

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT

MESSENGER

VOICE OF THE WEST AFRICAN UNION

MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

VOL. 7

AUGUST 1953.

No. 5

We Look Ahead In Education

By D. V. Cowin

Union Education Secretary

In a very special sense destiny is today paging the youth of West Africa. Qualified and consecrated workers are needed now, as never before, to prepare for leadership in the rapidly expanding work of God in the whole field. "God has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause." He is calling today for a whole army of trained youth to bring the message of a soon-coming Saviour to the millions in every corner of these vast lands.

Need of Trained Personnel

Specifically, the needs are numerous in variety, and cover every branch of the Lord's work. To begin with, there is the need for better trained and literate laymen and laywomen to serve in the churches as elders, treasurers, Dorcas leaders, Sabbath-school teachers, M.V. and Sabbath-school leaders, and lay preachers. As never before in the entire history of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, there is a crying need for a Ministry with several years of theological training which will make these men of God better able to cope with the problems of city evangel-

ism, and meeting interested persons who themselves have a good education. Our co-workers are greatly handicapped in spreading the gospel literature if they do not have enough education. The standards in the field of teaching are rising so that there is a great need for headmasters and administrators who hold higher certificates, and in certain cases, university degrees and diplomas in education. The missions and institutions need a constant flow of well-trained clerks, accountants, stenographers, departmental men, etc.

Professionally trained and competent leaders, such as doctors, nurses, dispensers, certified accountants, printers, vocational superintendents, and executives, find themselves persistently sought after by a rapidly growing mission programme, and also by the departments, in an ever changing development both in government and industry. Certain older people, as well as youth, men and women alike, who are consecrated and sturdy and who are all-round practical workers with sterling characters, are being asked to join the army of



workers for God.

Adventist people are committed in their programme of preparation, to the education of the head, the heart, and the hand. Neither is this people limited in their need and in their vision to the training of men alone. Women are expected to have an adequate preparation for life and for service too. It is not enough, according to the Adventist philosophy, to train only the mind. Strong emphasis is to be given to the spiritual side in education, and no person is thought to be properly trained for service without a reasonable knowledge of some practical subjects. In this way the worker receives a better balanced preparation to do more and better work for

God and for more of his fellowmen.

Where are these youth to be found? Where are such purposeful young men and young women to be trained for such an important service? The answers are very clear,—they are to come from our own Adventist homes and churches. They are to be trained under God-fearing teachers in our own primary schools, secondary schools, nursing schools, training colleges, and when God wills in our own schools of higher education. There is no other place where workers for God can safely be trained and expect to return for profitable mission service. Elsewhere the youth will be strongly and adversely affected by the persistent influences of teachers and fellow-students who are unbelievers.

More than fifty years ago Adventist Mission work in West Africa began with and by a programme of Christian education. Year by year, as the brethren expanded the work and pressed into new territory, they used the Christian school as an entering wedge. They recognised the strategic place of the Christian School in the great work of spreading the gospel to all the world. They knew that no church is able long to maintain its distinctive characteristics, its doctrinal unity, or its internal strength, nor can it advance satisfactorily in missionary zeal and endeavour, unless its ablest young men and young women are encouraged and enabled to become students in its own schools, where they might receive a Christ-centred education in harmony with the spirit, purpose and ideals of the remnant church.

Need for Expansion and Development

Through the years, and most certainly during the past few years, our leaders have sensed this great and expand-

ing need and thus they have looked ahead in education in anticipation. Through prayer, study and counselling together, there has been evolved a Union-wide "Educational Development Plan" to cover a period of five years, with some parts of the scheme to be projected even further into the future. Success in this full educational "expansion" plan for our youth depends largely upon the teamwork of all the people in our entire church family,—leaders, workers, teachers, all church members and church friends alike. All must give generously of his means and of his good influence. All must pray daily to God that the work may go forward rapidly, that the spreading of the gospel here may be completed soon. A brief summary of that five-year development plan which began in the year 1952 is given below.

