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NEEDED: An Advanced Training School For West Africa

By Pastor H. J. Welch, President,
West African Union Mission

Probably no area of the world today is undergoing more change and adjustment to modern times than the countries comprising the West African Union Mission. These lands are stirring with new life. New Nations are being born. Great industries including shipping and air lines are appearing almost over night. Schools and colleges are being built everywhere. A few years ago only a few students had completed secondary school, and the professional ranks of ministers and teachers were largely filled by men with primary or elementary education plus perhaps a short period of professional training. A young man with four years of training beyond the elementary or primary school was fortunate indeed and considered well qualified. Suddenly that day has passed and thousands of men with post secondary training are filling the professions all over West Africa.

To the Seventh-day Adventist Church this brings a very real problem. Shall we fall behind in educational matters? Shall we look forward to a church led by half trained, poorly informed men, ill at ease in the presence of their better educated brothers of other denominations. Does the proclamation of this great Advent Message deserve men trained to meet the times in which we live? The answer is obvious. We must do something and do it quickly. Our Adventist youth cry in no weak voice for training in keeping with the times in which we live. They want Christian Education, distinctly Seventh-

day Adventist Education that will make them "workers who need not be ashamed."

A small effort has been made by the mission to send some of its promising workers overseas for training but this is exceedingly expensive, and in many ways unsatisfactory. Others are obtaining training in non-Adventist educational institutions, but this of course is not what we want, and the results may in the end be unfortunate. Evangelistic and teacher training schools are conducted by the mission at present at Bekwai, Ghana; Ihie, Nigeria; and Otun, West Nigeria. These, however, are on a post primary level and do not meet the need for higher training. To try to up-grade these schools under present Governmental restrictions seems out of the question, at least for the present. Furthermore, two of these schools together with our school in Konola, Liberia are developing into strong Academies or secondary schools. Where shall the students who complete their courses in these schools go for their professional training? We hope many will choose the ministry, others should choose business lines, some will go on for advanced degrees to fit them as teachers in our schools and as educational leaders. Where shall they go? Shall they go to the world or should we do something definite for them?

Another problem also makes a forward move imperative. Everywhere in West Africa the indigenous people are taking the lead.

Our work will not move forward if in the future we depend only on the foreign missionary for leadership in the churches, missions and institutions. On the other hand, if the church merely turns over responsibility to men with inadequate training and denominational background, the results will be unfortunate indeed, both to the men and the Cause. We must at all costs get these future leaders into schools where, under the guidance and influence of mature, thorough Adventist teachers, they become fully grounded in the fundamentals of the Message, and develop a deep sense of loyalty to God and the Movement of which they are a part.

Thank God there is a plan under way that promises a solution to this pressing problem. We here in West Africa rejoiced greatly when some funds were recently voted by the Division Committee to help us get a Junior College started. These funds are not sufficient but we expect to make a beginning, small though it may be. Your Missions' Extension offering is greatly needed as it will help to supplement them. I personally know of no other project that should be of more lasting good to the Cause of God in West Africa than this Junior College. It will greatly lift the level of our African Ministry and help to insure a leadership, loyal and consecrated to finish the work in Africa. We propose to establish a school after the pattern of the Schools of the Prophets where African Youth learn to love the Word of God, where useful labour is exalted, where Christian standards are uplifted, and men and women find a renewed and deeper consecration to the work of God.

Here in Africa we often see houses started with fairly adequate foundations and solid walls, but because the builder cannot afford a roof, the torrential rains destroy the walls and before long the jungle takes over the site, burying even the foundation. In our mission work we have good foundations laid by the Pioneers at much sacrifice to health and even life itself. The walls are strong. More than 20,000 boys and girls are in our elementary and secondary schools. Nearly 50,000 attend our Sabbath Schools. We must now put on the educational roof to conserve what we have. Please help us with your Missions' Extension offering and with your prayers.

A really great man is known by three signs—generosity in the design, humanity in the execution, moderation in success. . . .

