

West African Advent

messenger

Voice of The West African Union Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists

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Christmas again!

By Percy B. Prior

Christmas again! And our spirits grow merrier,
Down drops each selfish, conventional barrier,
Hearts beat more lightly and steps grow airier,
This is the glorious period when
All 'round the planet, whatever latitude,
Mortals are glowing with love and with gratitude.
Life for the moment is full of beatitude —
Christmas again!

Isn't it good to be friends with humanity,
Preaching something like true Christianity?
Must we go back to the greed and the vanity
Which have made sorrow and woe among men?
Christmastime spirit — how splendid a thrill it is!
Let us preserve it, with all our abilities;
Hold to it, practise it, live it, until it is
Christmas again!



THIRTY CENTURIES *after* SAMUEL

By Paul A. Heise, Principal, Training School, Boauke, Ivory Coast

Long, long ago, Samuel the prophet created the first evangelistic course. He called together young men from all the tribes of Israel. They were pious and godly. People called them the sons of the prophets and their dwelling, the school of the prophets. They were studying the Holy Scriptures, the Lord's messages to the prophets and the marvels of the creation. An important part of the day was dedicated to prayers and hymns. Samuel created two of those schools and gave them teachers who were men of God, skilled in the holy science of the Word of God and with a great pastoral experience.

After Samuel's death, the schools of prophets continued to exist. In the days of Christ, they were still existing, they had only changed their name and were called 'rabbinical schools.'

During the first century of christianism, the schools of prophets were held in the catacombs. The sons of the martyrs were prepared in them, to preach the Gospel to the world.

Today, the schools of prophets are hundreds in the world, they are called seminaries. Thousands of young men are assembled there, praying and learning the truth of God and how to preach and to teach.

Alas, the Ivory Coast has no seminary. Although young men are already preaching the Gospel with great zeal to their fellow countrymen all over the land. These young men, as well as the sons of prophets in the days of Samuel, need an evangelistic formation. They need to be trained as well as the sons of martyrs in the days of Nero, the persecutor of the Church. That's why this year, we had at Abidjan during August, a special course for the workers, teacher-evangelists and evangelists of the Ivory Coast.

They were not many — only nine, nine workers chosen by God from the main tribes of the Ivory Coast: Ebriés, Dida, Bété Baoulés, Yakoubas, etc.

From the 6th of August to the 4th of September the Mission Station of Abidjan was

somewhat like a school of prophets. From morning to night, the teaching of religious and scientific matters altered with meditation and prayers.

We are particularly thankful to Brother Henri who enlightened a part of those courses by his presence giving us messages of faith and life.

Our gratitude also ascends to the Lord who thus had given us a foretaste of a real Seminary that the workers of the Ivory Coast need so urgently.

To the teacher-evangelist and evangelists who were present at this course, we repeat the words God once said to Gideon: "Go with the strength you have. . . ." Judges 6:14).

May the Lord richly bless them and their victory shall be His victory.

MAMPONG DISTRICT

Evangelistic Report

By J. K. Amoah, District Leader

In accordance with the resolution and campaign "Let Your Light Shine in 1959," we in Mampong District of Ghana Mission raised the flag of Prince Emmanuel, and have been able to open three new outstations by His grace. They are, Tadieso near Nsuta, Asuboi near Anyinasu and Hiawoanwu near Ajura with the product of 43 souls.

We rallied our strong force of Laymen together for this all important work. Fifty Laymen from the district took part in the August Evangelistic Efforts and to date we have held six efforts, all with success.

The total souls won in the District and in the local churches, together with our Evangelistic Efforts is 98. We solicit your earnest prayers for the workers and laymen of the district, so that they could do more for the Master.

The sun filtering through the tropical foliage cast an inconstant checker-board on the gently ebbing water. The stream wound out of the jungle to the foot of the widened path, and then disappeared, snake-like, into the shadows of the forest. It was the village watering-place, scene of happy activity, where naked children splashed about in exuberant play while women slapped clothes rhythmically on the bank, laughing and talking in their work. Here also the drinking water was obtained. Large earthen pots with short narrow necks widening to lipped openings were carried away on the heads of the villagers, sometimes dripping refreshingly down perspiring bodies, straining with the burden in the hot equatorial sun.

