

MESSENGER

VOICE OF THE WEST AFRICAN UNION

MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Greetings from the Vice-President of the General Conference

It is with pleasure that I bring greetings to all our faithful workers and members in the West African Union Mission from the General Conference leaders in Washington D. C. We thank God for what we see in your beautiful portion of the Lord's vineyard, for the many souls who have been won in recent years and for the splendid service which our lay members are rendering to God in this important hour.

In my brief stay in West Africa recently it was very evident to me that God's Spirit is at work in a marvelous way to accomplish His purposes and that both your leaders and people are giving themselves unreservedly to the interests of God's great cause.

We rejoice with you that God is setting His hand to the completion of His work and that every omen that we see in all parts of the world reveals the fact that Our Blessed Lord and Master will soon appear. Thank God that you have caught the vision of the



Louis K. Dickson

shortness of time and that you are joining yourselves together as a great force in God's hands for evangelism in all its forms.

Christ's word when He said, "Ye are the light of the world," was never so clear as it is now in this

the world's hour of greatest bewilderment. Darkness covers the earth, men cannot see the way, and we are commissioned of God to lead them out into the light. Never before in all the magnificent history of the church has she faced such a challenge as that which stands before her now.

The greatest triumphs of the people of God in any generation are right before us now. These triumphs will not only be material success in our work but will more particularly be great spiritual triumphs in our individual lives by His Spirit and power.

This is the hour when faith and prayer must have a more dominating place in each one of our lives and in all our service for God. Let us seek Him Who holds the fullness of power to bestow upon His people. Let us seek His way and surrender fully to His will and humbly walk with Him, in faith believing; and He will do marvelous things through us to His glory and honour.

Adventuring Adventists In Agona

By A. J. Mustard,

President, Gold Coast Mission.



One of the biggest thrills of my life was to share in a recent Laymen's Institute at Agona, Ashanti, Gold Coast. In nearly 20 years spent in the ministry of this

Advent movement, I have attended and taken part in many Worker's Institutes, but never have I found one that in enthusiasm and thrilling interest measured up to this gathering of laymen.

They came, 140 of them, from all parts of the Mission territory, at their own expense, giving freely of their time to learn a little more of the technique of soul-winning, and to have their souls fused in the fires of God. During 1952 the laymen of the Gold Coast, most of them illiterate, won 646 souls for Christ, and now they came, eager, expectant, seeking yet greater efficiency in the gentle art of turning men and women from heathen darkness to heavenly light.

Agona, Ashanti, where the Institute was held, is the strongest centre of Adventism in the Gold Coast. Within a radius of 10 or 12 miles there are 21 churches with a baptised membership of 1,000 and with another 1,000 in the hearers' and baptismal classes. Only one pastor and one evangelist cares for all these people. Multiply this situation 12 times, which is the number of districts in the Gold Coast Mission, and you will see how heavily we must depend upon the help of our laymen.

About 50 years ago the

Adventist pioneer missionaries first came to Agona, one of the chief centres of fetish. Today the Adventist religion is the predominant religion of the Agona State. Fetish worship still prevails, but its grip on the lives of the people has been loosened under the impact of the preaching of the Advent Message. The Agonahene or chief of the State and chief fetish priest to the Asantehene, still performs fetish rites, but is a frequent worshipper in our church and is a good friend to the Adventists.

Sixty-Six Souls Won

Now, into Agona marched our band of 140 lay preachers. What a mighty blow they struck for God when they came! On a Sabbath afternoon they organised themselves into bands, each under the leadership of a pastor, and sallied forth to preach. Such was their enthusiasm that one said, "It seems there will not be one heathen left in Agona tonight!" Well, the forecast may have been a little daring and optimistic, but these laymen did win sixty-six souls before they let go, and came back for an experience meeting. And what a tale was told! There were smiles of victory on all faces, and much cheering and clapping of hands as various ones related their stories of triumph. We believe there was also great joy in heaven over every sinner who repented in Agona that day. We were reminded of the experience recorded in Luke 10:1, 17, 21, where we read, "After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place, whither He Himself would come And the

seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name. . . . In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit. . . ."