—Bismarck.

When Things Go Wrong

By Inez Brasier

No doubt you have seen pictures of farmers winnowing grain by the primitive method used in the early days of our country. Over and over, on a windy day, the grain was tossed high into the air so the breeze could carry the chaff away. Over and over the grain fell back to the ground, only to be tossed heavenward again. At last it was clean, ready to be ground into flour to sustain life.

So it is with us. The chaff, the worthless things in our lives, must be winnowed out. And one of the most effective ways to accomplish this is by letting things apparently go wrong for us. Our Master notes the effect of this experience. He sees what we cannot now understand—that the end result, perfection, justifies the means.

Sometimes, of course, things go wrong for which we alone are responsible. When that happens and we reap the sure result, well, we have no one to blame but ourselves! What is that old saying? "Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other." We can only acknowledge our lack of sense, then seek wisdom and counsel from our Elder Brother.

Many times this means retracing our steps. If so, we can be comforted by knowing that we are not the only ones who have had to go back and start over. Things go wrong for all. No one is exempt. Our only true concern is: How do we relate ourselves to these happenings? Are they stepping-stones to something fine in our lives?

George Muller, of English Orphanage fame, recognized the blessings to be found in difficulties. Out of his many years of trusting God in his everyday life he said, "The steps of a good man, as well as his steps, are ordered by the Lord."

There is another area where things go wrong. Sometimes we lay plans without giving them careful thought. Then we pray that God will answer us. But our many requests, being in conflict with one another, cannot be answered. The times I have found this true! I marvel at the Father's patient understanding in not granting these petitions. What care He exercises in His negative answers! For know this—an all-wise Father never refuses anything that is for our best good. Often He replaces it with something far better. It is for us to recognize this fact, to see it so.

(Continued on page seven)

The Key to New West Africa

By Pastor C. D. Henri,
West African Union Mission

Africa—West Africa!

Land of darkness and superstition, land of mystery and intrigue, land of division and backwardness, land of hatred and cruelty, land of ignorance and darkness!

But this description of West Africa is obsolete by many, many years.

West Africa is awake!

It is a land of progress and ambition, a land of surging industry and mounting prosperity, a land of rising civilization and political development; a land where Christianity and Democracy are taking firm hold and deep roots.

The key to this new West Africa is *Education!*

Governments are investing tremendous sums of money in the development of schools and universities. Thousands of West African students on scholarships throng the classrooms of many nations overseas. Educational preparedness, a lust for knowledge, the desire to be qualified for leadership, inspires African youth to obtain an education even at great sacrifice.

The Seventh-day Adventist Mission anticipated the urgency of educational preparedness for its young people, perhaps even before the government and we have gone ahead in many ways, but sometimes we have lagged very much behind.

Look at the statistics of our educational progress: 1949

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Primary Schools | 89 |
| Secondary Schools | 0 |
| Training Colleges | 2 |

Now compare the figures in 1957:

| | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 132 | Primary Schools |
| 17 | Secondary Schools |
| 6 | Training Colleges |

We have put every effort and thousands of pounds into the education of teachers. Today, thank God, we have many qualified and consecrated teachers who staff our schools and oft times, pastor our churches.

Graduating from these many schools are numerous young people who desire to enter the work of God, not as teachers or nurses, but as ministers. But for these, no educational provision has been made.

Here is our woeful and pathetic lack. No provision has been made for the education

of ministers! Make-shift arrangements have been provided in the teacher training institutions for very inadequate and spasmodic training courses for those who must bear the burden of spiritual leadership and the responsibility of soul-winning and evangelistic endeavour. Now, because our schools are government aided and the teachers paid by government, even this uncertain training has been stopped. Governments refuse to share the responsibility for training preachers for the Adventist church—and rightly so!

West Africa's most critical and urgent need is to erect a junior college to train African ministers and evangelistic workers!

Ghana is an independent nation; Nigeria will soon be, and other West African countries are clamouring for it. With independence comes Africanization.

