

West African Advent



# messenger

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

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## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NUMBER



*Pastor Grover Winslow, President of the Adventist College of West Africa presenting a gift of books to the Hon. Ayodele Okusaga, Minister of Education for the Western Region of the Nigerian Government.*



By  
**GROVER  
WINSLOW**  
College  
President

# ADVENTIST COLLEGE of West Africa

It gives me much pleasure to be able to address our members through the pages of the "Messenger." By now many of you have heard that the West African Union Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists has established a post-secondary institution of higher education at Ilishan-Remo in Western Nigeria, and also that on the last Sabbath of this month, May 28th, a special offering is to be taken in all our churches throughout West Africa to help the new college in its development programme. We here at the college have been invited to prepare a special message to be read to you each Sabbath during May in which we may tell you some things of interest about the institution, and particularly about our needs. We hope that you will begin now to plan on giving a large offering so that the union mission goal of £2,000 may be reached, and even surpassed, on May 28th.

The Adventist College of West Africa is located on a large 370-acre campus on the eastern edge of the town of Ilishan-Remo in Western Nigeria, about ten miles northeast of Shagamu. The college is almost exactly half-way between Lagos and Ibadan, being about 50 miles distant from each city, and about 50 miles east of Abeokuta. Thus we have three major centres of population, all about an hour's drive from the campus, in which our students may gain first-hand experience in conducting city-wide evangelistic campaigns. Additionally, the smaller towns of Ijebu-Ode, Iperu, Shagamu, and Ikorodu present ideal laboratories for teaching evangelistic methods for smaller communities; these towns are all within 20 miles of the college. In the immediate vicinity there are about a dozen small towns or little villages where still another type of evangelism can be demonstrated. Thus our theological students will gain practical field experience in addition to the study of theory in the classroom. It should be remembered in this connection that in the whole of Ijebu Province, in the heart of which our new college is located, there had not been any work established by the Seventh-Day Adventist Mission before the college was brought here.

This is one reason why the West African Union Mission Committee chose this particular site for the institution. When the committee first took action to create this post-secondary college, they agreed that its location should be fairly central to both the population and church membership of the union mission. Members of the committee accordingly were asked to look for prospective sites in both Western Nigeria and Ghana. Another requirement was that the site should be within easy

reach of all major systems of transportation — by road, by sea, and by air. Finally, and this was very important, there should be easy access to water and electricity, and the soil should be suitable for growing crops since agriculture was to play such an important part in the total school programme.

Two or three sites in both Ghana and Western Nigeria were later put forward, and members of the union mission committee travelled together personally to inspect them on the spot. No other educational establishment in West Africa had its site chosen with as much special care — and prayer. The site here at Ilishan-Remo which was finally selected seemed to fit the requirements better than all of the others. It is just 50 miles from the port of Lagos, 40 miles from the Ikeja International Airport, and less than five miles off from the main A-1 trunk road for all Nigeria. Water is available in abundance — chemically-treated to prevent disease by the Shagamu Water Works. And just three months after the ground-breaking ceremony last September, Ilishan was connected to the new Lagos-Ibadan electricity grid. Thus light and power are now available in the town. At the time of writing this message the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria is bringing a 32,000-volt high tension power line right in to the heart of the campus where our own transformer will be located. As to the soil, a representative of the Agriculture Department of the Western Nigerian government has informed us that the soil here on our campus is the best for crop-growing of any elsewhere in the whole province! We sincerely believe that God definitely picked out our location and led the committee to select it!

A highly reputable firm of architects have been retained to plan the whole campus lay-out, as well as to draw the necessary detailed plans for the individual buildings which will be erected on it. The present site plan calls for 59 major buildings to be located on this beautiful, spacious 370-acre campus — a commodious administration building complete with a practice chapel for use by the theological students, eight departmental classroom buildings and laboratories, a kitchen and dining hall, a church, dormitories for both men and women, a laundry, buildings to house the various industries which will be established, a special housing area for married students with families, and 21 faculty bungalows.