Educational Expansion Plan

In all of our mission fields it was planned to bring the programme in the schools into closer harmony with the pattern of true education, as pointed out in the Spirit of prophecy. This emphasis brought forward the importance of a strong improvement in the teaching of the Bible classes in all schools. In the Training it included the addition of certain practical subjects. Another two years of training was to be added, at a suitable time, to the present



One of present Boys' Dormitories, Bekwai. Additional Dormitories are planned under the expansion programme.

two year evangelistic course, making the whole a four-year programme. Eventually, when the post-secondary programme of study is adequately developed, most of the training courses should follow an appropriate secondary school curriculum. Plans were put forward to care for the education of the girls in several places. Needs in the growing training programme gave special significance to the necessity for increasing the number of middle schools and senior primary schools in the field. Suitable small industries are to be set up at the training colleges to aid in the institutional programme and to assist some students in earning a portion of their school fees.

The plan for educational development becomes more complex as governments arrange to take over the entire programme of primary education, and as they introduce compulsory free primary schooling. Added to this is the complication of control which comes with the acceptance of grant-in-aid money for our schools. Eventual self help for each school seemed to be the only way out.

Secondary Schools

Outstanding in this five year scheme to meet the needs of the day was the recommendation to establish secondary education for our youth, and so secondary school departments accepted classes early in the year 1953 both at Bekwai, Gold Coast; and Ibie, Nigeria. The construction necessary for schooling and housing connected with such an expansion is very large and can progress only as funds are made available. Full support by our people in these two vital projects is the only way the approved plans can possibly be brought to completion. No effort was to be made to obtain government grants to erect or to operate these

(continued on page 6)

Ihie Secondary School Opens

By L. R. Downing,

Principal, Nigerian Training College, Ihie.



new Forsythe Memorial Chapel. It is Friday evening and the western sky is lighted with the glory of the setting sun, as low billowy clouds reflect back to the campus the evening light from beyond the palm covered ridge of the east bank of the Imo River. These young men are the vanguard of an army of Adventist youth that will, in years to come, find a Christian education in the secondary department of Nigerian Training College.

These young people, coming from homes scattered throughout Southern Nigeria, are learning the fundamentals of Christian living, as week by week they attend Divine Services with other Christian youth; in the quiet of the Wednesday evening prayer circle; in thrice weekly chapel programme; in the morning worships and evening vespers and in their active participation in the progressive classes and the other activities sponsored by the Missionary Volunteer Society.

Adventist education includes the training of the hand as well as the heart and the head. Our secondary school boys find practical value in their agriculture classes and in their daily participation in the caring for their farms and gardens, and in the beautifying of the campus. Early morning physical training and evening outdoor recreation enable them to develop strong bodies.

Scholastically, they find ade-

quate guidance in well qualified teachers. Their headmaster, Mr. W. G. A. Futcher has come two abreast to the College from our own Watford Secondary School staff, where he taught for a number of years. He holds degrees from both Cambridge and London Universities. His sympathetic interest in the problems of the boys in his care and his mastery of his teaching material makes him ideally qualified to lay proper foundations for the new school. His assistant, for this first class, is Mr. Young Dickay, son of Pastor Dickay, the Associate President of the East Nigerian Mission. Mr. Dickay is a graduate of the Aggrey Memorial Secondary School. He acts as housemaster as well as tutor.

Nigerian Adventist believers see in the new school a fulfillment of a dream of many years standing. Here they find a secondary school established to offer their boys and girls the

type of education outlined in God's blueprint for His last church. Although the foundations are laid, much is yet to be accomplished. It is with faith in our constituency for continued support and under God's blessing that we press forward in this, the erection of another monument to Christian Education.

Voice of Prophecy Letters

From Lagos, Nigeria.

"I haven't got to know the power of prayer and understand everything about it until I have got to lesson 8 but now I thank God that I am having a good sense of prayers nowadays than the past time and I owe a great gratitude to my lecturer about this; and I am beseeching God to give me deeper knowledge in my studies."

