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Silent Preachers of West Africa

By Pastor G. D. KING

Publishing Secretary, Northern European Division

"I'm no preacher!" Have you ever heard that remark—or have you ever made it yourself? Quite often we hear it when talking about the possibility of the church launching into a larger programme of evangelistic witness. Unfortunately, 'preaching' has taken on a professional connotation never accepted or intended when the word was first used in the early days of Christian work and witness. During the first century of the Christian Church, the Gospel Message was proclaimed with power and conviction and "multitudes believed and were added to the church."

There were great preachers in the early church—men like Peter and Paul—but there were many who were "no preachers" in the accepted sense

of the term. We do read however, that it was with power that "witness" was given to the resurrection of Jesus and "great grace was upon them all." To read through the book of Acts is to be convinced that a mighty witness was borne of the whole church as a result of which the work of God went forward with great impetus and power.

It is also very clear that a definite programme of evangelism was followed by that early church, and it was evangelism that was both "Public" and "Personal," for we read, "Daily in the temple and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." (Acts. 5:42.)

You notice "every house." We often speak of the need of Apostolic Power—and



L. H. Davidson and R. Mawutor.

ADVENTIST BOOKS ARE SILENT, POWERFUL, PREACHERS

truly we need it as we work for God—but perhaps we also need the Apostolic programme which will send us forth to visit “every house” in our territory.

How thankful we should be that God has outlined the pattern of our witness and has in these last days given us the **method and the means** whereby the approach can be made to **every house** in our territory. I speak of the literature ministry.

“Let us now, by the wise use of periodicals and books, **preach** the word with determined energy, that the world may understand the message that God gave to John on the Isle of Patmos.”—“Colporteur Evangelist,” page 101.

“Our publications are now sowing the gospel seed, and are instrumental in bringing as **many** souls to Christ as the preached word. Whole churches have been raised up as the result of their circulation.”—“Christian Service,” page 146.

“Church members, awake to the importance of the circulation of our literature, and devote more time to this work. Place in the homes of the people papers, tracts, **and books** that will preach the gospel in its several lines. There is no time to be lost. Let many give themselves willingly and unselfishly to the canvassing work and thus help to sound a warning that is greatly needed. When the church takes up **her appointed** work, she will go forth ‘fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.’ ”—“Christian Service,” page 147.

May the Lord impress upon many hearts the sense of responsibility that should be ours as God’s children, bearing His Great Message for these last days. May He enable a number of competent, God fearing men in West Africa to respond to this urgent call for more colporteur evangelists to **preach** in **every house** by means of **books and papers**.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED ?

to order your copies of the

MORNING WATCH CALENDAR for 1955

Send all orders to
your Mission Book and Bible House



Mawutor recruits another colporteur evangelist.

Keep Advancing With Silent Preachers

By D. L. Davidson

Publishing Secretary, Gold Coast Mission

The amazing growth of the colporteur work in the Gold Coast since its beginning in late 1949 is certainly encouraging. We are conscious that the mighty hand of the Lord started the work through us—men who place the “silent preachers” of eternal truth—for its rapid advancement through the years has proven that we are instruments in His hands, and that He can use the weak, the feeble, and the uneducated people to accomplish a task beyond their imagination.

In the first full year of our work, we had only four literate colporteurs in the field; yet, during that year (1950) we delivered over £3,500 worth of truth-filled books, and won 70 souls; meaning that the colporteurs were responsible for their starting to attend church. During that same year, two companies of believers were raised up by colporteurs Abraham Aday and Joseph Kontoh in the Techiman and Kintampo districts respectively. The interest in the Kintampo area grew to such a state that the Mission committee decided to employ colporteur Kontoh as a full time evangelist.

Our present force of colporteur evangelists is made up almost entirely of English literate men, the illiterate ones who came to the work

“Our Saviour went from house to house, healing the sick, comforting the mourners, soothing the afflicted, speaking peace to the disconsolate.”—E. G. White.

in its early days having taken up other employment. It is encouraging to see the change in attitude of the educated members towards the publishing work since 1949 when it was difficult to persuade them to leave old jobs to enter a new field of labour. I am happy to see many of our most capable men engaging in this sacred work today.

