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INGATHERING, OUR OPPORTUNITY

By **Howard J. Welch**, President,
West African Union Mission

By the time this issue reaches its readers, the 1957 Ingathering Campaign will have begun, for 28th September is the date on which every church and company in West Africa should enthusiastically launch its campaign to raise these funds. The income from this solicitation accomplishes much, not only in the World Field but right here in West Africa. Many local projects have been made possible by the portion of these funds retained in West Africa. Even the portion of Ingathering money which goes to the World Field returns to us multiplied many times over.

We wish that all in West Africa could witness the drive and enthusiasm that our brethren in the home fields of the Northern European Division and in America put into the Ingathering Campaign. It is the one all important project while it is on. Every worker and layman gives many hours, days and weeks to soliciting funds. I am convinced that here in West Africa we have only begun to tap the resources available for God's work through this means.

Some of us have been quite satisfied to hold a Harvest Festival and let it go at that. This method may be satisfactory in the small villages, but certainly is not sufficient for the larger towns and cities. Let all mission officers, district leaders and church officers lay careful plans to cover their area with a solicitation programme, enlisting every

member of the church. Make use of all the methods. Don't be afraid to try something new. Singing band solicitation, soliciting from house to house, or on the street with canisters, business house solicitation and Harvest Festivals, all should be used. In this way everyone in the church can have a part. Divide the church into bands; set a goal for each band and for the church. Have a goal chart of some kind and keep it up to date every week. The Lord's work should be done with efficiency and enthusiasm. Most important of all, pray. Pray for funds to come in but even more important, pray that souls you meet may be impressed to give not only of their means but their hearts as well. The real objective of Ingathering is soul winning.

Below are the Goals for each of the Missions in the West African Union. Later in the year we shall print the amounts raised in comparison with the Goals:

East Nigeria	£1,400
Ghana	2,700
Ivory Coast	450
Liberia	425
North Nigeria	100
Sierra Leone	450
West Nigeria	1,300
Total	£6,825

Thoughts on The Spirit of Prophecy

By J. H. Bayliss, President,
North England Conference

Twenty-five years ago the present writer made a series of decisions which resulted in his membership with the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. These decisions were influenced primarily by a consideration of the two important features of distinctiveness, which justify the existence of Adventists as a separate denomination. The first rests upon the forecast of the "sure word of prophecy" which tells of a Gospel movement having certain specific characteristics which would arise in the year 1844, and which would in due course extend to the entire earth. (Daniel 8:14; Rev. 12:17; 14:6-14; 19:10.)

The emergence of God's "remnant" people at the appointed time, and bearing God's last message to the world preparatory to Christ's second coming, is a matter of a century-old historic reality. The writer, in common with all informed Adventists, sincerely believes and affirms that the Seventh-Day Adventist church accurately fulfils all the specifications of these prophecies.

Then there is a further identification mark of this movement which represents the second feature of our denominational distinctiveness, namely, "the testimony of Jesus," which is "the Spirit of prophecy." The tangible manifestation of this characteristic required personality, in harmony with God's consistent dealings with men. Again, the writer, along with all fellow-Adventists, believes that God used the person of Mrs. Ellen G. White as His mouth-piece to fulfil this prediction; and deems it a privilege to share with others of like precious faith the confidence he has gathered over the years in the Lord's leadership of this movement through this channel.

Adventists do not regard Mrs. White as a prophetess, but, rather, to quote her own words: "I am God's messenger, sent to bear a message. . . ." (*Review and Herald*, January 25, 1905.) Those messages received through "visions," "dreams," and "revelations" have been penned in her voluminous writings—estimated at twenty-five million words, in forty-three books and 4,000 periodical articles. Honest investigation cannot evade the conclusion that these were written either by a genius or they were divinely inspired. As Mrs. White was by no means

qualified to assume the status of the former, Adventists have accepted these "writings" as bearing the credentials of the latter. Our pioneers have borne their testimony of satisfaction only after the application of the severest scrutiny to this spiritual phenomenon.

The inspired writings are intended neither to take the place of the Bible, nor even to be considered on an equality with the Word of God. The messenger has clearly recorded the relationship of the Bible and her writings: "I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the 'last days;' not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth."—*Experience and Views*, page 64.