Of course, this cannot be put up all in one year, or even in several; the total development will take approximately 20 years, if all goes according to plan. But already a start has been made: four faculty homes and the dining hall and kitchen are already in various stages of construction.

While all this is going on at the campus site, school is in progress in rented quarters in the town. The ground-breaking ceremony, with distinguished visitors including the regional Minister of Education taking part, was held on the site of the future administration building on September 17, 1959. Less than one month later, on October 15th, classes began in the temporary location in the town. This first year we were able to accept only seven students because of the limited

# We are the first - We enjoy it!

*First School Year Students express their Appreciation:*

**LUKE ANOSIKE :**

I have particularly enjoyed my classes. The one in the Life & Teachings of Jesus has been immensely interesting; more so when, in our Greek classes, we come across the words of Jesus whose exegetical meaning is so important.

Church organization is taught in our Pastoral Training I class which will be very helpful to future ministers. We have also studied the history of European nations from the standpoint of the working out of God's purpose in the affairs of men.

**JOEL AWONIYI :**

The 17th of October last year witnessed a memorable occasion in Ilishan. After the Sabbath School programme, Pastors G. M. Ellstrom and J. A. Adeogun, president and vice-president of the West Nigerian Mission, respectively, led out in the organization of the new college church — the first S.D.A. Church in the whole of Ijebu Province. A highlight of the service was the ordination of Mr. D. D. Magaji, one of the students, to the office of local church deacon.

**DAVID IZIMA :**

"For who hath despised the day of small things?" (Zech. 4:10). Indeed, big things often have small beginnings. This is true of our new college at Ilishan which opened on October 15, 1959, less than one year before the coming of Nigerian Independence.

As pioneer students we certainly have difficulties. Yet unlike other young institutions, our amenities outweigh our difficulties. We live and study in decent quarters which are provided with electricity and

treated water. Our library has over 5,000 volumes. Very soon we hope to move to our new campus which will provide still more amenities.

**DANIEL MAGAJI :**

Our college programme is run in accordance with the principles of true education — which provides for the harmonious development of the mental, physical, and spiritual sides of life. Unlike many of our West African educational institutions, here students, often with their professors, work together side by side with their hands in developing the campus. Students are paid 1/6d. per hour, providing a fine opportunity for any who needs to meet a lesser or greater share of his financial expenses while in college.

**ISAAC NWAOBIA :**

In our college we have many different periods — for study, devotion, recreation, worship, eating, and labour.

I particularly enjoy the period for manual labour best. Not altogether because of the wages paid me for it, but because of the physical fitness which comes as a result.

I am convinced that with a healthy body I can face the rest of the school programme with confidence.

**BENJAMIN OFEREN :**

I greatly appreciate the diet of the Adventist College of West Africa. The students are fed solely on vegetables, fruits, and grains — wholesome foods which are God's appointed diet.

This fare has been introduced because this natural heaven-approved diet brings the partaker into a closer relationship with the divine Law-Giver, and not merely to make the students vegetarians.

This enables the students to honour their Creator at their daily meals. I am sure that God is pleased that we eat and drink to His glory.

**JAMES OKWANDU :**

I have especially appreciated the various worship periods — the morning and evening devotions conducted for and by the student body in the dormitory, and the chapel exercises conducted by both our professors and our students.

Each Wednesday the chapel exercise is led by a student, after which our student prayer bands meet and everybody takes part. My experiences during these prayer seasons will ever remain green in my memory.

**Continued from page 2**

facilities. Yet, even in the temporary buildings, we have been able to provide complete water plumbing and sanitation for the students — a "first" for Adventist educational establishments in all of West Africa! In the dormitory rooms the students have proper, durable steel beds with proper mattresses on which to sleep. Everything has been done to assure their comfort and to provide a suitable environment for them in which to study. The library, with more than 5,000 volumes donated by friends in the United States, is available to assist the students in their pursuit of knowledge. We are proud of what has already been done, and what will yet be done to further the education of our young people in West Africa.