Our delivery for the past four and a half years exceeds £31,540. Our men, through the use of "silent preachers" of literature, have won an average of seventy souls yearly.

It is inspiring to note how highly esteemed are our books by the intelligent class. Many of these educated men have had us build their libraries! Some have purchased several of our large volumes and scores of them possess two or three books. One man has purchased £120 worth of "silent preachers!"

Naturally we have gleaned numerous experiences from the field, but I will relate only one in this article. While I was a patient at Kumasi hospital in 1950, Mrs. Addams, a nursing sister, purchased "The Bible Speaks" from me. Since then she has worked in several hospitals in the country. At the present time she is stationed in the Ridge Hospital in Accra. During the intervening years she has interested many professional people, including doctors and lawyers, in buying our books. She has also enrolled a large number of her friends in the Voice of Prophecy Bible School. So, you see, the "silent preachers" of the colporteur reach the high as well as the low in society.

The future of the colporteur work in the Gold Coast luminantly presents itself before us. If we but give it the right support, we shall reap a grand harvest of souls from the professional class, as well as from the mediocre, and our sales will outstrip the past. Truly, "for reaching the people where they are, the colporteur work is best by far." Keep advancing colporteurs.

Growth at the Advent Press

(Continued from page 8.)

help to scatter these truth-filled papers throughout our land.

Plans are also being laid for the publishing, in the near future, of a full-message book especially prepared for West Africa.

The Publishing Work in West Africa has been established under the direction and blessing of God, may He continue to lead and bless every worker in every phase of this wonderful work.

Preaching With Literature in Nigeria

By S. A. IHEMEJE

Publishing Secretary, East Nigerian Mission

Limited territory and the absence of large cities in East Nigeria allow only fifteen colporteurs to labour in our mission area, but we are grateful to God for the way in which He is blessing our work in placing "silent preachers" in the homes of the great and small in the country East of the Niger River.

Although some of my men did not return to the field following Christmas until late February, they have a £250 increase as at the end of May. We praise God for this progress and will endeavour to maintain the same pace during the remainder of the year.

Our books are greatly liked by many people here. One man told colporteur Ehido that "The Bible Speaks" "is the best book in the world." Another man who purchased "The Hope of the Race" said, "This is the eighth Adventist book for me! I enjoy reading your books. They contain just the right message for these days." Four of Mr. Agono's customers informed him that they had stopped smoking after reading his book. Even a Catholic priest agreed that "These Days of Destiny" was a good book when a member sought his permission to purchase a copy from colporteur Emelogu. "Your books helped me to save £3 weekly because they persuaded me to stop drinking," remarked one of colporteur Achor's customers.

Our "silent preachers" are finding their way into the homes and offices of the highly educated. At the time of Mr. Chappell's visit with colporteur Amarihe in Calabar last December, Mrs. N. E. Inyang, Principal of Edgerley Girl's School with an enrolment of 300, purchased, for cash, "The Bible Speaks." This lady had been trained in England. Some time before, Mr. Brown sold the same book to the principal of a large Church of Scotland Mission Secondary School in the same city. A member of Nigeria's House of Assembly, two superintendents of police in Onitsha, and chiefs are among other prominent citizens who possess our literature. Let us pray that they will heed the message of their "silent preachers."

“Under His Special Supervision”

By G. A. HUSE

Secretary, Publishing Department, General Conference

In establishing His work upon earth God was very particular that every detail should be carefully planned. He left nothing to guess work but endeavoured to include in His programme those things that were essential to forwarding the truth quickly and effectually to all parts of the world. In harmony with this plan this message has come to us from Ellen G. White: “Our publishing work was established by the direction of God, and under His special supervision.”—“Christian Service,” page 148.

God was so concerned that this movement should be given the greatest impetus in soul winning that He included in His programme one of the most powerful agencies to reach the human mind and heart—the printed page. He supervised the establishment of this branch of His service in a very special way because of the strength and power that it would lend to the promulgation of the gospel. That is why the servant of the Lord emphasizes, “The publishing branch of our cause has much to do with our power.”—“Life Sketches,” page 446. Therefore, the wider circulation we give our books and magazines filled with truth for current times, the greater will be the power of this cause.