Remote from civilization, the nucleus of a way of life scarcely touched by the changing centuries, this turbid, almost stagnant stream of water was not too different from many others meandering through the green maze of the coastal regions of West Africa.

And yet to thirty-four young Africans, this stream will be vivid in their memories throughout eternity. It was here, in Ihie, Nigeria, the twenty-fourth day of October, nineteen hundred and fifty-nine years after the birth of their Saviour that they were buried in death and arose triumphantly through baptism in the name of Jesus Christ to walk as new men and women in the light of Salvation.

This wonderful occasion climaxed a season of fervent religious revival felt the past month by all on the Nigerian Training College and Adventist High School campus. These candidates were prepared for baptism during the past year by Pastors Wosu and Konrad Mueller. There will be another baptism shortly, comprising of candidates also under instruction during the past year.

Equally thrilling to report is the formation of a new baptismal class of 25 members. This class was recruited by Pastor Dunbar Henri during a dynamic Week of Prayer, September 26th — October 2nd.

Through the inspired teachings of Pastor Henri, all of us, students, faculty, and families, experienced the blessings of previous communion with our heavenly Father, of closer fellowship with the Holy Spirit, of deeper appreciation of the love of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

The shadows still play on the gently ebbing water of the jungle stream. That it may continue to be the river of life on this earth which flows into the River of Life in the New Earth, is our prayer.

DECEMBER 1959

THE I M O

African River of Life

*By Barbara Cross,
Nigerian Training College, Ihie*

FAITH WON THE VICTORY

By H. E. Rieseberg, Konola Academy

A SHORT TIME AGO I visited a new group of interested people in a small village near the town of Salala. It was on Monday evening. They had asked me to come early to discuss some serious problems with them. The leaders sat down with Pastor Stanley Kilby, Brother James Franklin, our interpreter, and myself. They explained their difficulties. Paramount among these was their Sabbath problem. The government representatives in the nearby town often conscripted their people for the 'forced labour' that is necessary in the Liberian interior. They had to work on the Sabbath, or be heavily fined or imprisoned. We counselled the people to have faith that God would help them, but under no circumstances work on the Sabbath.

On Friday evening we returned to hold another meeting with them. It was agreed that if suitable lodging could be found for Pastor Kilby and Brother Franklin, they would stay overnight and hold the services on Sabbath morning. Unfortunately, the only accommodation available was quite far from what Pastor Kilby and Brother Franklin were accustomed to. However, with his typical good spirit, Pastor Kilby said that they would stay and 'make the place liveable.'


Before six the next morning, word came from Salala that the men must work that day. They were filled with fear, and began to make preparations to go. However, the leader approached Pastor Kilby, saying that

he had made his decision to keep the Sabbath. He intended to stay no matter what happened to him. He wondered though, if Pastor Kilby would talk to the other men.

Pastor Kilby called the men together and told them that now was the time to exercise the faith that we had talked to them about before. After a great deal of discussion, it was agreed that one of their number should go to Salala to explain why they did not come. The rest would go to Sabbath School and pray.

Before Sabbath School concluded, the messenger returned with this message from the Clan Chief in Salala: "If you are *really serious* about keeping Saturday as your Sabbath, we have no objection. Please send one of your leaders for a formal discussion of the matter some time this week."

If Pastor Kilby and Brother Franklin had not been willing to sacrifice their personal comfort, it is quite obvious that most of the work they had done in that village would have been in vain. They would have arrived by public transportation about 9.30 a.m. in time for a Sabbath School that would have been practically non-existent. Their presence and their personal faith in God won a great victory that day. Now we hope that at an early date we will be able to baptize a large group of people from that village and the villages nearby. We thank God that He still answers our prayers and manifests His power on behalf of those who believe.



