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I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN curious about heaven. Everyone talks about it and seems to want to go there, but no one has ever seen it or knows what it is like. One man explained it like this: "When you die, you have to go somewhere, and I'd rather go to heaven than hell."

Most people I've talked to think of heaven in terms of what they would like it to be. Tired people think of heaven as a place of rest. I have often wondered about that. Some people do not know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon; what would they do with an eternity of rest?

Sick people think of heaven as a place of perfect health. Lovers of the beautiful, long for a paradise of beauty. Selfish people envision the land of bliss as a place where every sensual appetite can be sated and every desire satisfied.

Human minds can think of heaven only in terms of human enjoyment. We long for peace in a world of strife. We crave beauty in a world of ugliness. We want our needs and longings satisfied. But would we be satisfied if heaven turned out to be exactly what we have sometimes hoped it would be?

It was reported that a certain general back from a hard campaign was asked what he would like to do. He said, "I want to sit in my rocking chair on the porch and rock slowly back and forth for a couple of years." He would soon get tired of it.

Vacationers are usually glad to get back to work. Many retired people start a new career because they find resting so tiresome.



Where is Heaven?

Man was never created for inactivity. Playing a harp on a cloud is not God's idea of heaven.

I have been interested in heaven for a long time because I plan to make it my future home. And I have taken pains to find out all I can about it. If heaven is really to be the answer to man's needs, what are his needs? I found the answer to that in God's word.

Man was created in the image of God. "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." Gen. 1:27.

God is the creator of the universe, and man, too, must be creative. Nothing else will fill his destiny or bring him the happiness and satisfaction he associates with heaven. Adam, the first man, was given a task to do. "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." Genesis 2:15.

By Leonard C. Lee



2018 - NOV

There will be no sickness in heaven. Everyone will have perfect health "The inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." Isaiah 33:24.

People who are strong and healthy do not want to spend all their time resting. The things that bring the greatest happiness are useful, creative labour, a sense of being needed and wanted, and to love and be loved. God gave to man before he sinned just what he needed for perfect happiness: a task, a companion, and a home.

The Bible makes it very clear that the earth was made for man and man for the earth. It is human nature to think the grass is greener on the other side of the fence or on some other planet or star. The real difference is in us and not in the place we occupy. Let us look at the prophecies and promises of the

There are two loves from which all good and truth come: Love to the Lord and love to the neighbour. And there are two loves from which all evil and falsities come: The love of self and the love of the world.

—Emmanuel Swedenborg.

Bible in regard to the eternal reward of the righteous. The devil has tried to make this world a hell, and God has tried to make it a heaven. How will it come out?

As I have studied the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, I have come to the conclusion that this earth is to be the eternal home of the righteous. God has no other plan. The human race and the earth were created for each other; they belong together. To remove the population to some other planet would not solve its problems.

God has not left us in doubt on this vital question. "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain; He formed it to be inhabited." Isaiah 45:18.

It is true that the earth is not much like heaven now, but that is man's fault, not God's. If men's hearts were to be changed so that they would love one another, this earth could be a heaven in a very short time. If the billions spent on armaments could be spent on better living conditions, the earth would seem like heaven. And God could transform the earth into a thing of beauty with one creative word.

Our heavenly Father is picking out people one by one who are willing to let sin be purged from their lives. He needs men and

women who will be heirs with Christ Jesus. They must be men and women who are saved by the blood of Christ, purified from disobedience, who can be trusted to inhabit a perfect world and never start the tragic cycle of sin and death again. When He has gathered to himself a renewed people He will renew the earth for their eternal habitation. This is what Jesus was talking about when He said, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

The psalmist mentions the same thing in the Old Testament: "For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalms 37:9-11.

God has to deal with sin and blot it out forever before He can make this earth a paradise. The real problem has always been in the human heart. Those who heed God's pleading voice and let Jesus come into their heart, will be fitted to live forever with Jesus. Those who harden their hearts and resist His loving call will perish when God purifies the earth by fire, just as the wicked perished in Noah's day when the earth was purified by a flood.

It is true that the righteous will be taken from the earth to dwell with Christ in the Father's house for a thousand years while the earth awaits its cleansing from the effects of sin, but that will be but a brief interlude in the eternal destiny of those who choose Jesus. Though they may visit other worlds as we visit our neighbours, yet this earth will be the eternal abode of those who are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. "Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land forever." Isaiah 60:21.