Through the centuries the printed page has been intimately associated with the work of giving the gospel to the world. From the time of the invention of the printing press, during the Reformation, the days of the early missions, the birth of the Advent message, and down to the close of probation, literature has been and will be a powerful instrument in winning honest men and women to Christ.

Why was God so scrupulous in the organization of the publishing work of this message? Because He knew that the distribution of the truth in printed form would reach more hearts and minds than any other phase of evangelism. Sister White says further, “I have been shown that the press is powerful for good or evil. This agency can reach and influence the public mind as no other means can. The press, controlled by men who are sanctified to God, can be a power indeed for good in bringing men to a knowledge of the truth.”—“Colporteur Evangelist,” page 28.

From a very small beginning the publish-

ing work has grown to world proportions. Sales were a minor factor at first, but last year more than sixteen million dollars' worth of literature was delivered from our publishing houses. While we may look at this figure in a cold formal way, yet behind it we see souls who have been in darkness coming to the light of the gospel. The greatest urge and satisfaction that can come to the hearts of those in the literature ministry is to know that men and women will be eternally saved because of their earnest efforts on this earth.

The Advent Message was started with literature and it will end with literature, for in “Colporteur Evangelist,” page 99, we read, “As long as probation continues, there will be opportunity for the canvasser to work.”



Colporteur Ochingwa, a former evangelist, now uses “silent preachers” in proclaiming the Advent Message in Nigeria.

As we press forward to the completion of the task God has committed to our care, let us pray that His richest blessing shall be upon this branch of His work, and upon the consecrated workers dedicated to the production and distribution of the gospel in printed form.

When Colporteurs Watch, Pray, and Work

The longer I do colporteur work, the more convinced I become that the Lord sells the books, not I. Several experiences have impressed this fact upon my mind. I shall relate just one of them here.

Last year I took an order for "The Bible Speaks" from a man working in the Air France office at the Accra Airport. The other man in the office being a Moslem did not place an order. Two months later when I returned to deliver the book, the first man told me that he was a Catholic, a fact I didn't know when I canvassed him, and that the priest had warned him not to receive the book. Disappointed, I returned home and prayed for these two men.

When I started selling "God's Answers" set this year, I was impressed to go to the Catholic man. Again he placed an order, stating that he had not been happy since he refused to accept "The Bible Speaks." Just two days before time to deliver the "God's Answers" set, I met this man on the street and he told me that his mother had died. I enquired about the book, wondering if he could pay for it now that he had the heavy burial expenses, but he said, "I must not offend God again. Bring the book."

On delivery day he gladly accepted the book, and lo, the Moslem bought a book too! Again I realized that "not I, but Christ" was the secret of my success as one of His humble servants.—C. A. Clerk, Accra.

Like stones dropped into a quiet pool sink out of sight but whose ripples ring the place with coils of liquid light, so our books send waves of calm truth into troubled minds. Though some people are writing their sins in their minds with "pens of iron," yet our "silent preachers" are penetrating "the iron curtain" of iniquity and calming the souls of at least some of our customers.



Colporteur Dankwah holding knife which one of his customers had planned to use in killing his wife.

Some time ago the waves of truth started cleansing the heart of Mr. E. O. Udu of Lagos as he pondered the message of the books he purchased from me. He is already keeping the Sabbath and will be baptized in due course. I am convinced, according to God's promises, that in the future other customers will yie'd to the influence of present truth.—Hope I. Oriaku, Lagos.

For some reason I was impressed to go to a certain village to visit a man who had previously purchased "These Days of Destiny." When I arrived I found him drinking a local gin called Akpeteshi. "No religion today, no religion today" was the reception given me. Even though the man was drunk, I felt impressed to show him "The Hope of the Race." When I reached the section on the judgment, the man became alarmed and stopped me. Pulling from his pocket a long knife, he tremblingly gave the knife to me and said, "God has sent you to me at this critical hour. I had planned to kill my wife today," he continued as he poured the rest of the gin on the ground, "because she threatened to divorce me after spending all my money and bringing me to this poor and lame condition. But now I see from your book that God is a just Judge of every situation, and I must not kill her. Bring me a copy of that book." Then he requested prayer. I happily knelt in prayer with this sorrowing but repentant man. The last I knew the man was enjoying his reconciled home.—J. K. Dankwa, Oda.