Government posts, business leadership, commercial organizations are being taken over and operated by Africans. Even the churches are becoming nationalized. This is the trend and the Remnant Church must be prepared to place the responsibility of church leadership solely upon our African brethren!

Political change, modern education, material prosperity, new ideologies and changing social conditions, challenge and may obstruct the proclamation of the gospel—the Adventist minister must be able to cope with these things. That means preparation, education and consecration.

Only an Adventist Seminary, staffed by consecrated, qualified teachers and operated on the divine pattern of Christian education can train and prepare our youth to enter the work of God as trained ministers, able to meet the challenge of the critical days the Remnant church faces in West Africa!

Your prayers and your assistance is greatly needed by the church in West Africa to meet this great need.

It is worth a thousand pounds a year to have the habit of looking on the bright side of things.

—Samuel Johnson.

Building a Church in One Day

By Edgar Keslake, Home Missionary Secretary,
West African Union Mission

Probably you would have felt much the same as I did when Pastor Nzotta, the Home Missionary Secretary of the East Nigerian Mission, told me of the wonderful response made by our laymen to a call for help in putting up a new church building. Eight hundred laymen responded and would have completed the job in one day had there been no interference, but interference there was just as had been feared.

Our members in the village, where this church was built, were aware of the fact that there was a ruling in that chiefdom which forbade the erection of a church. For years they had been meeting wherever possible, but now they felt the time had come when a church building was necessary and would aid in their soul-winning endeavour in the community, but the law stood in the way. If the building of a church is undertaken it must be put up quickly otherwise when the work is stopped, they may never be able to continue.

And so the call for help was put out to neighbouring churches. Help came. Men and women turned out in large numbers on the appointed day until there were more than 800 Seventh-day Adventists on the spot, clearing the land, cutting poles for the building, mixing mud for the walls, gathering thatch for the roof. Things were moving nicely. The church was nearing completion. Only a little remained to cover the roof

Church built by over 800 Laymen in One Day



Members who built the church in One Day
In the Court Docket

when court messengers appeared. They had been sent with an injunction to stop the work. Sadly our army of workers had to leave. If only they had had a little more time, the church would have been completed.

Opposition moved in quickly. Thirteen of our people were put under arrest for having broken the law. They had been responsible for building a church in a chiefdom where the law forbade such a thing.

"These men and women are on trial now" Pastor Nzotta told me. Maybe you could come to the trial today; your presence may help". Of course I was only too happy to do what I could for my brethren and sisters who had evidenced such courage.

This was the third day of the trial. A decision was expected, but first there were a few more witnesses to be heard. God had raised up some of the prominent men of the village to speak on behalf of our people. My heart was touched as I heard these men testify to the good exemplary lives which these thirteen had led in the community. They made strong appeals to the court to help such good citizens in the chiefdom.

Their appeals were heard. The presiding chief with his two counsellors retired to discuss the case and then returned to give their verdict. The defendants were acquitted. Justice triumphed. The little church is to be completed as a monument for God and the courage of a small group of laymen.



Bookmen on The March

By Israel Ampofo, Publishing Secretary,
Kumasi. Ghana Mission

Ghana bookmen have faithfully and enthusiastically accepted the heavenly call, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Their zeal and courage for the Master's work, suggests the response "Here am I; send me."

One of our able colporteurs, Brother J. K. Dankwah was impelled to go on canvassing after he had closed one Friday for Sabbath preparation. He said to himself, "I am so tired, and furthermore, it is time to go home and prepare for Sabbath. The impulse became so strong that finally he took his canvassing bag and went out to work. After covering some yards he felt he should visit an old friend and customer. As Dankwah entered this friend's room, he was welcomed with, "Today, I have no time for you! Go away and come another day!" Our colporteur could see that this man was very worried mentally, and suddenly he was urged to canvass him with the book "The Hope of the Race." The customer was highly impressed and paid much attention to him, but as soon as he saw the picture of Christ's Second Coming with the sickle in His hand, he held up Dankwah's hand and stopped him, saying, "Let's end here." Continuing he asked, "Brother Dankwah, what is this knife in Jesus' hand?"