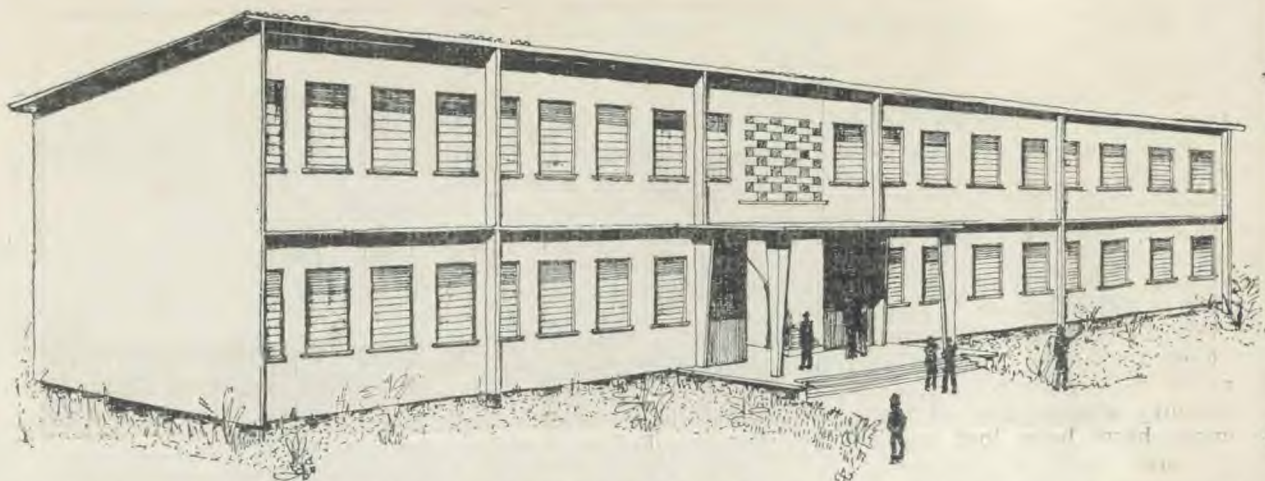
From Sekondi, Gold Coast.

"You are drawing me to Christ as Christ Himself has drawn the sinners to God His Father. A proverb says empty sack cannot stand, therefore have this small donation, ten shillings in British Postal Order as bit drops of water."

Every one who is connected with God will impart light to others. E. G. White,—"Historical Sketches," page 291.



First Secondary School class, Ihie. The dawn of a brighter day for our Nigerian youth.



Architect's drawing of new Secondary School classroom block at Bekwai Seminary. Some rooms will be used temporarily for dormitory use. Building is under construction and is to be completed by early December.

Advanced Training For Gold Coast Youth

By Howard J. Welch

Principal, S.D.A. Seminary, Bekwai, Gold Coast.

January 20th, 1953 marked the beginning of a new adventure in Christian Education in the Gold Coast of West Africa. On that day fifteen young men, and later one young woman, arrived at Bekwai to become the pioneer class of the new Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School. It was somewhat of an act of faith both on the part of Mission leaders and on the part of the students who came, for as yet there was neither a building nor adequate staff.

The young woman went into the home of a teacher and the young men were crowded into temporary quarters with the younger boys of the Middle School (Junior High School). Classes began in the dining room. One of the teachers in the Training College, Isaac Garbrah, son of a pioneer Gold Coast minister, consented to be the temporary headmaster and housemaster as well. Classes are now in full swing and the little group of students are a busy but happy

family joining together in work, study, play and worship, just as do students in Adventist academies all around the world. Many of them are working to earn at least a part of their expenses. All share in the duty of caring for their classroom, dormitory, dining room and grounds around the buildings, as well as helping on the school farm. Just at present the construction of a new classroom for the primary department of the demonstration school is furnishing remunerative work for several of the young men.

Through the kind liberality of our brethren in other lands funds have been made available through the General Conference and Division for development of this secondary school. Soon we expect work to begin on a fine modern two storey building. This will contain six classrooms, a suite of offices, a library and a counselling room. The church membership of the Gold Coast is getting behind the

project and is endeavouring to raise £7,500 this first year. This amount, together with the funds from overseas should build and equip the administration building and provide one dormitory. Later it is hoped funds may be available for more dormitory space for both men and women and for a science building. A water system and also a new electric light plant must be provided in the near future.

This new school project should bring greatly increased strength to the Seventh-day Adventist work in the Gold Coast, for its graduates will make it possible to obtain much more adequately trained evangelists, teachers, office workers and church leaders. Some who complete their secondary studies will no doubt go on to earn college degrees and thus be prepared to replenish and strengthen the staffs of our existing schools with teachers fully-trained in our own institutions of higher learning. This is most important, for in the past we have had to depend on teachers who were sometimes not thoroughly indoctrinated with the Adventist plan of education. It should be understood also that in the past our Bekwai Training College has had to recruit

its students to train as workers from those who had only completed middle form IV (roughly grade 8) and after two years of training, send them out as evangelists and teachers. This was woefully inadequate.