"The wider the circulation of our publications, the greater will be the demand for books that make plain the Scriptures of truth."—E. G. White.

Last April when I delivered "The Bible Speaks" to Pastor Ene of the Apostolic Church in Oron, he invited me to accompany him to James Town and Ibaka as he wanted his members in these two villages to see the book. I accepted his invitation and found the members good prospects. Also before the journey which lasted three days ended, the pastor had ordered "The Great Controversy" and "Modern Medical Counsellor."

Not only did he commend my books to his members, but he asked me to preach in his church on Sunday morning and afternoon. I conducted their worship period Monday morning also. Please pray that my books may continue to silently preach the gospel to these good people.

—Young Achor, Calabar.

On the 18th of May I was arrested for selling books at the Kumasi railway station without having a licence to enter the station. I had gone there to deliver a book to a Methodist minister who told me to meet him at 2:30 p.m. While waiting for him, I canvassed some of the passengers waiting for the train.

A policeman came by, stopped, and began to question me and told me that I was under arrest. He wanted to know what I had in my bag. "A medicine which will cure the troubles in our present world," I told him, smiling my biggest smile. He was surprised at my answer, and I saw by the expression on his face that he was angry. He ordered me to follow him to the police office near the station. I prayed. Reaching the office, I cared to talk to him about my medicine, and was soon canvassing him with "The Hope of the Race." Believe it or not, he ordered the book and so did the other policeman with him. By then, his anger had turned to joy and he released me. He even told me to continue working at the station.—W. O. Duko-Boateng, Kumasi.

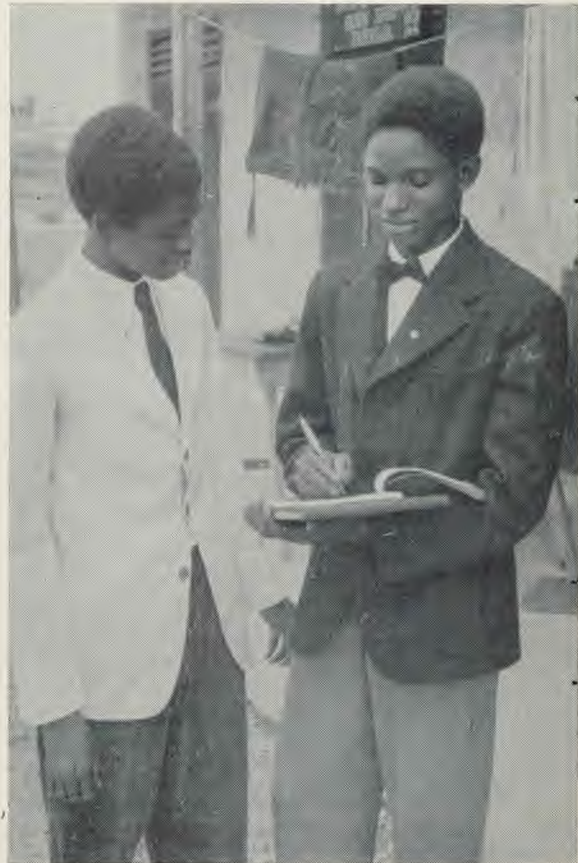
Sometimes the prospects ask the colporteurs perplexing questions. I remember that one office clerk asked, "Why have you taken the Saturday as a day of worship when all the world keeps Sunday?" Praying silently, I stood up and explained. "I keep Saturday because it was instituted by God at the time of creation while Sunday observance was instituted by a man named Constantine in in A.D. 321." After my giving further explanation the man became silent. Then I said, "To help you know more about this

subject, I have brought you this book, "The Hope of the Race." Following a brief canvass, he placed his order.—Edward Kodua Baffour, Tarkwa.

While brethren Chappell and Mawutor were working with me in May, we called on the paramount chief of the Buem state of Togoland. This high official, an educated man about 30, summoned his elders and listened attentively while Mr. Chappell showed them the beautiful "God's Answers" set of three books. The Chief and one of his elders placed orders. The others commented favourably but did not buy as they do not read English.