I dedicate MYSELF

I dedicate myself to Thee, O God.
Would that all created things
Might understand the great life-principle
And grasp the things that come from
above!

I dedicate myself to the great life-principle.
Would that all creation might immerse
itself
In the depths of the Scriptures and attain
that wisdom
Which is vast as the sea!

I dedicate myself to the holy society.
Would that all creation might in great
close ranks
Stride forward toward the great assembling
of all the saints!



Leaderscraft Course

By A. K. Kanu, Waterloo, Sierra Leone

"I hear sweet songs every morning and evening. What is it all about?" asked my neighbour.

"O, it is we the Adventist workers in Waterloo and Moyamba District. We are having a workers institute. We have come to ways and means of improving and extending our work both in School as well as Church. We are conscious of the fact that this world, with its hearty and splendour, and with its compound complex activities are all passing away so quickly as butter melts in the mid-day sun."

"All right brother, may God help you people," intreated my neighbour.

One of the most interesting features of the institute was the Missionary Volunteer Leaderscraft Course by Mr. J. B. Fridley, our Education and M.V. Councillor. The M.V. Society is an organization of Young men and women who desire to spread the gospel of salvation to all the world. It does this by engaging young men and women in a number of activities such as, story telling, pathfinder club work, Missionary correspondence, public youth evangelism and a host of other activities. Thus we see that the M.V. Society makes it possible to train the youth to develop physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. Such a great work requires training, hence in the Leaderscraft course, we had lectures in the science of leadership, how to proceed with the work, the arrangements of M.V. special features and the recreative activities of the M.V. Society.

Mr. J. B. Fridley and Mr. J. A. T. Fofana laid stress on the fact that an M. V. leader is unlike a political leader. Whereas the political leader is the boss of those he leads, the M.V. leader is the servant of those he leads. Lectures on the Leaderscraft course lasted for ten hours at the end of which certificates were given to all those qualified.

Most of us present at the course will not forget the sincerity, solemnity and the importance of the task given us by the Lord. If we have been sleeping in blissful contentment in the bed of lethargy, surely the M.V. Leaderscraft course should inspire us, wake us up and give us zeal and enthusiasm to spread the gospel in no time, thus making it possible for the Lord to come soon. Though the institute lasted only for three days and ended on August the third, yet the inspiration that it has left in our minds is long to be remembered. May God help us to bring up fruits in the light of the knowledge we have received.

Expressions have also been made about the spiritual atmosphere which permeated in the minds of the congregation as a result of Pastor C. D. Henri's God-given sermons. To quote a little, the sermon about the roads to hell; has left an awareness among those present, that each person is responsible for his fate. "Some follow the majority," said Pastor Henri.

Both the workers and the people in Waterloo regretted that the institute ended so quickly.

WORK

*Work thou for pleasure, paint or sing or carve —
The thing thou lovest, though the body starve;
Who works for glory misses oft the goal,
Who works for money coins his very soul.
Work for work's sake, and it may be
That these things shall be added unto thee.*

— Tony Cox

North Nigerian Mission

By Bruce Roberts, President

Evangelism—the use of every agency for the winning of one soul to Christ—is the key note of the North Nigerian Mission. Every pastor, every district leader, every evangelist has been preaching the gospel of salvation in a special endeavour to “Let our light shine in 1959.”

It was found that the traditions of the people of one area included an early destruction of all the people on the earth except one man and woman. Little of the story is known, but that pagan tradition helped support the Word of God as the story of the flood was presented as the opening subject in one series of meetings.

Real challenges are present when one tries to present the gospel message to both Pagans and Mohammedans at the same time. The results are not such as can be measured in immediate terms, but we know that He who

knows the true worth of a soul will water the seed that is being planted by the workers of the North Nigerian Mission.

Work is also being carried on among the “strangers” of the North. Evangelistic meetings have been held near Jos and in Kaduna, the capital of North Nigeria, and more meetings are planned for the latter part of the year.

