be any freedom at all on this earth as it is in the minds of others? The answer is negative because it is written in Thessalonians 5:3. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh

upon them as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape."

Who is to make known to our people the truth and the way they should take to have real freedom? It is you and I who through the providence of God have known the truth. For it is said again in 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6. "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

There is indeed a true freedom in the minds and hearts of the true Christians, because we have a blessed *hope*, which is the promise of the Saviour Jesus Christ.

Ghana is now the free country of itself, but what about the inhabitants both foreigners and the citizens themselves? We are facing a very big problem which nobody can solve for us but ourselves. Each has to play his or her part in bringing peace and safety into the country. Before that can be done we must put our confidence in God and not in man.

"It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in princes." Psalm 118:8-9.

By doing this the Lord will help us to overcome our enemies for it is said, "All nations compassed me about but in the name of the Lord will I destroy them." Verse 10.

If you want to be at peace then take the name of Jesus with you. It is the duty of the modern Christians to make known the truth to the unknown.

"The Bible, and the Bible alone, can produce this good result. It is the wisdom of God and the power of God, and it works with all power in the receptive heart. Oh, what heights we might reach if we would conform our wills to the will of God! It is the power of God that we need, wherever we are." 3 *Testimony Treasures*, page 238, last paragraph.

"God would work mightily for His people today if they would place themselves wholly under His guidance. They need the constant abiding of the Holy Spirit. If there were more prayer in the councils of those bearing responsibilities more humbling of the heart before God, we should see abundant evidence of divine leadership." 3 *Testimony Treasures*, page 242.

## Progress In Cote D'ivoire

By F. C. Barfoot,

Union Publishing Department & Sabbath School Secretary

In Acts chapter 28, the Apostle Paul when entering a strange land, spoke of his joy when greeted by those who loved the Lord, it refreshed him and gave him renewed courage to face the future.

From February 8-17, I was privileged to visit our brethren in the Ivory Coast and to spend three happy days with our French speaking colporteur evangelists in a brief institute. This was followed by a three day Sabbath School Rally, and Workshop, which was attended by local church leaders, including evangelists, Emmanuel Diaova and Jacob Gbessin. The field leader Mr. G. Gutikuist acted as interpreter throughout.

Prior to commencing the institute, two profitable days were spent with Pastor Charpiot and Wild, visiting brethren from the Southern European Division who are on an extended tour of their African Territories.

Pastor Charpiot conducted the Friday night meeting. This experienced publishing leader, testified of his joy in the Lord, and recalled some wonderful experiences, showing the power of the Holy Spirit working with those who carry the printed page.

The Sabbath day was another spiritual feast. We fellowshipped with our believers of the Ebrie tribe in Begreto church. In order to reach the company we had to cross a wide lagoon in native canoes, virtually hollowed out trees.

Pastor Wild was the speaker on Sabbath morning, and we were inspired by a challenging message from John 4:34-38. The Ebrie people sang their response, "Lift up a flag among the people", with feeling and determination.

In passing, the beauty of these Ebrie believers worship, in song, was a joy to heart. Even the little children were able to sing their parts, under the capable direction of a native music director.

During the ensuing institute days, a period was set aside for personal experiences. It was very encouraging to hear how the Lord helped our literature workers to convince people from all stations of life, many of which are Catholics, to buy our message filled literature. Observe the testimony of colporteur Daniel Djike. This young man told of his visit to the G. P. O. in Abidjan,

His enquiries there eventually led him to a departmental office behind the scenes. There he canvassed a hard-boiled civil servant who had just arrived from France. It appeared that this man had spent several years in a Catholic Seminary, training for the priesthood, but had become disillusioned and consequently lost his vision of priestly service.

He severely ridiculed Daniel as he presented Desire of Ages, and condemned the Bible as a book of fables. However Daniel inherited the courage and spirit of the great leader of Israel whose name he bore. He challenged this man to read his Bible and to study the life of Christ again, adding that he would pray for him. Eventually our colporteur turned his attention to other members of the office staff, who being impressed with this unusual visitor, brought copies of Great Controversy and Desire of Ages.

Later Daniel returned to this same office, and was immediately questioned by this difficult civil servant. It appears that he had followed Daniel's advice and restudied his Bible also reading portions of Great Controversy, and Desire of Ages which his fellow staff members had loaned him.

He thanked Daniel for his prayers and eagerly purchased a copy of Great Controversy. Surely the prayers of our modern Daniel had closed the lion's mouth. Daniel asked that we should pray for this French postal worker, that as he studies the message he will be led to join God's remnant people.

Two workers, John Zakkar, and Jacob Gbessin, have seen souls baptized following their faithful seed sowing. In many other cases there are people who are earnestly striving to understand light and truth because of the literature they have bought.



F. C. Barfoot instructing some of the colporteurs

many of which have enrolled in the Voice of Hope Course.

Please pray for our literature workers in the Ivory Coast, and ask God to send more labourers into His vineyard. The message of John's gospel is true in the Ivory Coast today, "this field is white already to harvest."

God bless you all.

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## News Notes

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✳ Dr. and Mrs. Peterson and their three children left Lagos by air on April 10. They will be spending their furlough in the U.S.A.

✳ We were happy to greet Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Hubbard and their little daughter when they returned from furlough in England on March 27. They have resumed their duties at Kwahu Hospital.

✳ On the Aureol which sails from Lagos April 24 will be Mrs. A. E. Farrow and her three children. They are returning permanently to England to more adequately care for the schooling of the children. Pastor Farrow will follow later when he can be relieved of duties in the East Nigerian Mission.

□ Miss Beryl Turtill of Ife Hospital will also be returning on furlough and is booked on the same boat as Mrs. Farrow. They will all be joined in Freetown by Brother and Sister Muderspach and their children who are also going on furlough to Denmark.

✳ L. R. Rasmussen, Educational Secretary of the General Conference and J. A. Simonsen, Educational Secretary of the Northern European Division are on a tour of the West African Union assisting in Teachers' Meetings and inspecting schools. On part

of the trip they are being accompanied by the Union President, H. J. Welch.

✳ Pastor E. E. Hulbert writes as follows:-

"We have conducted two baptisms since last writing, three in December and six last Sunday, making a total of 18 people in Calabar, and one in Oron, baptized since we came here. Our total membership in Calabar at present is twenty-four. We hope to have a baptism in Oron during the next month, and another one here in Calabar sometime in April."

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## News Notes From West Nigeria

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Zachew Alabi, son of Pastor D. B. Alabi, received a sponsorship to take training overseas and he left for England on the 26th of March. We wish him success during his preparation to do a much greater work for God and humanity.

We welcome Mr. E. B. Christie to Otun to be Acting Principal until Mr. Roberts returns. We trust that he and his family will enjoy their stay with us.

A storm blew a large section of the roof off our office building. We are now using a classroom as a temporary office. One of our typists, Mr. J. A. Makinde, was badly hurt at his home when a brick fell on his head, knocked down by the roof as it was blown off the house. We are glad that he is now well and back at work again. We thank the Lord that no one else of our people was injured.

Our Mission officers, Brother Gustavsson and Pastor Ellstrom, have begun visiting the churches to check their books on both membership and finance. We trust that there will be a good report from all the churches. It is hoped that nearly all the churches will be visited before the end of the year.<sup>24</sup>

Thanks to the liberality of our people and the financial help from the Union and the Mission, our Secondary Modern School block of three classrooms at Otun is now finished. Another three classroom block will soon be needed for we have had so many children that we have had to begin a double stream school this year. We are also hoping to have four classrooms completed very soon at our Secondary Modern School at Erunmu.

### *The Advent Messenger*

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