MAY 1960

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# Ground-Breaking Ceremony, Sep

of the

## ADVENTIST COLLEGE OF WEST AFRICA

**G**ROUND WAS BROKEN in a symbolic ceremony at the 370-acre campus of the new Adventist College of West Africa at Ilishan-Remo, Nigeria, on September 17, 1959.

Attending the ceremony were representatives of the West African Union, West Nigerian Mission, several union institutions, the college, the divisional and local government councils, and natural rulers.

Master of Ceremonies was His Highness, Oba I. O. Green-Adebo, the Olofin of Ilishan. One of the principal addresses was given by the Honourable Ayodele Okusaga, regional Minister of Education in Western Nigeria.

Howard J. Welch, the president of the West African Union Mission and chairman of the college board of governors, was presented with a gift of a Yoruba *agbada* by Miss Olusimbo Osibodu on behalf of the people of Ilishan during the ceremony.

Participating in the actual ceremony of ground-breaking are Grover C. Winslow, college president; Howard J. Welch; and the Hon. Ayodele Okusaga.

In all, some twelve persons assisted in turning the sod, including the Oba, local council chairman, architect, and general contractor.



*Participating in the ceremony of ground-breaking are, left to right:— Pastor Grover C. Winslow, Pastor Howard J. Welch and the Hon. Ayodele Okusaga. Standing on the ministers left are his wife, Mrs. Okusaga and Pastor J.M.A. Adeoye, vice Principal of the West African Branch of the Voice of Prophecy. Others also participating were the Oba Local Council chairman, architect and general contractor.*

17th 1959



*Howard J. Welch, receiving a gift of a Yoruba agbada.*



*A portion of the huge crowd which witnessed the ceremony.*

For such an infant institution, the Adventist College of West Africa has had an unusual amount of world-wide publicity since the inaugural ground-breaking ceremony on its campus September 17, 1959.

At that time this important event was covered by reporters, photographers, and correspondents for the major newspapers in Nigeria, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, the Western Nigeria Information Service, and the United Press-International news agency.

In addition to carrying news bulletins the N.B.C. interviewed President Grover C. Winslow on "Nigerian Newsreel" are carried a tape recorded speech by the Balogun of Ilishan given at the ceremony on a later edition of the same programme.

The Western Nigeria Information Service carried a complete account of the proceedings in addition to an advance story in both its "Daily Press Release" and in its weekly slick-paper newsmagazine "Western News".

Exactly one month after the ceremony, on October 17th, a news item appeared in the "Raleigh Carolinian" in North Carolina (a weekly newspaper with a circulation of 7,800) in a column headed "World Happenings." It was the lead item with the headline "A New College For West Africa" and gave a Shagamu, Nigeria, dateline. No one yet knows how this newspaper heard about our ground-breaking ceremony some 8,000 miles away!

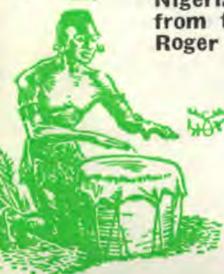
Stories subsequently appeared, with pictorial illustrations courtesy of W.N.I.S., in the "Northern Light", "Tell", and the "Review & Herald". The "Review", the general church paper of the denomination which circulates in 185 of the 208 countries of the world, carried the story on Page One of its February 11, 1960 edition.

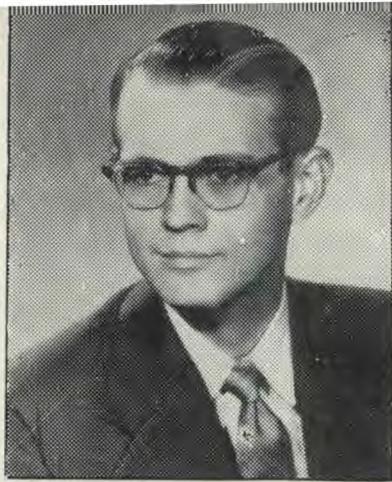
Newspapers and radio stations in Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone have helped tell the story of the new college at Ilishan throughout West Africa.