We all recognize that the earth as it is now, with weeds, disease germs, and deserts, is not what God intends for His people. It is not what He made in the beginning. Prophecy tells us what will be done with it. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." Isaiah 65:17.

The revelator also caught a vision of what it will be like: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." Revelation 21:1.

All through the Bible runs the golden thread of hope that the earth, as well as the human race, will be redeemed. Jesus said He came "to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. Man has lost his earthly home as well as his life and dominion. Every description of the future home of the saved is a des-

cription of an earthly scene. The Bible speaks of trees and trees of life. The river of life is also mentioned in the last chapter of the Bible. This suggests a restoration of the Garden of Eden. "And there shall be no more curse." Revelation 22:3. That phrase would be meaningless if heaven were anywhere but on earth, for this is the only place where the curse has ever blighted creation.

In the prophecy of Isaiah, after the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, we are given a description of it: "And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. . . . The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock. . . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord." Isaiah 65:21, 22, 25.

Man was made for the earth and the earth for man. They belong together. Jesus died to restore man's home as well as man's life. When sin is destroyed, its awful curse will be removed from the earth as well as from the hearts of men. Jesus, the last Adam, will set up His kingdom on the very earth where the first Adam failed. This once lost and dark planet will become the glory spot of all creation. The sun will still shine and mark off the days, but in the Holy City we will not need it. The moon will mark off the months, but the years will pass unnoticed as man, restored to his Edenic homeland, lives on in eternal youth and joy.

Weary pilgrims of earth often come home to die. But the triumphant pilgrims who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus will come home to live. The lost world will then be restored and once again the morning stars will sing together and all the sons of God shout for joy. See Job 38:7.

—Signs of the Times—

Dorcas Work in East Nigeria

By Mrs. R. Meze

ONE DAY, I visited Mrs. Cherne, the wife of the medical officer in charge of the Ahoada Hospital in East Nigeria. This hospital is managed by the Seventh-day Adventist Mission, and is a new institution. I asked Mrs. Cherne if she would consent to hold some Dorcas meetings for the women of our dis-

trict (Ekpeye), and this she very kindly consented to do, and in a short time, our classes started.

We were taught among other things how to live happily, how to keep the home clean, proper care of our bodies, child care, and what constitutes good behaviour for every house wife. Mrs. Cherne also taught two hundred women how to sew children's clothes. She conducted a small group of the women round her house showing them how a home should be kept neat and clean, and how children's clothes should be kept. Later, she taught us to make biscuits.

The fame of these classes spread far and wide, and the district officer in charge of the Ahoada Division sent the wives of the police constables of Ahoada to attend our classes.

On the Sunday of our camp meeting, we sold sixty of the children's dresses, which we had made, as well as a good supply of the much appreciated biscuits.

The women of the Ekpeye District have acquired a knowledge of many domestic duties, for which they thank Mrs. Cherne for her leadership as a true Dorcas leader.

Death of Mrs. A. O. Kennick

A letter has just been received from Brother A. O. Kennick of Yele, Sierra Leone telling of the death of Sister Kennick on January 17.

Brother Kennick had gone to Ihié, East Nigeria to attend the Biennial Constituency Meetings of the West African Union Mission. Two days after his arrival there, he received word that his wife was in the hospital and seriously ill. He started immediately to make plans for returning home, and although he went by plane, it was necessary for him to spend some days enroute. He was fortunate in that he arrived four days before the death of his loved one. As he writes, she seemed much improved and they had a good visit and expected that she would be able to leave the hospital soon. Suddenly she was taken seriously ill, and died within a short time. The doctor pronounced her case as spinal meningitis.

As Pastor Kennick writes, "We laid her to rest to await the resurrection morning when we shall meet to part no more."

Our Mission Family and friends extend to Brother Kennick and to his two sons their heartfelt sympathy at this time.



CHRIST is The Power

By Pastor E. B. Akyiano

"THIS IS the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes". Many a time we hear some people say, 'Satan is powerful.' I think such a speech is wrong, and it should be correctly to say 'CHRIST IS POWERFUL.' In Matthew 28:18, Christ said, "All power is given unto Me."