"I have been reading your books for some years and like them. There seems to be a real power behind them." So stated a local state secretary who purchased £11 worth of books from me recently. Truly, there is power, God's power, behind the "silent preachers" used by Adventist colporteurs.

—Israel Ampofo, Jasikan.



Colporteur Baffour writes another order.

Jamaica's Sons Make Good in Africa

By D. L. CHAPPELL

Publishing Secretary, West African Union Mission

Two strangers from Jamaica landed at the Accra Airport in late October 1949. Looking around at the surroundings of the capital city of the Gold Coast, the country in which they were to make their new home for the next five years, they felt a thrill (and maybe a chill, too) surge through their very being as they said to each other, "Now, we are real missionaries for Christ." The two adventuresome men, L. H. Davidson and E. L. Brown, little knew then how great a contribution they were destined to make to the development of the publishing work in West Africa. Following a brief visit with the president of the Union in Accra, the two experienced colporteurs proceeded to Kumasi and began canvassing, thus becoming the real pioneers of the printed page in this country.

Church members watched with curious interest this new type of evangelism being carried forth with ever increasing success by Brown and Davidson. On the Sabbaths, the new missionaries visited churches to recruit some African men to join them in literature evangelism. Not without difficulty did they finally persuade a few members to try "the new work." God greatly blessed, and the group grew and by February 1950, when Elder McAdams visited West Africa, the number was sufficient to warrant holding an institute in Agona.

Now, at last, after forty years of missionary endeavour, the Adventist Mission had a colporteur band in the Gold Coast. But who will supervise and train the new men? All eyes turned toward the friendly, ever smiling, Levi Davidson and the question was answered.

Since that momentous day in early 1950, Mr. Davidson has worked diligently and untiringly to build a strong colporteur force in this field. The records, both in sales and new members won by the "silent preachers" used by his army of 20 colporteur evangelists, testify to the measure of his success as a leader of men.

While Brother Davidson was concentrating his efforts on training others to sell truth-laden books, his companion, E. L. Brown, was demonstrating by outstanding records in sales, first in Kumasi and later in Accra, the sure results of efficient evangelistic canvass-

ing. He was Davidson's number one colporteur, delivering nearly £1,000 worth of literature in 1950.

In June 1951, Brother Brown was called from his canvassing in Accra to serve as publishing secretary in East Nigeria, where he remained until 1953. It was during this period that one of Jamaica's daughters, Miss Cassandra Mullings, arrived in Aba and shortly afterwards became Mrs. E. L. Brown. Now back in Accra canvassing, Brother Brown is again setting the pace for other colporteurs.

Probably by the time you read this article, Mr. Davidson will have written his last bulletin, prepared his last monthly report, and trained his last colporteur in the land of his adoption during the past five years. He is soon going to England, where he plans to attend Newbold Missionary College, preparatory to rendering a wider service for God in the future.

And so a good man says goodbye. Having made a valuable contribution to the expansion of the cause of truth in a mission land, he goes with the satisfaction that springs from "a job well done." May he long cherish the memories of his missionary experience and never forget the gratefulness of the writer and of his colporteur evangelists for his years of devoted service.



Mr. John Nartey (left) smilingly displays the "silent preacher" which led him to Christ and to membership in the Adventist Mission. Danso Agyei, the colporteur who sold him the book, stands happily by his side. Mr. Nartey recently entered the Colporteur ministry in Nsawam, Gold Coast.

COLPORTEUR REPORT JAN. 1—MAY 31, 1954.

Colporteurs.	Hours.	Orders.	Deliveries
East Nigerian Mission: S. A. Ihemeje, P.D.S.			
Achor, N. Y.	498	273 11 0	56 18 0
Agomo, M. W.	349	89 1 0	46 12 0
Amarihe, T. O.	345	101 1 6	58 0 6
Brown, E. L.	152	24 11 0	26 5 0
Emelogu, Paul	653	376 5 6	159 16 6
Etufugh, R. N.	462	111 14 0	33 11 0
Njoku, C.	697	97 7 0	47 1 0
Ochingwa, T. M.	591	197 3 0	127 5 0
Ogbonna, J. I.	383	162 6 0	64 2 0
Onuor, S. O.	514	309 18 0	127 3 0
Otuokere, E. A.	84	11 15 3	43 0 3
Onumadu, E. A.	353	125 1 0	4 8 0
Owuala, N. E.	327	340 12 6	85 10 0
Ubani, A. A.	313	396 6 0	22 2 6
Akwalaka, I. O.	199	67 7 6	9 14 0
Nwachuku, I. A.	102	38 5 0	1 5 0
Miscellaneous	33	—	13 18 0
Total	6,055	2,722 5 3	926 11 9