Again, fifty years later she expressed the same thought: "Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light."—*Review and Herald*, January 20, 1903.

One of our present leaders assessing the invaluable Spirit of prophecy gift to the Advent cause has remarked: No-one can read the history of this Advent people without being repeatedly and forcefully impressed with the fact that it has ever been the counsels of Mrs. White as she spoke by inspiration, that have guided and steadied the movement. It was her voice more than all others that built morale and courage into the souls of that poverty-stricken group of Sabbath-keepers a century ago. It was her voice that ever recalled the Advent believers on to more diligent Bible study, to holier living, reproving and reviving them when they failed. It was her voice that could ever be heard more clearly than that of any other leader, calling for evangelism and challenging the movement on to world missions. And it was her voice, often heard alone, that called insistently and persuasively for schools, publishing houses, and a unique kind of medical institution with which to carry on a Heaven-appointed task."—F. D. Nichol in *Mrs. White and Her Critics*, page 23.

Let us resuscitate our confidence in God's leadership, as it is viewed from the practical use made of these *Testimonies to the Church*.

Our early pioneers, owing to their lack of means, decided to abandon an idea they had cherished of establishing a publishing work. There was almost immediate intervention through the prophetic gift. "At a meeting held in Dorchester, Mass., November 1848," Mrs. White tells us in *Life Sketches*, "I had been given a view . . . of the duty of the brethren to publish the light that was shining upon our pathway. After coming out of vision, I said to my husband, 'I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world.'"—Page 125.

The counsel was followed. Today, we stand amazed as we witness forty-two publishing plants from which flow an increasing flood of denominational literature in the form of books, magazines, tracts in 202 languages to the peoples of the world. We may anticipate the further prospect when, "more than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications."—*Review and Herald*, November 10, 1885.

We are proud of our medical missions. Sanitariums, hospitals, clinics, dispensaries in various lands are achieving wonderful results in the healing of the bodies and souls of men. What started them? "It was . . . June 6, 1863, that the great subject of Health Reform was opened before me in vision" (*Review and Herald*, October 8, 1867), wrote the messenger. Then there appeared five books from her pen: *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, *Counsels on Health*, *Ministry of Healing*, *Counsels to Physicians*, and *Medical Ministry*. Here lies the genesis of Adventist medical missionary work. Our medical workers and their associates have been encouraged through the counsel of the Spirit of prophecy, as they have proceeded with the development of our medical institutions all over the world.

As the Advent movement expanded there has grown up with it a system of Christian education, exactly suited to the needs of a world missionary movement, the object of which is to afford facilities for the training

of our children and youth for Christian service. Hundreds of church schools, senior and junior schools and colleges, medical schools and a Theological Seminary are to be found in strategic places in all the world. The Spirit of prophecy provided the stimulus in their origin and maintenance. Four books, *Education*, *Christian Education*, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, and *Counsels to Teachers*, have furnished the philosophy and blue-print for our educational establishment.

Our faith strengthens in the Spirit of prophecy gift as we pause to consider these medical, educational, and publishing lines of achievement. In addition, the correctness of her predictions will increase still further our confidence in the gift.

In 1860, the messenger wrote: "I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land. . . My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men's hearts failed them for fear, 'and for looking after those things which were coming on the earth.'"—*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, page 268.

Again, thirty years later she declared: "The tempest is coming. . . We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions."—*Signs of the Times*, April 21, 1890.

Again, in 1904 she stated: "In the visions of the night a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire falling among some beautiful mansions, causing their instant destruction."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 28.

And again, in 1906, she added: "A very impressive scene was presented before me . . . Great balls of fire were falling upon houses, and from these balls fiery arrows were flying in every direction. It was impossible to check the fires that were kindled and many places were being destroyed. The terror of the people was indescribable."—*Evangelism*, page 29.

(Continued on page 7)

My Experience In England And Norway

By C. B. Mensah, Associate President,
Ghana Mission
PART II

Then to Oslo, the land of the midnight sun. The land of snow peaked mountains towering into the sky with its town, Mosjoen where the sun seems to set twice everyday. This town lies beneath a very high mountain and at 3 p.m. the sun hides itself behind this mountain which makes it seem to be dark but it reappears and finally sets at about 11.00 p.m.