A few weeks ago, I visited one village in a district, a place called Kwaaku Akuraa, about 24 miles from Kete-Krachi. There we have a small company of believers. Naturally those believers are poor financially, yet have sure trust in God. Their charming songs and alarming words of Christ had become piercing swords in the hearts of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood.

Satan was angry and charged his agents to make war against the Christians. Many times, the headman in their village called them before his people and threatens them not to work on their farms on certain forbidden days as ordered by their heathen gods.

Blaming and scolding have become their habitual utterances imposed on the Christians. In spite of all the maltreatments, our dear believers were very bold and active in faith; for they remembered the word of the apostles in Acts 5:29.

When the people found that they had failed to conquer the humble servants of God, they planned to make another cunning and wicked attempt; that is, they seemed to become friends with the members as if they had become reconciled, but not true. They were rather using various charms in order to end their lives. Will God allow His children to die in such a way? The answer is no. Numbers 23:23.

O Yes! CHRIST IS POWERFUL. One day a certain fellow who appeared to be friendly, but had a secret and a great burden in heart

approached one of the staunch members called Kwame Joseph. This burden-hearted man confessed to Kwame saying, "Please, I wish you to forgive me the evil that I have done you in the dark. It is a grievous one and it is a shame to be mentioned. I am not happy at all unless you forgive me. Again I wouldn't be satisfied of your prayers alone, I wish to see your pastor to let him also pray for me."

Though, that fellow couldn't explain the matter in full details, but Kwame understood all.

Not long, after they saw me in their village, and the man came to narrate how he had confessed to Kwame, and also how he had realized the greatness of our God. He then asked me to pray for him, and to tell Kwame also to forgive him; and he believed that, had he not confessed, he would have died by his guilty conscience. He then gave an offering of 4/- as a token of his genuine repentance. He later promised to serve our mighty God in the near future.

Many such experiences in that village have turned to be bearing fruits for Christ.

Let's remember, "If I be lifted up from earth, I will draw all men unto Me," said Christ.

Special Days and Offerings 1959

- January 3 —Family Altar Day with Home Missionary Offering
- January 17 —Tithe Sabbath
- February 7 —Sabbath School Rally Day
- March 14 - 21 —Missionary Volunteer Week
- April 4 - 11 —Missions Extension Home Visitation and Missions Extension Offering
- April 25 —Famine and Disaster Relief Offering
- May 30 —Education Day and Offering
- June 13 —Spirit of Prophecy Day
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Don't Forget Mission Extension Offering April 11.

The Blind Preacher of Costa Rica

By D. A. Delafield

GONZALO GONZALOS was an unhappy man. When he was young, he was injured in an accident and lost his eyesight. He had a wife and a lovely little family, but he could not see, so life was not worth living, he thought.

One day he said to his daughter, "Please lead me to the railroad track," so she took her father's hand and guided him to the rails. Then he said, "You may go home now," and he kissed her goodbye. Gonzalo waited, waited for the train to come. He planned to throw himself in front of the locomotive and commit suicide.

But along came Brother Garcia, a neighbour. "What are you doing here, Mr. Gonzalos?" he asked. There was a weak and vague reply. Brother Garcia talked to him about Jesus and the promise of His return. Gonzalo's heart was strangely warmed, so he decided that he would not kill himself — not that day anyway.

Brother Garcia led him home. The next day Gonzalo was discouraged again. So once again he said to his daughter, "Take me to the railroad track." Then he kissed her goodbye and she returned home. But Brother Garcia happened to come along that day too. Once again he talked to Gonzalo about the Advent hope, but the blind man would not reveal to Brother Garcia his intentions.

After talking awhile, Brother Garcia took Gonzalo by the hand and led him home again. Arrangements were made for Bible studies. Gonzalo and his family were converted. He opened a little grocery store, and while he waited for customers to come, his daughter would read the Bible to him.

Then Gonzalo got a burden to preach. He conducted his own evangelistic efforts. He had a way of telling the truth that brought conviction to the heart. Souls were won to Christ through his labours. The mission in Costa Rica took him on as a worker. After twelve years, he was ordained.