Lay Preacher R. K. Mensah of Ntonso, told how he obtained the decision of a heathen woman. She had borne ten children but had lost nine by death. This had hardened her heart against the Christian influences around her, but she now yielded to the appeal of the Spirit of God through our brother.

Daniel Kofi of Beposo, told of how he met a woman whose nine children were all Adventists, but she had never surrendered to Christ because she had been dedicated as a child to serve the fetish, and she felt its claim upon her could not be resisted. She excused herself, saying, "I have given nine children to God. I think that is enough."

Mohammedan Surrenders Beads.

Another laymen came forward to tell how his band met a Mohammedan, and said to him, "We have come to tell you about God." Apparently they told him enough to convince him that Mohammedanism held no more attraction for him, for he was present when his story was told, and came forward to face the rejoicing laymen and hand over his prayer beads.

The writer joined himself to a band of young men, led by a young pastor ordained only a month earlier. Our first call was under a tree, where sat two young men selling palm wine. Our young pastor spoke first and then one or two laymen helped. There was a half-hearted response from one of the idlers, who thought he would become a Christian one

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What Should An Evangelist Wear?

By J. J. Hyde.

President, West Nigerian Mission.



When meeting a person for the first time his dress is one of the first things one notices. One forms an opinion of the kind of man he is, the kind

of work he probably does, and even the people to which he belongs, all by looking at his dress. It is true that such opinions are frequently quite wrong. Yet how unfortunate it is if an evangelist should cause the person he is seeking to influence for God to form a bad opinion of him. So our dress is a really very important matter. It can help or it can hinder a person who may be ready to accept our doctrine.

There is another part of an evangelist's work in which dress is very important. That is the work in the church itself.

The position of an evangelist when he stands before God's people in the church is well expressed in the words of the Israelites, words which were afterwards approved by God. God had appeared on Mount Sinai in fire and smoke and with an earthquake. He had spoken His Ten Commandments. The people were afraid. They had heard the very voice of God and were still alive. They could not believe that if that happened again they would be so fortunate. So they said to Moses, "Go thou near and hear all that the Lord our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the Lord our God shall

say: and speak thou unto us all that the Lord our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear and do it." Deut. 5:27. Read also Exod. 18, 19, 20.

An evangelist or minister, then, is one who hears the words of God and then speaks them to God's people. He becomes God's "speaker" or "linguist." And no "speaker" does his work in unclean and poor dress unless he wishes to shame either his master or the person to whom he is speaking.

So when God first appointed priests to stand between Himself and His people we are not surprised to find that He also appointed them their dress. Exodus 28. He instructed them always to wear that dress "when they come near to minister in the holy place; that they bear not iniquity and die." Verse 43.

So our ordinary custom, and the Bible, both make it clear that it is extremely important just what kind of dress an evangelist wears.

Speaking about a minister's

dress Mrs E. G. White says:

"The minister should be clothed in a manner befitting the dignity of his position. . . In some cases . . . the clothing has been untidy and slovenly. The God of heaven is honoured or dishonoured by the clothes of those who officiate in His honour." She also says that it must seem to the congregation which is led by a carelessly-dressed minister that he "looks upon the work in which he is engaged as no more sacred than common labour. And not only this, but instead of showing them (the churchmembers) the importance of proper and good clothing, he sets them an example of slackness and untidiness, which some are not slow to follow.

"God expects His ministers," Mrs. White continues, "in their manners and in their dress, to give a fitting representation of the principles of truth and the sacredness of

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Evangelists graduating, Nigerian Training College, Ibie, 1957. A great responsibility for spreading the gospel hangs on these men.

Two Weeks Practice Teaching and Evangelism

By D. O. H. Dare

Instructor, Nigerian Training College, Ibie.

At 9 a.m. on the 10th May 1953, the members of the Nigerian Training College faculty and the second year students (both Elementary and Higher Elementary) left the campus to undergo two weeks practice teaching in some of our Senior Primary Schools in Iboland.