In the United States the General Conference Public Relations Bureau sent out reproductions of a W.N.I.S. photograph to many of the major daily and weekly newspapers in the U.S.A. and Canada in connection with its prepared story on the 13th Sabbath Offering for the first quarter of 1960, a portion of which will come to the college.

Lastly, the first television station in Africa south of the Sahara, WNTV at Ibadan, Nigeria, which only recently began public programming, has carried news releases from the college on its news bulletins, and on one occasion interviewed Pastor Roger W. Coon, college public relations director, on its live 10 p.m. news telecast.

IN INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT





## Why A Separate Denominational UNIVERSITY COLLEGE?

By  
**ROGER W.  
COON**  
Chairman,  
Bible Dept.

On the last Sabbath in May a special offering will be taken in your church, and in every other Adventist church throughout West Africa, for our new post-secondary college at Ilishan-Remo, Nigeria. Some, thinking of the tremendous expense involved in establishing such an institution of higher education, might wonder, "Why not take all this money, and instead of spending it on buildings, use it for scholarships to send students to already existing colleges and universities? Why do we need, and can we afford, a separate university college of our own?" Believing that we do, and can, I would like to offer the following reasons:

1. It costs much more to send a student to a college in Britain or America than it does to train him here in West Africa. Until we established our own university-level Adventist College of West Africa in Nigeria, our union mission committee **did** send young men and women — about 25 of them, at an average cost of approximately £1,000 each! When one figures out the much higher cost of overseas education (both school fees and maintenance), plus the cost of passages for the student, and for his wife, if married, it is not extravagant to claim that we could educate five young people in our college in West Africa for what it takes to send only one overseas.

2. Non-Adventist universities and colleges, in West Africa or in any other country, are unsuitable for our Adventist youth because:

a. There are too few of them (Nigeria has only three institutions at present offering the baccalaureate degree), thus entrance requirements are especially high, and few of our young people are able to qualify for admission.

b. Adventist students in virtually all institutions of higher education find Sabbath problems: usually they are required to attend classes, laboratories, field trips, athletic events, or — worse yet — examinations, from which no exemptions are allowed.

c. The vast majority of non-Adventist university professors do not believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God. Many even doubt the very existence of God Himself! In science classes the Biblical story in Genesis of the creation of this world in six literal days is completely thrown out and an incredible system of evolution replaces it. The philosophy of the ancient Greeks, which denies a personal God, teaches the false doctrine of the immortality of the soul, and allows — even advocates — gross immorality since pleasure is the highest goal in life, is taught in the modern university class room. In the divinity departments the student is taught that the Bible is merely a collection of legends — at best only a history book — that there are no such things as miracles, prophecy, or supernatural powers, that Jesus

Christ was only a man — a good man, to be sure, but only a man — and not the divine Son of God He claimed to be, and many other errors. Obviously our gospel workers could not be trained in classes which advocate the very opposite of what the Bible teaches and what we believe. Indeed, in the modern educational system of today there is heard the sound of weeping, not "Rachel weeping for her children," but the **children** weeping, crying, "They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where to find Him!"

d. The associations of student with student, and with teacher, in the non-Adventist universities is usually not conducive to Christian growth. Many a young person has had his first taste of alcohol and tobacco in the company of non-Adventist, non-Christian students and teachers. Also, most men and women who are educated desire life companions who can be "companions" in every sense of the word and who have an equal education. In an Adventist college the young student can meet other Adventist youth of equal education and thus find a far more suitable life companion than they would on a non-Adventist campus.

e. A poor student is virtually denied a higher education if he has no funds with which to pay his fees. One of the opportunities afforded at the Adventist College of West Africa is the opportunity of a poor student being able to work his entire way, and pay his entire expenses from earnings while going to school! While all students are required to work a minimum of 10 hours per week, those desiring to work more are able to do so; and all students are paid a minimum of 1/6d. per hour for all work performed. Some are able to earn even a higher rate.