"It is the sickle with which He is coming to harvest the world. This simply means He is coming soon to gather home to heaven the righteous people, and to destroy the wicked," the brother told him.

After a minute's silence, the prospect said, "I know the Lord has indeed sent you here to save me!" At this juncture, he went into his room and brought back a very sharp knife. Holding up this knife he went on, "I have spent a lot of money to marry a girl, but after all this and some other sacrifices made towards this marriage, this girl is proving very unfaithful. She left for her parents a few days ago, and is expected back today. And in fact, all I have planned is to kill her with this sharp instrument when she returns. But God has seen my intentions and sent you to stop me from this evil action. Take this weapon away! I will never keep it to commit murder, and to be destroyed by Christ on the day of His Second Coming." Thus a colporteur saved both husband and wife from crime and death.

"A most interesting book!" exclaimed an African doctor, stationed in Kumasi, after Brother Anim had shown him a copy of "These Days of Destiny." After paying for this book, he continued, "Do you have more of such stirring publications? When the brother told him that our Book Store was just three miles away, he picked up Anim in his car and they both went to the Book and Bible House. At once this doctor glanced through our books on the show-case, selected £50 worth of this truth-filled literature, paid for it by cheque, expressed his appreciation and gratitude, and finally rode away.

Our colporteurs are fighting hard at the forefront of the battle. But many a time shortage of ammunition, (the literature) due to shipping delay, makes those gallant workers feel discouraged. And to alleviate this inconvenience, we Ghana bookmen earnestly and humbly pray that our Advent Press in Accra be fully equipped to help turn out our books locally here for us. Once this is done our work in Ghana and throughout the West African Union will progress rapidly. Our soldiers are ever ready to go ahead into the unentered territory of the enemy, but we need Ammunition! Ammunition! Ammunition! This is our crying need! This is our Macedonian call.

The Greater Yield

Two Young hikers were going through a part of the country where water seemed scarce. Upon inquiry, a man led them down a little path where, under overhanging leaves, a clear spring bubbled up.

As the boys refreshed themselves, the man told them how he had discovered the spring many years ago. He had scraped away moist leaves to find a little pool of very cold water. He feared to reveal the discovery.

"But my fears were all for nothing," laughed the man. "The more the neighbours used the spring, the more water there was for me. If I were young and starting out like you, I'd never be afraid to share all the good things life gave to me. They yield more for being shared with others". . . .

—Spratt Messenger.

A Call From West Africa

By **Glynn Meredith**, Acting Manager,
The Advent Press, Accra, Ghana

The face of West Africa shows great and rapid changes. This has been especially noticeable during the past three years.

One of the greatest evidences of this is the tremendous number of Literacy Certificates presented by the People's Education Associations in the various countries of the Coast. Africa's children, (and by this I do not only mean her teenagers) are having the doors of Literacy opened rapidly to them, and through these doors they see the millions of books, magazines and papers which become available to them as they learn to read. Adult Education is fast advancing.

The opportunities for presenting the Gospel Message through literature at this time are manifold, but to take full advantage of this, we must have adequate supplies of our literature to fill the tremendous reading demands of the people of West Africa.

Another aspect of this great upsurge of literacy is the fact that our African brothers are developing a keen sense of quality print. By this, we mean that the reading public of West Africa is progressively demanding from printers located here, printing up to the high standard they see imported from Europe and America.

Here at the Advent Press we have, for a number of years, been struggling along with machinery obtained and installed during the difficult transition period covering the years immediately after the war. At that time new machinery was unobtainable and so we were equipped with such reconditioned machinery as was available.

Pastor H. S. Pearce, working almost single-handed, put in untold hours of labour, installing, and in many cases, repairing and reconditioning machines which had been unfortunately damaged in transit.