Like the charge given to the disciples of old when seventy of them were sent out by Christ, the Principal gave the students the charge that we all should act as men from an Adventist College, men who show Christ in their words and deeds; and moreover that we should go to the people with the words of Christ.

Four students were sent to Umuakpara S.D.A. School. After the different classes had been assigned to the students, who immediately sat down to prepare their teaching notes, I went to Mr. Njoku, the Church Evangelist, to enquire if the members were invited to meet with the visitors from the college every evening. The evangelist replied that he announced this to the members the previous Sabbath, and that the members would be coming.

Our first day in the school was interesting. The students were all prepared to do their teaching with all alacrity. The morning assemblies were conducted by the students. The pupils in themselves were very happy to get us to work with and for them, and they responded properly to every lesson. Physical Training was made so interesting that by the end of the period of our stay there, it was not uncommon to have more than fifty people on the major road watching their own boys and girls act and move briskly.

At the close of the school day the Headmaster reminded the pupils about the evening meeting which would commence at 7 p.m. When two hands of the clock were pointing to six, the drum was beaten summoning members and pupils to the meeting. I thought no one would come, but when we still had ten minutes to seven, a student came to tell me that there were over forty people in the school hall, Brothers Nzeadighbe and Nwobia led out in the daily song service preceding the short talks given by me. They taught many choruses and negro spirituals to our people. Religious talks were given on such subjects as "O, the Lion and the lazy man." People who have lions of difficulty confronting them were told that prayer will drive away all their lions. (2) "The tramp and his new home." If we really desire to go to the home described in 1 Cor. 2:9, we must be ready to put away our filthy rags and put on the righteousness of Christ. (3) "How do you run?" Do you run with a message or

with nothing like Ahimaaz ran, and was set aside? (4) "Will Christ meet any faith on the earth when he comes the second time? There will be only 144,000 really consecrated men with faith when He comes. What are you doing about this?" Throughout our stay the number increased daily for they loved to sing and to hear the message from the good Book.

At Umuocha, Mr. Olike the evangelist-in-charge was transferred to the station a day after the students arrived. We told him of our intentions to meet with members and pupils in the evenings. Though he had just arrived, he wasted no time in informing the people in the surrounding compounds. He also added to the success of the meetings by providing us with his bright Tilley lamp. The members of this church love to sing the songs of Zion which Brothers Akinola and Sunday Wosey taught them.

On the last Sabbath of our stay at Umuocha, the whole district with a membership of over 600 gathered in the cool church. That Sabbath had been set aside as a day when over 40 men and women would



Classroom and Chapel Block, Nigerian Training College Ibie

be born into the church. As usual, the Sabbath school was lively, the visiting students and I rendered well prepared special music. The church choir at Umuocha also rendered a special anthem entitled, "How excellent is Thy loving kindness O Lord."

Before the new members were led to the watery grave to be buried and raised to new life by Pastor Dickay, I was allowed to address the old and would be members. The topic chosen was "Why I am an Adventist—Enoch, Moses, the Prophets, Jesus Christ, the Angels, Paul, John, Peter and James were all adventists. I need not be ashamed today to be called an Adventist, a religion which is a heaven-going religion."

The students visited the homes of the pupils and some members in order to get really acquainted with them, and many a friendship has been formed which we hope will last throughout eternity.

We are now back on our campus with its many palm trees. We are going to review our methods, and we ask the Lord to bless the good seeds already sown. We pray for strength from above to make us do the work of God while yet it is day, and when our training here is ended may we win many more souls to Christ.

What Should An Evangelist Wear?

(Continued from page 3)

their office. They are to set an example that will help men and women to reach a high standard." Gospel Workers, pages 173, 174.

Is it important that an evangelist should be well and suitably dressed? It certainly is.

But what is a suitable dress for an evangelist?

(To be continued next month.)

God Leads Our African Teachers

By D. V. Cowin, Union Educational Secretary.