Public education in the Gold Coast has been greatly accelerated. Gold Coast youth aspire as never before to gain a higher education. Our youth do go to school. In the past many have gone to other secondary schools and in most cases have been lost to the message and to the work. Great difficulty has been found in getting Adventist trained teachers for our Training College. We thank God that now there is a prospect of change. We hope to hold our youth and train them for the Lord's work. We solicit the prayers of all for this new adventure in Christian Education; a secondary school in the Gold Coast to the glory of God.

Spirit of Covetousness Leads men to Keep Means Belonging to God.

"It is the spirit of covetousness which leads men to keep for gratification of self means that rightfully belong to God, and this spirit is as abhorrent to Him now as when through His prophet He sternly rebuked His people, saying, 'Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation.'

"The spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven. This spirit finds its highest manifestation in Christ's sacrifice on the cross. In our behalf, the Father gave his only begotten Son; and Christ, having given up all that he had, then gave Himself, that man might be saved. The cross of Calvary should appeal to the benevolence of every follower of the Saviour. The principle there illustrated is to give, give."—"Acts of the Apostles," page 339.



Boys' Dormitory Building, Konola, Liberia. This will be turned over to the girls next year when the dormitory under construction is complete. The girls' section of the school will herald a new and better day for our Liberian girls.

Let's All Pull Together

By Jesse O. Gibson

President, West African Union Mission.

My father was a farmer, who loved and usually owned many horses. Our farming in the olden days was always done by "horse power." Usually we had teams of two horses, but on the heavier equipment we often used a team of three or four horses. Many times the loads they had to pull were very heavy. If two horses pulled together a very heavy load could be moved, but if one pulled and then the other, as was sometimes the case with young or inexperienced horses, even a small load would not budge. This was even more in evidence when we had a team of three or four horses. They must all pull together, acting in concert, to accomplish very much.

We are now launching out on a large "Educational Expansion Plan." It is by far the biggest programme this Union has entered into. To strengthen our lower elementary, extend them to middle or senior schools, expand and strengthen our training schools, develop strong secondary schools, and in the not too distant future, establish at least one post-secondary

school up to Inter-arts level, is a tremendous task. The funds needed to complete this project may well reach one hundred thousand pounds or more. This is a staggering figure and it will be a colossal task to gather funds for the project. Our local, Division and General Conference funds are limited, yet we all agree it is a **must**. We cannot let our youth down. They want and deserve a good Christian education. That is God's plan, and we have launched out by faith and planned to co-operate with God to fulfil this plan. It must not therefore fail. The Spirit of prophecy tells us we must not even **think** failure, let alone **speak** of it.

Co-operation of Every Field Needed

This master plan, however, can only be implemented in time to meet our needs if we **all pull together**. Teams of horses fail if they do not all pull the same way and at the same time. So do teams of men. Everyone should lift and lift now. Sierra Leone should exert every effort to strengthen her elementary schools and

establish a good girls' school. Liberia must do the same, and also develop Konola into a first class co-educational secondary school. Ivory Coast must press on with the good start made on the elementary level and get some young men into training for workers at Bouake. Gold Coast workers and members will all have to exert the maximum effort if they raise their £7,500 this year, which is half of their goal towards their secondary school. Every one must pull together if this is to be accomplished, and it can and must be accomplished with God's help.

We earnestly solicit the efforts of the three Nigerian mission fields to raise a large sum to help develop the Nigerian Training College. The secondary school department is under way. We must not let it fail. More and more buildings are needed. It costs a lot but "Let's all pull together." The East must carry the heavy load and bring in at least £2,500 for this year and the same amount in 1954, and then in 1955. But the North and the West too must pull with the East. I was greatly pleased when the little North Nigerian field made pledges a few weeks ago toward this project. They need every penny possible to develop the work in that very needy field, but they have pledged and will pay toward this project. We cannot have more secondary schools now. The time will come when we can have more, but it is not now. We request and urge each field, East, West and North Nigeria all to **help**,—give your maximum to develop our Nigerian Training College. When this is done then we can consider others. Let everyone pray for this project. Let everyone give liberally. Let's all pull together—now.

We Look Ahead In Education

(continued from page 2).

secondary school departments.