Our first Linotype had an unscheduled sea bath, so that when the case was finally opened, the whole machine was one mass of red rust. This presented a formidable task to our already over-burdened manager, but with the aid of large quantities of emery cloth, paraffin and oil, to say nothing of human perspiration, the machine was finally put into working order.

The second Linotype was unfortunately badly broken in transit, and local printing opinion wrote it off as irreparable. A lesser man than Pastor Pearce would have quailed

at the prospect. However, another phenomenal effort on his part resulted in this machine being put into operation.

While on leave in 1955, Pastor Pearce obtained and reconditioned a folding machine suitable for book production. This machine was packed in five cases, but only four arrived at the Advent Press. Imagine our dismay on hearing that the fifth case was L.O.B. (loss over-board) while surf-landing at Accra.

Once again we got busy and managed to build the machine sufficiently to do quite a bit of our work. We indeed owe a great debt of gratitude to Pastor Pearce for his outstanding efforts in obtaining and installing our machinery.

However, this machinery is now costing us a great deal in maintenance costs and spare parts. We feel that with the great demand for improved work, we need to discard some of this machinery which has served us so well, and install some new equipment, that we may better fulfil God's purpose for us here on the Coast of West Africa.

Brethren, the days of "bush printing" are past. Please help us to obtain the machinery which will enable us to produce literature which will be a credit to the name of this movement and to the name of the God whom we serve.

Choice Bits

Small faith will take you to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to you.

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

Discontent is the first step in the progress of a man and a nation. . . .

—Oscar Wilde.

As the fire fly only shines when on the wing, so it is with the human mind—when at rest, it darkens.

—L. E. Landon.

If you would thoroughly know anything, teach it to others. . . .

—Tyron Edwards.

The way to be nothing is to do nothing.

—Nathaniel Howe.

It is no great thing to be humble when you are brought low; but to be humble when you are praised is a great and rare attainment.

—St. Bernard.

Dare To Be Like Paul

By Joseph Sarpong Dwumoh,
District Leader, Bibiani, Ghana

Paul was a good soldier for Christ. He fought the good fight and he was never ashamed to preach the gospel of Christ. He put his trust in God. He prayed all times to be able to stand firm in his faith and the Lord used him to His best advantage. At one time he said, "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me, yea; woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" 1 Corinthians 9:16.

He felt the responsibility that the Lord had laid upon his shoulders to bear and he bore it valiantly. He did not boast of himself, but took it as the Lord's work, and glorified God instead.

His life during His ministry

He lived an exemplary life for others to copy, and so he said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." 1 Cor. 11:1.

"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more." 1 Cor. 9:19.

Even when he was on trial he stood fast to his faith. When he was questioned by the governor, who was then Caesar, he said, "I stand at Caesar's judgment-seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest. For if I be an offender, or have committed anything worthy of death, I refuse not to die. But if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar." Acts 25:10-11.

"In the future, men claiming to be Christ's representatives will have a course similar to that followed by the priests and rulers in their treatment of Christ and the apostles. In the great crisis through which they are soon to pass, the faithful servants of God will encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination, the same unyielding hatred."—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 431.

God's call

"God is calling for men who are willing to leave their farms, their business, if need be their families, to become missionaries for Him. And the call will be answered. In the past there have been men, who, stirred by the love of Christ and the needs of the lost, have left the comforts of home and the

society of friends even that of wives, and children, to go into foreign lands, among idolaters and savages, to proclaim the message of mercy. Many in the attempt have lost their lives, but others have been raised up to carry on the work!"—*Ibid.* page 370.

God is counting on you to do your part, either by preaching, singing, giving alms to the poor, visiting the sick, or calling people to the meeting place to hear the gospel message. Do not say, I cannot do anything.