Michael Moses, a staff member in our Nigerian Training College and a teacher of many years of experience, had as one of his ambitions the obtaining of a University degree in order to prepare himself for better service in the Lord's work. Through a period of years he had worked hard on his studies, on an external basis, even while he was serving in various schools of the S.D.A. Mission. In all of these studies and plans he was able to make reasonable progress, and there finally came a time when it was necessary for him to leave the college in order to carry on his higher education.

Early in the year 1952 he made application to the Principal of Fourah Bay College in Freetown to be enrolled as a student on the degree level. Several of the mission workers, and the writer, interviewed the Registrar and Principal of that college on behalf of teacher Moses. The Lord saw fit to open the way and Brother Moses was accepted as a student. In fact, he was accepted because of his good academic record, on a basis in which he would be permitted to attempt to finish his degree course in three years instead of the usual four. Recognising that this was an unusual blessing, Teacher Moses set to work from the very beginning, in September 1952, with a will, and studied very hard. During all of this time he took every opportunity to speak and to testify for Christ before his lecturers and fellow students. He did much missionary work and distributed many pieces of Adventist literature.

Upon various occasions, workers from the Sierra Leone Mission and from the West

African Union joined Teacher Moses in friendly visits with his tutors. One problem which was uppermost in the minds of several was the one involving the possibility of examinations being scheduled for the Sabbath day. During the whole year Moses was given no encouragement when he raised questions about this matter. It was made a reason for earnest prayer on the part of Teacher Moses and his friends. Then the day came when the timetable of examinations was posted, and of course, Brother Moses looked closely to see whether he was in for further difficulties. But the Lord had smoothed the way because of earnest prayers. It had been customary in this university to place a portion of the examinations on Saturday. But what made Brother Moses so joyful just at that time was the fact that none of his examinations had been arranged for the Sabbath.

Immediately, he went to some of his instructors and expressed gratitude for their thoughtfulness in helping him to work out this question. One of his lecturers said, "This is what we call great luck but you Seventh-day Adventists call it a miracle of God." Teacher Moses responds by saying, "Our God has been extremely good to us and I wish that we may ever remember His goodness and always go the way He would like us to go."

We are very happy to report that Teacher Moses was unusually successful in these stiff examinations, which were arranged on the degree standard. Out of four subjects in which he was examined he received the highest mark in

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Adventuring Adventists In Agona

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day "but not today, perhaps tomorrow," he said.

We came at last to one compound where lived an Adventist brother with a heathen wife. I asked would-be Lay-Preacher Ababio, baptised only a few months ago, if this was his first experience in compound meetings. He admitted it was. "Have you not yet attempted personal work for others?" I asked. "No, he replied. "Then," I replied, "you must begin now. Here is your opportunity." And so he began to preach. Brother Ababio, who comes from Accra, is from the Ga tribe, whose language is not understood by the Ashantis. Our young pastor, who had received part of

his education in Accra, understood the Ga language and said he would interpret. As Brother Ababio began to speak, the woman cried out, "I can understand Ga!" Our young layman thus encouraged began his first sermon. There was no doubt about his eloquence, although I do not know what his subject was. I believe he spoke of the creative power of God, and I am sure he told of the love and power of the Crucified one, for he won his first convert, with a little help from the pastor. How happy Brother Ababio was as he told his story in the experience meeting that night, and how pleased we all were with his success.

Before these terrible preachers of the Word left Agona,

they set their personal goals for souls to be won for Christ in 1953, and showed their faith in God and in themselves by aiming at the high target of 988. May God be with these noble laymen as they go forth into the compounds, into the markets, and wherever men are found, winning trophies for Christ.

Says the Spirit of prophecy, "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers." — "Testimonies," Vol. 9, page 117. There is no need to fear that the laymen of the Gold Coast will fail God and the Advent Message in this mighty hour.

*"In the Morning Came the Word of the Lord
unto Me."* Ezek. 12:8.