Gold Coast Mission: L. H. Davidson, P. D. S.			
Agyei, Danso	511	274 16 6	181 16 6
Agyemang, H. K.	144	45 4 9	24 8 6
Ampim, J. K.	250	67 13 0	45 14 0
Ampofo, I. K.	846	627 4 0	464 17 0
Arthur, H. G.	207	174 8 5	128 13 4
Baffour, E. K.	544	370 7 0	156 13 3
Boakye, Abraham	454	233 11 0	93 1 6
Boateng, D. A.	25	16 0 0	8 4 2
Clerk, C. A.	843	541 10 0	247 8 0
Dartey, J. A.	573	383 19 9	178 11 6
Dankwah, J. K.	701	444 19 3	279 11 5
Glover, Vincent	132	238 4 6	48 7 9
Kusi, J. K.	366	492 14 5	88 9 8
Mensah, H.A.	124	66 14 6	62 0 6
Nkansah, E. D.	208	105 13 0	51 3 0
Odai, David	501	337 9 0	142 15 6
Ofori, Samuel	282	85 10 0	103 17 3
Okyere, E. K.	232	150 5 0	53 5 0
Qwarten, J. A.	781	495 17 0	239 6 6
Twum-Antwi, B. A.	832	554 6 9	333 2 9
Brown, E. L.	424	484 0 0	144 19 0
Aboagye, D. K.	190	45 11 7	23 8 0
Boamah, S. K.	143	29 16 9	12 14 4
Enim, M. A.	137	49 10 0	58 1 0
Duko-Boateng, W. O.	288	116 11 3	31 2 3
Antwi, J. K.	47	31 13 6	26 13 6
Bonsu, G. Q.	363	107 14 0	26 9 9
Agyemang, E. T.	37	12 19 0	12 19 0
Frimpong, E. Y.	59	44 2 10	1 17 6
Miscellaneous	227	255 12 9	273 0 9
Total	10,471	6,883 19 6	3,542 12 2

Ivory Coast: G. M. Ellstrom, P. D. S.			
Assagon, George	500	112 17 3	112 17 3
Gbessin, Jacob	483	109 14 11	109 14 11
Total (Jan.—April)	983	222 12 2	222 12 2

Liberia: C. D. Henri, P. D. S.			
Rachel Crowe			
(Jan.—March)	50	16 1 6	16 1 6
Miscellaneous	352	145 0 0	145 0 0
Total (Jan.—March)	402	161 1 6	161 1 6

West Nigeria: S. Gustavsson, P. D. S.			
Oriaku, Hope	790	364 11 10	161 10 10
Joseph, Ladipo	624	225 6 6	101 4 0
Miscellaneous	79	22 12 6	20 16 0
Total	1,493	612 10 10	283 10 10
Union Total	19,404	10,602 9 3	5,136 8 5



Mr. C. G. Meredith, newly appointed Factory Superintendent of the Advent Press, checking a printed sheet with one of the workers.

Growth at the Advent Press

By Pastor H. S. Pearce

“To God be the glory, great things He has done.”

The Advent Press has just completed one year in its new home at Accra, and this year has been a time of expansion and growth. During this period we have been exceptionally busy supplying the day to day printing needs of the various fields and catching up on the accumulation of work which resulted from the delays we experienced in building and machine deliveries. Now, however, with the arrival of reinforcements in the person of Brother C. G. Meredith to supervise the production side of the factory, we plan to supply more and more of the ammunition with which our faithful colporteurs press forward in the battle for truth.

The first copies of our own Evangelistic paper to be called the “West African Tidings,” will soon be coming from the presses and we trust that every colporteur and member will

(Continued on page 3.)

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Editor - - - - - G. L. ANNISS

He that winneth souls (with Silent Preachers) is wise indeed.