Answer these questions dear reader; Now that we are getting on in the New Year:

1. What plans have I made towards God's work?

2. Have I taken the stand to do my part? Am I ready to suffer for Christ's sake?

3. What is my ambition pertaining to God's message?

As you read this article, I pray that the Lord Jesus will put the burden of spreading the gospel into your heart, endow you with His Holy Spirit, and Christ Himself be your leader so as you may do your part to play the game that He has asked you to play. Never forget the following song: "Lord lay some soul upon my heart."

May the Lord be with you and give you a new vision of His work.

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

(Continued from page two)

The very opposite of the absent landlord in the parable, Jesus works in His vineyard. He cares for it night and day. He knows exactly what it needs in the way of pruning, mulching and general care. And because He knows the experiences we need for perfecting character, things never really go wrong for us. They only seem to. If we could always remember this, we would find it easier to go forward, with chin up and heart unafraid.

Some experiences seem like barking curs! How they nag the very life out of us and bring despair! William Cowper had so many disappointments and discouragements that finally he decided to end it all. Three times he tried to kill himself, but was thwarted each time. Later he was able to look back and see that all the trials that he felt were against him were God's discipline and guiding providence. Out of it all he wrote that grand hymn, "God Moves in a Mysterious Way." From what he had learned of God's goodness he could say:

*"The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head."*

So, when things apparently go wrong let us heed the counsel the old sea-wise, weatherworn sailor gave the young lad, proud in the ownership of his first boat: "It doesn't matter whether sailing your own little boat over the sea, or"—and his eyes, which had long watched the ways of the ocean, twinkled—"navigating the ocean of life, you need ballast, carefully placed, to keep you steady and on an even keel."

And who but He who marks the way we go can be that ballast and keep us on an even keel? With Him aboard nothing can ever really go wrong. His strength is available for our weakness, His wisdom for our lack, His success for our failures! Then who would not choose His way, thought it seem in our finite reasoning to be a mistake? Jesus sees the end from the beginning and will lead us aright. May we trust in Him always—even when everything goes wrong!

The Music Of The Bells

On a Pedestal in one of the famous old churches of Europe is a statue of a nobleman with a string of bells about his waist. The church was erected centuries before America was discovered, and among the many legends woven into its history, one of the most interesting is the one of the nobleman's statue.

An orphaned brother and sister, the only surviving members of a noble and very wealthy family, owned an immense section of the country and ruled the lives of the peasants of that territory.

The sister was a beautiful character, amiable, charming and loved by all. The brother was a veritable autocrat, domineering, and egotistical. Whenever anyone antagonized him, he would fly into a violent rage, and if any unfortunate serf dared to disobey him, or interfere with his pleasure, he would strike him down.

The sister, chagrined at her brother's conduct, sought to cure him of his annoying weakness. Without telling him of her purpose, she suggested that together they build a great church. But each was to erect half of the church independent of the other-

The vanity of the undertaking appealed to the brother, and construction was started. In time the brother discovered that his sister was making faster progress. The sister told him that this was because he was always quarrelling with his workmen. The sister asked him to let her tie a string of bells about him. The bells, she said, would help to hasten the building because, as he approached the men, they would hear the jingling and hasten to work, thus saving much time otherwise lost.

The brother thought it a novel idea. When he heard the jingle of the bells it was like sweet music in his ears, and it soothed his temper. And when he approached the men, he found everyone busily at work. This also pleased him. Finding them diligent, he praised and encouraged them, and they did better work. Before many days he was actually popular with his men.

Spurred by a newborn spirit of pride in their work, the men began to vie with their fellows on the sister's side of the church, and finally finished their half first, to the joy of both brother and sister.

One day, long after the church was finished, the sister revealed to her brother the innocent deception she had played on him to cure him of his evil disposition. The nobleman was so impressed with the lesson he had learned that he had a statue of himself with the bells made, to remind him, and others like him of the power of goodwill, praise and encouragement in dealing with others.

—Adapted from *Success*.

TIME WILL SHOW

*Youth may lend a pretty face,
But time will show each fault
Like allegorical designs
Carved on an old-world vault.*

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