One day a dentist and a lawyer were sitting in a cafe, arguing about the Bible. "Take that story about Balaam and the ass," one of them said. "It's a ridiculous story. It is not true." Then Gonzalo came along. Since the blind preacher was well known, the two men called to him. "Tell us, Gonzalo," one of them said, "about Balaam and the ass. You don't think that's a true story, do you?" Gonzalo replied,

GOD BLESS YOU

What a wonderful privilege it was to meet with old friends and all the delegates from the various fields in West Africa at Ibie. Yes, it was an inspiration to see the progress that has been made since we first arrived in West Africa in 1937. We have had our difficulties, but surely we have ample evidence of the power of God in leading His people in such a cosmopolitan land.

Twenty-two years ago, we had only one training school with ten students and one overseas worker in charge. Now we have several training schools and definite plans for a Junior College in which to train our young men to be ministers for the Lord Jesus. Then there was, no medical work, but now we have four well run hospitals of over 200 bed capacity.

As we leave this land, our hearts will always be with you. Our prayers will continually ascend on behalf of the work in West Africa. May we ever be mindful that "God is able" as we seek to shine in 1959. God bless you all.

Pastor & Mrs. W. J. Newman,
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Herts, U.K.

"You make the ass, and I'll make him speak." Both of the men were silenced, for they knew if they had the power to make an ass, another human being would have the power to make him talk. So since God had made the beast, he could also make it speak.

The minister of a Protestant church tried to persuade Gonzalo to leave the Adventists. "No", he replied, "I cannot do so because they have the truth."

Gonzalo died just a year ago, but there are scores of men and women who were won to Christ through his ministry. He never saw a Bible in all his life, but he knew the Bible from beginning to end, and souls were won through his preaching.

If a blind man can win souls for Christ by preaching the Bible, what might you do — you who have your sight?

Review and Herald.



Camp Meeting Practical Activities

By J. A. Boateng

Missionary Volunteer Secretary, Ghana

THE 1958 Ghana Camp Meeting Programmes were so arranged that the youth had the chance of demonstrating practical Christian love to people. It was the first of its kind to be conducted in the country.

Friday afternoon was scheduled for the youth work; and the evening for youth service. Those who attended the camp meetings would undoubtedly agree with me that some spiritual lessons were learnt from the various items and dialogues performed on that Friday night.

But come with me to Afransi in the Agona-Swedru District where the annual camp-meeting was held. On that Friday afternoon Mr. S. K. Acquah, the District M.V. Secretary, organized about sixty young men and women into four groups and set them to work in a given territory.

"But what did they do?" you may ask. It was a practical way of sharing their faith. These practical activities took the form of weeding and sweeping around compounds, fetching of water for the aged and the needy;

giving first aid to the sick; peeling of coco-yams; pounding fufu; and helping to carry loads for those from farms.

To see these enthusiastic youths at work was simply marvellous. No one was found to be lackadaisical. They indeed worked to the admiration of all. We were heartily congratulated on entering each compound to see what was going on. Yes, our noble youth fully enjoyed those few hours of work and surely became "the servants of God and friends to men."

Sunday, the crowning day for the camp meeting brought the Afransi Chief to the booth. Well over six hundred people attended the Harvest service during which the Ghana President, W. J. Newman delivered an inspiring sermon on "Be Ye Thankful." The Chief, who is a Muslim, in his brief address made these remarks: "I very much appreciated the practical work performed by your youth on Friday which revealed the love you have for us. May God bless you."



A two-week effort

at Asiakwa

By Pastor D. K. Asare District Leader, Koforidua

ASIAKWA is one of the biggest towns in Akim Abuakwa. It is situated near Bunso, a noted agricultural centre on Kumasi-Accra road passing through Kibi. It is ruled by the chief of the right-wing of the state. The Presbyterian Church has been established there for nearly a century, so you can imagine how it has solidly taken roots.

We arrived there in the afternoon on Thursday, August 22. The team comprised of my two evangelists, B. O. Tetteh and C. C. Tetteh; eleven teachers, laymen, and singing

bands from the various stations. In the evening, as the custom was, we went to the chief's house to inform him of our mission. He really accepted us with open arms. Notices of invitation were pasted at the conspicuous places of the town. In the evening the singing bands delivered their melodies through the streets of the town. The inhabitants were thrown on to their heels and rushed to the rendezvous (our meeting place). The first meeting was attended by over 200 people. The number swelled up everyday till

even at other times about 400 people were in attendance.