Here and there an excited boy, a boy who had never seen the negro colour before would run across my path and with eyes full of wonder, would stare right into my face, and then with the strange tongue of a typical Norwegian would endeavour to question me: "Are you Louis Armstrong?" "Are you the Jazz King?" "Is a Circus in town?" "Are you a Crew member on a boat?" Pastor Ulland my companion in travels, was kept quite busy as he interpreted to me such remarks.

This excitement was not only seen among the children but it seemed to me that they whispered "A black man is in town." Quickly it went around among the men and women and a group could be seen here and there and along the streets, trying to catch a glimpse of the African.

Oh, how could I eat at the restaurants; why? Because they were packed full with eager faces to see how I held my cutlery, how I chewed my food. I was a real spectacle to the people as well as to the waitresses who would run quickly to the kitchen and soon a dozen or more girls, cooks, and domestic servants in their aprons would be seen running into the dining room to see the wonder of the day.

Faces, eyes, of old and young, all set upon the poor African, made me look rather awkward. Often in that state of my embarrassment I had to put my cutlery down and look at them too, for how could I eat in such a dilemma? And then the oft repeated request, "Can I touch your hair?"

But in spite of the amazement of the people of the world, the tender hearts of our believers were often touched and fears of

joy could be seen streaming down their cheeks as they listened attentively to the stories of the progress of the cause of God in Africa. They love the Lord, they love His work and they give for His cause. The offering that is given at the end of the services is one of the indications that they love the people in the Mission fields. What should we here in Mission lands do? Let us double our efforts to speed the work of the Master and to be faithful until our task is done, to hasten the coming of the Lord in order to see the faces of these dear people who love us so much.

"Take our love, take our greetings, to our brethren and sisters in Africa and assure them of our loyal support, we hope to see them in heaven." These were some of the constant remarks that were made to me as they shook my hand, and pressed it hard indicating their sincerity.

Successful meetings were held at Trondheim Mosjoen, Namsos, Mo i Rana, Modle and Bergen. Starting from the West I travelled up to the East. At Mo i Rana, we made our way through the winding mountain road and climbed higher and higher till no vegetation could be seen but every where was snow, snow, snow. Travelling for about 40 miles, at last we came to the pillar set up by the Norwegian government to mark the "border of the midnight sun. As I climbed to the top of this pillar and looked around me, while the air of a perfect stillness held my heart. I praised the Omnipotent whose wisdom and power is unsearchable.

Yes, the tie of Christian love binds and unites all hearts together and makes all, whether black or white, red or yellow, one in the Lord Jesus. Everywhere I went in England and Norway, I found the same faith, the same hope and the same Saviour that we cherish. The Adventist Church is a great family, a family that one should feel proud to belong to, stretching from Africa throughout the whole world and even to the land of the midnight sun.

West Nigerian Youth Stand Firm For The Sabbath

By Dan. Kayo Omole—West Nigeria

Students of history who watch the trend of events, will agree with me that things are changing rapidly in West Africa, especially in the field of Education. Some years ago a primary school leaver was able to manage the work in any of our fields in West Africa, but now our workers need to deal with men having higher than primary school education. This has led some of our young men to seek to equip themselves in order to continue the work the Master has given the old and the young of West Africa to do. We must use every opportunity to do this now, for nothing passes away so rapidly as youth.

To the 1957-58 session of one of the intermediate colleges in West Nigeria, a few Adventist youth sought admission. The examination of this college fell on the Sabbath-day. The candidates for this examination wanted to leave off taking this examination because it was specifically stated in the admission card that 'no change will be possible and failure to attend for any reason will result in the withdrawal of the candidate's name from consideration.' Later they thought of discussing the problem with the mission authorities (West Nigeria). Immediately, these consecrated leaders took up the matter, and the principal of this institution made an arrangement by which the Adventist youth could take their examination after sundown on Saturday. We have nothing to fear except we forget the way God has led us so far.