As we contemplate the vast area of the North Nigerian Mission with its 15,000,000 people, our human frailty quails at the thought of the great task that is before us. Yet we move forward in faith, knowing that God’s hand is not shortened that it cannot save. As we look forward to the future, we need the prayers of our brethren and sisters in West Africa that God’s purpose might be fulfilled in North Nigeria through His servants and through His children that the coming of our Saviour might be hastened.

Twenty-one Year Old Church ORGANIZED

By J. K. Amoah, District Leader
Mampong, Ashanti

SABBATH MACRH 28, 1959 is a day long to be remembered by the Church at Mampong Ashanti. This Church was twenty-one years old when it was organized on that day.

It was very fitting when Pastor C. B. Mensah, the President of Ghana Mission, and Mrs. Mensah came with Pastor A. K. Amofah, Kumasi District Pastor, to join the writer for the organization of this Church for which Pastor Mensah himself was the pioneer worker in the year 1938.

We were happy to welcome representatives from all the organized churches in the District, who came to assist in this all important work of the church.

Before a large gathering of believers, it was an inspiration when the President

preached on the responsibilities of the church, explaining what it meant, and how they, being many, could unite and propagate the gospel for the ultimate salvation of souls.

The writer then presented the “Principles of our Faith,” and as all signified their agreement, a nucleus was formed, and all baptized believers were voted in by the Mission President. A nominating committee had been appointed to bring in recommendations for church officers. Their report was unanimously adopted. Pastor Amofah advised the Church Officers in their duties towards the church and to one another.

At this time the Elders and Deacons were ordained by the President, assisted by the two District Pastors.



NEWS NOTES

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES

New Adventist College

✱ Over two thousand people witnessed the inaugural ground-breaking ceremony of the Adventist College, which was held on September 17, 1959 at Ilishan-Remo, Nigeria.

Many distinguished guests were present, including the Honourable J. A. Bomadu, Minister of education, Western Region.

Pastor H. J. Welch, President of the West African Union gave the main address. The Union Education Secretary, Brother J. B. Fridley and the Union Ministerial Secretary, Pastor C. D. Henri were also present.

✱ Pastor Welch, Union President, blessed a baby of Mr. and Mrs. G. Darkwah at Ntonso, 14 miles from Kumasi on the 24th October 1959.

The ceremony was attended by many people and some prominent people of the town and near by villages.

Agona singing band, Ntonso singing band and school children were present at the occasion and gave many beautiful songs.

The parents are our teachers at Ntonso.

We wish them God's blessing and a happy home.

✱ On the 14th of June 1959, Pastor Z.N. Imo and his associate, Pastor Z. Uzoaru baptized 124 people and another 17 on 17th September, 1959. He planned to conduct another baptism on 14th November, 1959 and hoping to close the year with about 230 people baptized.

Evangelistic efforts were held in two places — Umuokegwu and Umuene. Some methods acquired from Pastor Cleveland's Evangelistic Efforts were demonstrated and found very useful at the first place, it was a sort of revival meeting for the interest raised by laymen, and the second place, a new interest was raised for the result of the efforts.

Pastor M. T. Battle, West African Union Home Missionary and Dorcas Welfare Secretary visited Umuocha District. All laymen who attended were highly inspired by his stirring speech, and more especially, the promise of giving them higher training for higher work of winning souls.

Very interesting M.V. Investiture Service under the auspices of Mr. A.A. Nwagbava was held on 24th October, 1959. Brother R.W. Simons, East Nigerian Mission Secretary-Treasurer officiated and assisted by Brother J. O. Ukegbu, the Schools' Supervisor. 138 young people of all grades from Busy Bees to Master Guides were invested. Most interesting thing was that one layman was invested Master Guide, first in history of Umuocha District.

✱ Mr. A. B. Dankwa, headmaster of the Demonstration School at Bekwai, just recently sailed to the U.K. where he is taking additional studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He quotes the following experience during his last Sabbath on board the m.v. Aureol.