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A Priestess Surrenders To Christ

By Evangelist N. T. Obempong

Throughout the Gold Coast, especially in the states of Ashanti, Akim, Krobo, and elsewhere, the most powerful god is the "Akondi Fetish" of Larteh. Everyone fears to mention its name in vain, because if one mentions its name in play, the one will be caught by it and if the necessary pacifications are not given to it the one will die suddenly, and the house of the one will be totally annihilated by it so that it might be a desolate home. The headquarters of this fetish is at Larteh, but it has some directors in most places. The chief priestess is at Larteh, a town about 25 miles from Koforidua. It has a subordinate priestess too at Abiriw, a town about 5 miles from Akropong, Akuapim.

In October 1951, the priestess of this god at Abiriw, by name Akua Sika, approached me and told me that she wanted to forsake her former master and to give herself to the Saviour. I enquired from her the reason why she wanted to forsake her former master and to take a new one. This is the testimony she gave: "I have been under the influence in worshipping of this god Akondi for nearly thirty-five years as a priestess. I had all the time been thinking that I would be benefited by it, but according to the experiences that I had gained during my thirty-five years' service to this my master, I have seen that anyone who follows it does not die a peaceful death, whether a priestess or whatever the situation might be. When the one dies, what people say is that the one was a witchcraft, and now I have listened with patience to the teachings you have given me from the Word of God, and I see that your master is the

best Master for one to serve, because that Master is the one who can give eternal life. As such I have renounced my former master. Therefore I surrender my life wholeheartedly to Christ, and I pray that He might give me understanding to know His coming."

When she gave this testimony I shook hands with her and welcomed her to the fold. She has brought all her things con-

nected with the fetish to be burned. She does not like to put on anything she used when she was a priestess.

Therefore, I beseech every reader of the *Advent Messenger* to pray for this woman so that her faith might grow stronger and firm in the Saviour.

If we are not willing to make special sacrifices in order to save souls that are ready to perish, how can we be counted worthy to enter into the city of God. "Testimonies," Vol. 9, page 103.

Colporteur Report For June 1953

Name	Hours	Orders	Deliveries
East Nigerian Mission: S. A. Njoku, P.D.S.			
Njoku, C.	150	£42 6 0	£24 6 0
Emelogu, P.	192	68 3 0	47 18 6
Onuiri, S. O.	58	33 12 0	8 8 0
Ehiodo, M. A.	155	18 14 0	3 16 0
Agomo, M.	119	16 11 0	22 17 6
Brown, E. L.	78	54 14 0	54 14 0
Amaraihe, J. O.	97	8 10 0	4 13 0
Obia, J. A.	66	3 5 0	4 16 0
Ubani, A. A.	166	23 0 0	43 15 0
Young-Achor, M. N.	140	82 10 0	20 15 0
Amanka, B.	89	6 5 0	4 15 6
Ugboaja, U.	144	38 16 0	80 14 0
Owuala, N. E.	271	53 4 0	36 0 0
Onumadu, E. A.	169	11 13 6	19 13 10
Etufugh, R. N.	181	7 13 0	7 12 6
Miscellaneous	104	28 3 6	40 14 0
West Nigerian Mission: J. J. Hyde, P.D.S.			
Joseph, Ladipo	289	51 8 0	24 13 0
Oriaku, Hope	150	18 5 0	17 17 6
Gold Coast Mission: L. H. Davidson, P.D.S.			
Amoah, Agraw	200	42 0 0	90 10 6
Adjei, Danso	134	46 0 0	64 16 0
Ampofo, I. K.	96	56 1 6	86 14 6
Arthur, H. G.	75	25 8 2	42 2 0
Ampim, J. K.	49	8 16 0	8 3 0
Agyemang, H. K.	151	81 8 9	20 0 0
Clerk, C. A.	208	80 15 0	61 6 0
Dankwah, J. K.	152	82 4 0	37 1 3
Daitey, J. A.	164	39 13 0	38 9 3
Mensah, H. A.	105	83 9 4	49 15 4
Ofori, Samuel	67	50 13 0	30 14 0
Odai, David	100	55 3 0	14 5 0
Ofuran, T.	63	5 19 3	1 18 0
Quarten, J. A.	188	188 15 0	36 11 0
Twum-Antwi, B. A.	76	93 3 0	29 16 0
Miscellaneous	134	71 14 0	61 11 6
Sierra Leone Mission: V. C. Brown, P.D.S.			
Daitey, A. N.	168	44 0 0	49 16 6
Union Total, June, 1953	4,748	1,621 16 0	1,191 9 2
Union Totals, thus far	29,214	11,270 11 8	5,742 6 11

Why Did You Not Come Before ?