Listen again to the story of another college. The problem now is not of taking an examination on the Sabbath but of taking part on the Sabbath in field work, which is necessary to finish the course. This is the conversation between the head of a department and two Adventist youth during an interview. "Boys, I understand that you are Seventh-day Adventists who don't work on Saturday." "Yes, sir," was the reply. "Would you like to do field work on Saturday? You understand that this is an important part of the course. We have many Mohammedan boys so we close early on Friday. Nearly every student worships on Sunday. Boys, it may be difficult to shift field work from Saturday because of two students." The answer of the two Advent-

ists was: "Sorry, sir, we cannot do any kind of work on the Sabbath. It is our day of rest." Though in the face of losing the chance of being admitted, they stood by their faith and religion. The man interviewing admitted that he had met some Adventists in West Africa making the same stand. Adventist Youth are making their influence felt in West Africa.

This period of evolution is both a trying time and a time of showing our faith to the people of West Africa. We youth are looking forward to the time when an intermediate college of our own will be created to prepare our youth for the work before them. We should never be discouraged. Listen to the Master's voice: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." I am sure, heaven will send help just when we need it.

Editor's note: Three colleges in the Ibadan area have given Sabbath privileges to Adventist boys as a result of the faithful stand of some and the work of mission officials.

The Giants of Literature Evangelism

Congratulations to the following Bookmen for their successful deliveries during the first eight months of 1957:-

Ghana Mission		East Nigeria	
L. T. Narh	£449	P. O. Emelogu	£498
J. A. Quarten	£673	A. A. Ubani	£367
J. A. Daitey	£485	Ivory Coast	
J. K. Kusi	£518	G. Fogo	£214
K. Glover	£350	J. Asiajon	£266
G. K. Dankwah	£361	West Nigeria	
E. L. Brown	£353	Joseph Ladipo	£256

Keep up the good work.

F. C. Barfoot

Union Publishing Department Secretary.

Call Of The Niger

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

Between our East Nigerian and West Nigerian Missions lies a very large area that has still not been entered with the Third Angel's Message. We have had many calls from different villages, but we are unable to help them. A few weeks ago we sent Pastor J. O. Olomjobi to visit some of these villages and the following is a partial report of his visit:

In the village of Aobia, 81 miles from Benin City, lives Joseph Idegbeso who was baptized in 1955 at our Ile-Ife Hospital. Since then he has returned to his home town, Aobia, with his family and the Gospel Message. He is a young member and still needs much help, but he has six Sabbath School members now worshipping with him on the Sabbath day.

From the town of Ohanmi also in the above section of our field we have Mr. Idehai who is very interested in the Faith. He first came in contact with the Message in 1936, through Pastor Balogun, who has now been laid to rest from his labours. Mr. Idehai was then with the Nigerian police. A land dispute brought the Pastor to Mr. Idehai. Through this contact Bible studies were held. He then went to the army and while there he got Miss Rosa Muderspach's address through the newspaper and wrote for the book, "*The Bible Made Plain*." Miss Muderspach who was then a Mission treasurer in Nigeria, sent him a good Christian letter and the book he requested, but he would not yet accept the Sabbath.

After being discharged from the army he worked for a while as a baker, then joined another Church as a teacher and later as a travelling agent for their Medical Unit. During those years he met Evangelist Bolarin who gave him Bible studies. In asking his superintendent about the Sabbath question he was told that Saturday is the Bible Sabbath, but that men changed the rest day to Sunday.

He resigned then and went to Ondo where he was picked up again by the Government in 1952. Here he met Evangelists Omoleye and Majolagbe. It seemed that he couldn't get away from this Sabbath Truth. It always confronted him and he finally resolved to keep it according to the commandment of

God. He resigned from Government work and returned to his home town of Ohanmi. He has now been keeping the Sabbath about a year and has also accepted the Truth concerning the tithe. He has organized a Sabbath School and ten villagers come to worship with him. Mr. Idehai is a linguist, speaking at least six African languages as well as English. This man can be of great help in preaching the Message to his people over near the Niger. What shall we do for this town of Ohanmi, where there are 1,000 people, none of whom are either Moslems or Christians. Who will take the Message to the 1,000 pagans of this village, plus the thousands of pagans in the surrounding villages?

From Usonigbe town comes the word from one who is interested, "The church members we have are up to 50 in number. We want to affiliate this church to your own." This is another town in the Benin Province. From Benin City itself come also requests to establish a church and send an evangelist. This large area on the West side of the Niger river is open to the Third Angel's Message and now is the time to enter. Let's strike it hard with all the forces we can muster, expecting great things and God will help us to reap a large harvest.