"The last Sabbath at sea was a blessing to me and several others. On the day before, I informed a few friends I had already made that I wanted to hold a special service on Sabbath. Although they were not Adventists, they agreed and one of them was asked to advertise. With the permission of the Captain, accommodation and hymn books were provided. When the time arrived I was surprised to find a large attendance — over 60 passengers including Europeans and 2 European Missionaries — one of whom was an Apostolic Pastor proceeding on leave. They all marvelled at the message on the "Power of God" which the Lord by me spoke. The Pastor remarked later to the congregation that what I did was something he had always hoped to do, but negotiations on board don't allow, he was therefore surprised why I had the permission. From that time till we landed I was addressed the "Pastor of the Ship" and all counselling was referred to me. Thank the Lord for making it possible for me to uplift His Name and to publish the "Advent Message."

✱ Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Cantrell are the parents of a beautiful baby girl. Mother and baby are doing very well. Brother Cantrell is the secretary-treasurer of the Liberian Mission.

✱ Pastor H. J. Welch, President of the West African Union Mission has just returned to the office after attending the Division Council in London. Enroute home Pastor Welch spent a week in the Liberian Mission. We extend a hearty welcome to Pastor Welch and hope and pray that he brings "good news" for West Africa.

DEATH NOTICE

With heavy hearts we report the death of Brother H. G. Arthur, the first Colporteur Evangelist to fall from the ranks of the Ghana bookmen's army. After a serious fall on Friday, October 2, Brother Arthur died on Sabbath morning, October 3rd.

Brother Arthur was a colporteur for nine years. He laboured for many years and sold several thousands of pounds worth of truth-filled literature.

The funeral service was conducted by Pastor A. Ageyi at Brother Andrew's home town of Forikrom. The West African Union constituency extend our sympathy to the widow, son and daughters.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Dec 5th, 1959	Healthful Living Day
Jan. 2nd, 1960	Family Altar Day With Home Missionary Offering
Jan. 16th, 1960	Tithe Sabbath

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Editor: Pastor C. D. HENRI

Celebrating Christmas!

Not only on birthdays should parents and children remember the mercies of the Lord in a special way, but Christmas and New Year's Day should also be seasons when every household should remember their Creator and Redeemer. Instead of bestowing gifts and offerings in such abundance on human objects, reverence, honour, and gratitude should be rendered to God, and gifts and offerings should be caused to flow in the divine channel. Would not the Lord be pleased with such a remembrance of Him? O how God has been forgotten on these occasions! . . .

When you have a holiday, make it a pleasant and happy day for your children, and make it also a pleasant day for the poor and the afflicted. Do not let the day pass without bringing thanksgiving and thank offerings to Jesus. Let parents and children now make earnest effort to redeem the time, and to remedy their past neglect. Let them follow a different course of action from that which the world follows.

Like the wise men of old, you may offer to God your best gifts, and show by your offerings to Him that you appreciate His Gift to a sinful world. Set your children's thoughts running in a new, unselfish channel, by inciting them to present offerings to God for the gift of His only begotten Son.

Let us remember that Christmas is celebrated in commemoration of the birth of the world's Redeemer. This day is generally spent in feasting and gluttony. Large sums of money are spent in needless self-indulgence. The appetite and sensual pleasures are indulged at the expense of physical, mental, and moral power. Yet this has become a habit. Pride, fashion, and gratification of the palate have swallowed up immense sums of money that have really benefited no one, but have encouraged a prodigality of means which is displeasing to God. These days are spent in glorifying self rather than God. Health has been sacrificed, money worse than thrown away, many have lost their lives by overeating or through demoralizing dissipation, and souls have been lost by this means.

God would be glorified by His children should they enjoy a plain, simple diet, and use the means entrusted to them in bringing to His treasury offerings, small and great, to be used in sending the light of truth to souls that are in the darkness of error. The hearts of the widow and fatherless may be made to rejoice because of gifts which will add to their comfort and satisfy their hunger.



*Wise men, led
of God, found
the infant Jesus
and presented to
Him their great-
est treasures.*

*Their example
is for all men
for all time.*