They were surprised at our message and were claiming that they had never heard such a message before. As such their interest and curiosity to find and hear more of that aroused greatly. Some of the quite interesting scenes were that some of them approached us to inquire whether our message was from the Bible and whether we use the same Bible as they use in their churches for they had never heard of such a message before. My reply in the affirmative put them into a great surprise and asserted that they had been misled and blindfolded by the responsible people in the church. All the six churches in that town admitted that our message was as true as the day light and therefore had no suspicion or agitation about it and even asked us to continue indefinitely. I remember when one evening I was about to conclude a considerable lengthy and interesting talk on "The Sabbath—the change from Saturday to Sunday" shouts from the gathering echoed the place that 'Oh, please give us more of that and we are ready to listen to you even till dawn.'

Sixteen souls were won to Christ and a remarkable thing about this is that 14 of them are literates. Some of them are old workers of about 27 years in business, others hold responsible positions in the town. The Gyaasehene himself has made a solemn promise to accept the message soon. The interest is so great that I have asked Evangelist B. O. Tetteh to do the follow up for the interest of this mass is unabated. I have rented a store-room at the cost of ten shillings a month for the new converts to attend church services. Six benches have been made for them and more shall be added in due course.

The battle is not yet over; our incessant prayers for the stability of these new converts and more of the masses to join is greatly indispensable. Not by our power nor by our own strength but the Spirit of God. Our prayers are the great quota we have to contribute.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him."

—*Psalms* 126:5, 6.

NEWS NOTES

✘ Elder E. B. Hare of the General Conference Sabbath School Department has been visiting the Constituency Meeting and later various mission fields. At each place, Elder Hare has conducted work shops demonstrating ways and means of interesting and teaching juniors. He was most enthusiastically received by both the youngsters and the older ones as well. His greatest worry was to keep the groups small enough to make it possible the carrying out his study and work programme effectively. On leaving West Africa, Elder Hare left for England and will also visit Scandinavia before returning to the States.

✘ Elder M. E. Lind, Sabbath School and Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the Northern European Division has been attending the Constituency and holding rallies in different parts of the West African Union Field. He has surely won the hearts of the young people who have been privileged to hear him.

✘ Elder E. E. Cleveland arrived in Monrovia on February 10 to begin a series of Evangelistic meetings, after which time he will move on to Accra. He will be in Accra about the first of April, and plans to spend three months in the West African Union Mission. Let us remember Elder Cleveland and his assisting pastors in our prayers, and ask God's direction in this soul-winning adventure.

✘ Pastor and Mrs. W. J. Newman and Roy left Takoradi February 11 to return to England. They are returning permanently after having given twenty-two years of service to West Africa. David and Gillian are at home in school, and will be glad to have their parents and brother with them again.

✘ Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Hyde and Rosalee left March 5 for furlough. Dr. Hyde has an extended leave during which time he will do advanced study at Glasgow University.

✘ Brother F. C. Barfoot left for England February 11, to rejoin his family and spend his furlough. Mrs. Barfoot and the children left Accra early last December.

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My Daily Prayer

By Margaret La Gourgue

If I shall speak a word that's kind,
 Upon life's weary road,
Or help the wayworn traveller
 To carry part his load,
Or could I smooth a fevered brow
 Bent low with care and pain,
I'm sure my life, as on I go,
 Shall not have been in vain.

If I reach out and touch a friend
 With sympathy and love,
Or give a stranger water cool,
 Tell of our home above,
And if some comfort I may give
 To troubled hearts that wane,
I feel my life, in usefulness,
 Shall not have been in vain.

If I can meet some sinsick souls
 And lead them to the cross,
Show them that Christ and only Christ
 Can cleanse their heart of dross,
And let them see in me His love
 Reflected clear and plain,
I know the efforts of my life
 Shall not have been in vain.

Then, Father dear of all mankind,
 This last request I pray,
Please cover with Christ's precious blood
 Mistakes through out the way;
Accept my plea, O Saviour mine,
 Let not my love e'er wane;
Just let me hear Thee say at last
 "Thou hast not lived in vain."