3. The distinctive Seventh-Day Adventist educational philosophy seeks the harmonious development of the head, the heart, and the hand. One of the major reasons for mental breakdowns of West African students in British universities is that they are following an unbalanced programme of training merely the head, and leaving out the hand, if not the heart. In our training of the "head" we place the study and understanding of the Word of God as first in priority. The "heart" also is not lost sight of; the primary concern of each professor is the salvation of each of his students. In contrast with non-Adventist schools, our college seeks to train not only for the life that now is, but also for the life to come hereafter. In the training of the "hand," the dignity of manual labour is **demonstrated** by students and faculty members working outdoors side by side in campus landscaping, in agricultural endeavours, and in other important activities.

Friends, it is not a question, "Can we afford such an institution; do we really need it?" But rather, "Can we afford **not** to have it?" How much are our children really worth to us? Do we **really** want to see them saved for the kingdom of God? The education of Adventist children is the concern of the **WHOLE** church, not merely of the parents of the children. And on the last Sabbath of this month the whole church will have an opportunity for supporting our newest and most important educational venture in West Africa in a real, tangible manner.

# The First Year Pioneering Adventist College

## Education in West Africa

October 15, 1959, was a historic day, for on that date the first students in the first class of the West African Union Mission's first post-secondary college met for their first classes.

This year's freshman class consists of seven young men who have dedicated their hearts and lives to the gospel ministry. Because of limited accommodations in temporary rented quarters in Ilishan town, a larger group could not be accepted this first year.

All the students come from Nigeria. From the Eastern Region are: Mr. Luke Anosike, Mr. David Idima, Mr. Isaac Nwaobia, and Mr. James Okwandu. North Nigeria is represented by Mr. Daniel Magaji, who speaks English as fluently as he does his native Hausa. Western Nigeria, in whose territory the college is located, claims Mr. Joel Awoniyi of the Yoruba Tribe and Mr. Benjamin Oferen of the Urhobo Tribe in the Mid-West area.

Next year it is hoped that a number of students from the other four local missions in the West African Union will be represented in the student body.

In addition to the usual opportunities for service and leadership such as the Missionary Volunteer Society and the Sabbath School, students in the college are gaining practical experience by serving on the Religious Activities, Social Activities, and Student Council committees.

The curriculum for first-year theological students consists of the following subjects: New Testament Greek, English Composition, Freshman Mathematics, Survey of European Civilization, The Life and Teachings of Jesus, and Pastoral Training I.

The teaching staff this first year consists of Pastor Grover C. Winslow, president of the college and acting business manager, and Pastor Roger W. Coon, chairman of the Bible Department and institutional director of public relations.

Although Pastor Winslow is in his first term of service in West Africa he is not a newcomer to foreign missions work. He previously served in the Middle East Division in Iran, and in a teaching position at Middle East College, Beirut, Lebanon.

Pastor Winslow received the Bachelor of Arts Degree at South Lancaster, Massachu-

setts, and the Master of Arts and Bachelor of Divinity at the S.D.A. Theological Seminary of Potomac University. He has completed course work on a doctor of philosophy degree at American University, Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Winslow, who holds both the bachelor's and master's degrees, is the college librarian, having served in this professional capacity in both Potomac University and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Pastor Coon received the Bachelor of Arts Degree at La Sierra College, Arlington, California, and the Master of Arts Degree from the School of Graduate Studies of Potomac University in Washington.

He previously completed two terms of service as principal of the West African Branch of The Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School, Ibadan, and as radio department secretary of the West African Union Mission.