Answered Prayer Saved Son

By C. A. K. D'Alphoncio

There are times when one feels a premonition of events about to happen. At 8.55 a.m. on July 22, 1957 when I came to the office circumstances made me feel that all was not well. As a result of this feeling I went to a place where I often pray whenever things seem too trying for me and I prayed God to protect my wife, my children and myself from any evil that might come.

The next day, two of my sons came in from school for their lunch which I gave to them. At about 1 p.m., I heard many voices at the same time calling me, I was in the yard. I ran into the office to receive a report. I passed through unto the road to

find a car standing by on the near-side of the road when I saw my son Albert lying apparently dead on the off-side whilst Master David Pearce was kneeling by him. Only a loving father could imagine what my feeling could have been like whilst looking on my son lying inert near the gutter of a public road. I turned round to see the glass of the off-side head light of the standing car smashed and about two marks of dent on the mud-guard. A chill ran through my nerves when I imagined what amount of force could have caused this smashing and dents. If the frail human bones of my 10-year-old Albert could smash a headlight glass and make such dents on an iron plate mud-guard then he must have been internally broken into pieces.

Pastor H. S. Pearce and Dr. S. A. Nagel came to the spot. Later Albert was put into Dr. Nagel's van and off to Korle-Bu Hospital we went. He was detained there and was discharged on the third day that is the 26th with not even a simple fracture in the body except with minor ailments in the neck, knees, waist and some abrasions.

If I were on the spot at the time of occurrence, I could not have saved my son. The Almighty God to whom I prayed was there with him. I think that He allowed this to occur to prove to me that He can allow Satan to do his worst but that He has His hands on the gear of all circumstances and so He saved my son from instant death or serious and deformative injuries.

Let us remember that God is with us and hears us.

Thoughts on The Spirit of Prophecy

(Continued from page 3)

These remarkable utterances, so accurately fulfilled in the belligerent events of the twentieth century, require no comment, except to underscore the conclusion that the messenger did indeed read the future with more than ordinary human foresight. What she has to say on other matters, therefore, deserves respectful consideration.

Our confidence in the writings, however, reaches its zenith when we ponder such works as *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, *Christ's Object Lessons*, *Thoughts from the*

Mount of Blessing, and others. The prominent inescapable feature of these volumes is the pre-eminence of the Lord Jesus Christ, neatly epitomized in the publishers' preface to the *Desire of Ages*: "In the following pages the author, a woman of large and deep and long experience in the things of God' has set forth new beauties from the life of Jesus. . . . To state it in brief, Jesus Christ is revealed as the Fullness of the Godhead, the infinitely merciful Saviour of sinners, the Sun of Righteousness, the merciful High Priest, the Healer of all human maladies and diseases, the tender, compassionate Friend, the constant, ever-present and helpful Companion, the Prince of the House of David, the Shield of His people, the Prince of Peace, the Coming King, the Everlasting Father, the culmination and fruition of the desires and hopes of all ages . . . the All in all, the Chiefest among ten thousand, and the One altogether lovely." It is little wonder that for years after her decease, neighbours whom she visited recalled to memory, "The little old lady with grey hair, who always spoke so lovingly of Jesus."

Indeed, in all her writings she elevates the Bible, magnifies the law of God, urges unity, piety, spirituality, and consecration in the brotherhood, stimulates zeal and courage for service, inspires confidence in God's leadership of His people, and vitalizes the incentive of the Blessed Hope. These are the qualities which have constrained Seventh-Day Adventists to penetrate the frontiers of 184 of the 205 listed nations in the United Nations Schedule of Countries and Political Sub-divisions. To perform this monumental feat we have employed 731 languages. The everlasting Gospel witness has reached 98½ per cent of the world's population. We are nearing the end of the age.

Like a vast army, now upward of a million strong, as we proceed on our militant march across the perilous terrain of sin toward the heavenly border, it is essential that the victories and vantages which have come to us by means of the Spirit of prophecy, receive a re-emphasis. Mrs. White herself, writing in *Life Sketches*, makes this remarkable reflection: "In reviewing our past history, having travelled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except