Recognition was given in every part of the West African Union as planning was being done to three basic principles, namely: (a) no schooling scheme can succeed unless a sufficient and constant supply of consecrated and well qualified staff members can be supplied, (b) there must be enough strong middle schools and senior primary schools in each field not only to serve our people, but also to make available a steady flow of students with high marks, who are interested in and qualified to take courses in our nursing schools, secondary schools, training colleges, and other training programmes, and (c) certain mature and proven persons must be encouraged to go on into schools of higher education to train as doctors and specialists, some to earn other degrees, and some to earn Diplomas in Education.

Sierra Leone Development

In Sierra Leone it was suggested that a strong attempt be made to continue the present junior-primary and senior-primary schools, and that two additional senior schools, so located as to serve our people by areas, be opened. Such places as Waterloo and Yele might be considered as appropriate locations for these senior schools. A girls' boarding department with classes in domestic science was suggested for Bo. A boys' boarding department where some practical subjects might be taught was to be located in some suitable place such as Yele. Money is now in hand and study has already been given to the girls' school work at Bo.

Liberian Expansion

The Liberian educational programme was to be extended by adding primary schools

at Palmberg and Liwii at the earliest possible moment. Konola was to have its curriculum advanced more nearly to the full high school level, with the addition of a girls' school department and certain vocational subjects. At this writing the school has accepted the first class of girls and an additional dormitory is being erected. There remains the administration and classroom block to be put up. Some vocational facilities are anticipated. Eventually a complete new school block may be needed for the Monrovia area.

Ivory Coast

It has been expected for several years that a small training school unit would be opened up at Bouake in the Ivory Coast, where our French speaking workers might be given schooling. That station has just been opened up and construction should begin soon. Last year this mission field started its first primary school. Two other primary schools are under consideration at this time.

Secondary School Departments in Gold Coast and Nigeria

Addition of the secondary department and certain vocational classes, plus a girls' school in the Gold Coast, is a most important part of the total expansion plan, and the girls' school is now in operation. Primary schools were to be increased only as staff was to be found. Middle schools were to be added where they could serve our people well and in sufficient number to ensure an adequate flow of qualified students for our entire training school scheme.

To serve the Adventist youth in the three fields in Nigeria, a secondary school department has been made a part of the overall expansion programme of the Nigerian Training College at Ihie. In both the East and West



Teachers and Students join at work on the farm at Konola School, Liberia.

Nigerian Missions, encouragement was given for conducting P. T. C. classes on a temporary basis. The serious shortage of trained teachers in our Nigerian work, especially in North and East Nigeria, brought the recommendation that the teacher training programme at Ihie be sharply stepped up, but this was to depend upon staff being available.

West Nigeria was encouraged to set up a girls' school unit and also a late primary and post primary vocational training programme at Awtun. North Nigeria was advised to build a suitable junior-senior primary school structure, with modest boarding facilities, and to advance the existing school to full senior standing. This part of the large plan is now virtually complete.

Added to all of this was the suggested plan that as soon as possible, some facilities be developed to care for certain phases of post secondary education to carry a student as far as inter-arts level.

Long Range Plan

In many ways such a programme of advancement as

has been outlined briefly above may seem to be beyond the present ability or interest of our people. Still, when planning is being done one must look ahead a considerable distance. The plans which have been made can only succeed if there is proper co-operation from all interested parties. We solicit the interest, the financial help and the prayers of all as we attempt to bring into fulfilment these schemes to help our youth to prepare for broader service in God's work.

Konola Develops

By P. E. Giddings

Principal, Konola Training School,
Liberia.

There it is, across the little bridge and up through the winding road which leads between the rows of palm trees. It is the Konola School. Several years ago it began as a small primary school and mission station, but as the Liberian Mission grew and the need for workers increased, it became evident that something specific needed to be done to give some of our

teachers additional schooling.

Then it was that grade nine was added to the curriculum. The daily timetable was so arranged that the few Adventist primary teachers in the school and nearby might teach in their own schools until one o'clock and then come in during the afternoon hours for tutoring in the academic subjects. The plan worked nicely and then there was a request from these teachers that the tenth grade subjects be added. In due time the West African Union Committee approved this addition to the curriculum and later advised that the eleventh grade be added when staff was available.