Mrs. Coon is a professional accountant, having held various positions in personnel work and in accountancy for the Food Machinery Corporation, Safeway Corporation, General Tire & Rubber Corporation, and the Earl Hoffman Company (wholesale lumber broker). When the commercial curriculum is inaugurated she will assist in part-time teaching in this field.

Joining the college staff on July 1st this year will be Mr. and Mrs. Edward Collins, and a business manager whose identity is as yet unknown.

The Collins served formerly at the Bekwai Training College in Ghana. Mr. Collins, who is related to Pastor Edgar Keslake, a former missionary in West Africa, received his Bachelor of Arts Degree at Southern Missionary College. He received a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Mississippi, and the Degree Master of Arts in Library Science from the prestigious Peabody College for Teachers.

Mr. Collins will teach subjects in English, Education, and Library Science.

Mrs. Collins is the daughter of Pastor Archa O. Dart, of the General Conference Education Department, who is widely known all over the world for his pioneer work in matters relating to child education and family relations.

# This Is Our College

## H. J. Welch, The Union President writes:

The Adventist College of West Africa belongs to all the Adventist people of West Africa. From every field young people will come to share in its christian training and to every field and institution workers will go from this College, to do the work of God. What a wonderful blessing this training centre will be to the work in every part of this great West Africa Union Field.

Primarily it is a Ministerial training centre, teaching Seventh-Day Adventist doctrines, lifting high the standards of christian conduct and sending Godly ministerial workers back to the field thoroughly equipped to win souls and to lead our people in more effective service. The time has long passed when low standards of scholarship could characterize our ministers. The fields demand and indeed have the right to insist that those who in the future lead the churches have the highest qualifications the church can give. Only thus can our ministers be respected. To this end the College is dedicated.

In addition to the Ministry the church must have in every field, and in increasing numbers, consecrated business men and workers in other lines. These men and women must be well trained. To this end also our College is dedicated. Our ministers must have educated consecrated wives. To meet this need, will also be the work of the College.

We sincerely believe that the prosperity of the Work of God in West Africa depends in a special way on the work of our College. Let us never forget that it is God's College for all of his people. In a definite sense we Adventists may also call it **our** College. It's growth and success depends upon us, the loyal members of the church. Let us therefore pray for it. Let us encourage students to attend it and let us not forget to support it with the means God has given us.

On the 28th of May a very special offering will be taken in every church and company in West Africa. Goals have been set for each mission and these have been divided to churches and districts. We know you will not fail. God will bless us as we give generously. On Sabbath 28th of May let us plan to **Give** for **Our** College.

## The Editor of "Messenger", Pastor C. D. Henri gives this statement:

"Winds of change are blowing over Africa", said the Hon. Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister of Great Britain, but we would rather suggest "Winds of progress" would be more descriptive. West Africa is on the march and Seventh-Day Adventists must keep step!

No where is this more evident than in our urgent need for an institution of higher Christian education. The future progress of our work, the staffing of our institutions and missions and the challenge of presenting God's truth in an attractive, compelling manner to the increasing educated masses in our great cities and towns, is at stake!

Our youth all over West Africa have long besought us — "give us the training and we will do the work." Well, the start has been made but it will take the prayerful interest and financial sacrifice of every one of us to make our college what it must be.

And every real Seventh-Day Adventist young person from Sierra Leone to North Nigeria must begin now to plan, sacrifice and work to complete his training in this God ordained institution.

The next academic year for the Adventist College of West Africa will begin in September in temporary facilities on the spacious campus on the eastern edge of Ilishan town.

Entrance examinations will be held at Ihie and Ilishan in Nigeria, at Bekwai in Ghana, and possibly at one or two other centres. A full announcement will be made giving details as to date and time in a later issue of the "Messenger".

Material for this issue compiled by Roger W. Coon.

Photos: Western Nigerian Information Service.

OFFICIAL ORGAN of the West African Union Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists — P O. Box 1016, Accra, Ghana  
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