By Otto Christiansen

Sitting in darkness, the people call
For beams of light to shine;
To pierce the blackness so dense
and pall,
Like that in a deep coal mine.
In voices that sound so clear and
strong

As a colporteur shows his store,
They say, as they stand and wonder
"Why did you not come before?"

And one will ask with a queried
look,
"How long has this book been
out?"

Thinking, of course, it is a new book
Not more than a year, no doubt;
Or possibly two, since the manu-
script;

Surely it could not be more,
For the way the world is now
equipped
Some one would have come before.

But, Oh! such a look of deep regret,
When the colporteur says,
"T'was long ago!

It has not been over the world as
yet,

There are men who still do not
know

Though glad in his heart he lives
today,

And not in the days of yore,
With his pleading eyes he seems
to say,

"Why did you not come before?"

Many there are who are waiting now
Just as this man did before,

For some one to come and show
them how

To reach the eternal shore.

And just a mere book will make it
plain,

Will fill their lives with hope;
And those who have long in dark-
ness lain,

Can then with all error cope.

How long, how long must these
people wait

For you, who have idle hours?

For some day soon it will be too late
To use your God-given powers.

Do not wait for a more convenient
day,

Step into the open door:

Or else, ere long, with tears you will
say,

"Why did I not go before?"

Note to reader: If in your heart there is a responsive chord to the urgent appeal for gospel workers as presented in the above poem, please write to your Mission Superintendent about your desire to enter the colporteur evangelistic work. You will be saying, "Why did I not go into the colporteur work before." D. L. Chappell, U.P. Secretary.

News Notes

● Pastor Cowin has just returned from a two months' visit to our schools in East and West Nigeria.

● At a recent Union Committee it was voted to authorize a two-year advanced evangelistic class at Bekwai commencing January 1954.

● The beautiful Foresythe Memorial Church at Ibie was dedicated on August 1st and 2nd. A full report will follow.

● Ife Hospital is blossoming out with the new landscaping in front of the buildings. Construction of the new stone church is progressing nicely.

● Dr. S. A. Nagel has recently started a Bible Class in Ife. He reports good attendance and a keen interest.

● Forty-one efforts are in progress in the "August Evangelism" in the Gold Coast. May God grant many souls for the efforts put forth.

No one can Excuse Himself from paying Tithe

"I have been shown that many in our churches are robbing God in tithes and offerings. God will execute upon them just that which He has declared. To the obedient, He will give rich blessings; to the transgressor, a curse . . . This is not a request of man; it is one of God's ordinances, whereby His work may be sustained and carried on in the world. God help us to repent. 'Return unto me', He says, 'and I will return unto you'. Men who have a desire to do their duty have it laid down in clear lines in this chapter. No one can excuse himself from paying his tithes and offerings to the Lord." —"Testimonies to Ministers," page 307.

God Leads Our African Teachers

(Continued from Page 5)

his class in two, in the third he was among the highest, and in the fourth, he received an average grade.

We express gratitude to God for His blessing in helping Teacher Moses and all to prepare themselves for broader service in the field, and also for help in working out their problems.

Concerted Action

Recently the "Look" Magazine, which is one of the largest American magazines, published an article called, "What is a Seventh-day Adventist?" which was written by Pastor A. S. Maxwell. Following this the General Conference arranged to have the two-page article reprinted to use among the conferences for home visitation. Seven million copies were ordered by the Conferences.

On June 6 they had a home visitation day where all the churches in the United States joined together in having their members go out and visit homes and distribute copies of this article.

Already as a result of the article which appeared only a couple of months ago, two souls have turned to Christ and have been baptised.

May God help us here in West Africa to do more of this type of evangelism. Eternity alone will tell how many souls have been reached through our literature ministry.

J. O. G.

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