One by one the small buildings made of mud, sticks and thatch, which had been used to house the pupils and the church and classes, had fallen down. Only one such building remained and that had to serve the triple purpose of dormitory, school and church. Something had to be done, so plans were worked out, submitted for approval, and work was begun on a two-floor six room dormitory to house sixty boys. After many months of heartbreaking work the job was completed, the building was dedicated, and on one joyful day the boys moved in.

But the good work had only started. The people were crying for training for the girls, and besides there were no proper classrooms and no office or storage space. Once more the need became urgent, for the old mud and stick building where the classes were being held, started to fall down and resisted much patching. So the leaders set to work with a will to develop plans for a dormitory for the girls, and for a complete classroom block where primary and secondary classes might be held. Very soon the necessary approval to proceed was given.

As these lines are being written the second dormitory is nearing completion. Early in February the first group of girls was accepted for training, and work in the entire school began for the year. The school is now full to overflowing with students whose parents desire for their children an education according to the Adventist pattern.

There remains the classroom block, some vocational teaching facilities and a small church to be constructed in order to give to this training centre the basic material with which to aid the believers in the Liberian Mission in their ambition to prepare for fuller service in evangelising this waiting people.

News Notes

● Brother Gibson left the 1st of July to visit the Ivory Coast Mission in order to help them out with their building programme. He left the Ivory Coast a week later for Sierra Leone, where he joined Pastor Kesklake and the Field Committee in a study of the educational problems in that field.

● Brother R. L. Cone, Secretary-Treasurer of the Gold Coast Mission, passed through Accra the early part of July enroute to Sierra Leone, where he will do auditing work.

● Elder H. M. S. Richards, head of the world Voice of Prophecy, plans to visit West Africa from August 26 to September 1. Many plans are now in process and Voice of Prophecy rallies will be held at Ibadan, Lagos, Accra and Kumasi.

● In connection with Elder Richard's visit, Pastor R. W. Coon from the Voice of Prophecy at Ibadan, spent a few days in Accra the beginning

of July to lay plans for the Voice of Prophecy rallies.

● August 16 is the day when Pastor P. H. Stearman, his wife and three girls leave Takoradi for England. The Stearmans have given three terms of faithful service in the Gold Coast Mission and are now returning permanently in order to educate their children. We greatly appreciate the work which Brother Stearman has done and wish for him and his family God's richest blessing in their future work.

● The contract has been let out and the building commenced on the new two storey building at Bekwai. It is hoped that funds from the Gold Coast will come in quickly in order to begin construction of the much needed dormitory and teachers' housing in the very near future.

EVANGELISM

● The Gold Coast is making extensive plans for all-out evangelism during August, using all their evangelists, teachers and office staff. We wish them God's richest blessing and we shall remember them in our prayers, that the many efforts held during August will win many souls to Christ.

● A letter from Pastor Henri, President of the Liberian Mission, tells of the opening of their new church at Monrovia. President Tubman came and gave the address. Over \$1,000 (over £300) were collected that day to help complete that church. He states it was the biggest single collection taken in a Liberian church. Besides the President, many prominent citizens and church leaders from other churches were present to join in the opening ceremony. Brother Henri is capitalising on this publicity and having two evangelistic meetings per week in the

church, and he says he is having capacity crowds.

● Brother D. J. Clarke started Sunday night meetings in the Freetown Church early in July. He reported a full house of about 250 the first night, and some 65 people turned in their names as being interested in our message. He is also conducting two mid-week cottage meetings in the homes of some of the Freetown residents. Let us remember Brother Clarke in our prayers as he labours in this difficult city.

● We are happy to see the progress which is being made evangelistically in the Ivory Coast. Brother Ellstrom, with the help of Evangelist Emmanuel, is holding meetings twice weekly in a rented building in Treichville, which is the African section of Abidjan. Up at Bouake, Brother Buzenet is holding weekly meetings with some Gold Coast people who are resident there. He is planning to hold a Bible Class twice weekly and also start conducting a Sabbath school. We wish the Ivory Coast folk God's richest blessing as they push forward with a strong programme of evangelism.

● The first building, a double garage, is under construction at Bouake in the Ivory Coast. It is anticipated that one side of it will be used as a meeting hall and school-room until the other buildings can be constructed. The contract for the construction of the European home has been let and it is hoped that in the very near future that also will be completed.

The

Advent Messenger

Official Organ of the West African Union Mission of Seventh Day Adventists.

P. O. Box 1016, Accra, Gold Coast
Acting Editor — — — J. O. Gibson