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AUGUST EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS

Gold Coast, 1955

By C. B. Mensah, Acting President

The burden for lost souls has been upon the hearts of the faithful throughout the centuries. The faithful of today should hold high the torch of evangelism and press forward that the message may go on speedily to redeem the perishing souls.

The co-operative work in the August Evangelism is one of the most successful means of bringing in more converts into the church. The Gold Coast Mission heartily believes in this and thanks God that such a plan has been made.

Ready and prepared, the 114 Evangelists, Teachers and laymen who took part in this year's Campaign rallied round their District Leaders as they marched forward into the 39 efforts that had been planned. With enthusiasm and determination they went forward in spite of oppositions and difficulties and through the power of the Spirit won 414 souls into the truth.

Some of the efforts were held in places where we had little interest or the com-

panies were passing through some difficulties. It is heart warming to hear that about ten companies have been revived, increased in Sabbath membership and new spirit brought into them due to these efforts.

It is always encouraging to see laymen take an active part in a Christian endeavour. A group of laymen in the Kumasi district organized themselves into bands and on their own planned an effort in an entirely new place called Kenyase where we had no work. They are still continuing the effort as this goes to

the Press. Already 24 souls had been won by them and there is hope that more will give themselves to the Lord. This number is not included in the above figure. This is an example of what the Lord is prepared to do with the consecrated laymen.

With grateful hearts we render our thanks to Him, who through His Spirit wrought the victory, and pray that these new babes might grow into maturity in Him.



This year, August Evangelistic Efforts have been held throughout the West African Union. Our picture shows the group, led by Pastor Gibson, who conducted the August Efforts in West Nigeria.

Kumasi August Effort

By S. A. Appiah-Dankwah, District Leader

Our August efforts have now ended. All fronts bring hope of satisfaction. God has bountifully blessed our work and many captives have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb. The leaders demonstrated a strong injunction of leadership, and it is interesting to note that where there was no hope, success has taken the initiative of bringing wonderful results to the three efforts conducted.

Six workers were sent to a village called Domi. The village lies on a very beautiful plateau and has a population of about 2,000. About 85 per cent of the population are Presbyterians and Mohammedans, and the remaining 15 per cent are heathen.

Our little company there which has about six members had remained unprogressive and unproductive for many years. This year's effort has brought a great relief to them. It is like a panacea that has cured all diseases of inactivity. The village chief, though a heathen, loves our church and attended all meetings throughout the effort. It is encouraging to state that 24 souls were won and the company has been greatly strengthened.

Our workers who went to the village of Fumesau met hardships and strong opposition; but in spite of all these they fought relentlessly and gallantly to the end of the effort. Though two souls were won nevertheless they have done a good work. They have revived the little company there. Their love for God and His work have been strengthened and maintained.

Less than two years ago our company at Kyekyewere fell on the precipice of apostasy. There was no faithful church. All hope of bringing these members back together had entirely failed. Their little church house was on the ground, without any hope of rebuilding it. Our workers who were sent to this locality began a special work of restoration and patching. Over 50 backsliders have been brought back home and 15 new converts won. The fallen house is now being rebuilt. Many heathen are inclined to join the church now. Every member has a smile of contentment on his face. The Spirit of the Lord is working on every heart, the love of God is warming the hearts of those who have come back. How happy shall all of us be when in heaven we see those we have helped to know Jesus.

Primary School—Bouake

The school opened early in March 1955 and soon got an enrolment of 50 boys and 10 girls aged 6 to 13 and speaking 12 different languages. Religious creeds: 28 Moslems, 12 Fetishists, 9 Adventists, 8 Catholics and 3 Protestants. Classes meet from 7.30 to 11.30 and 2.30 to 4.30 except on Wednesdays and Sabbaths.

At 7.30 a.m. the Morning Watch and the children's Sabbath School lesson are studies. The topic for the first 2 terms were: "From Gideon to Solomon" and "From Solomon to Queen Esther." At 2.30 there is another Bible class dealing with creation, patriarchs up to Joseph, and Moses from Egypt to Sinai. Then the life of Christ was presented to the children. Most of them were really thrilled.

On Sabbath afternoons, the children had special Sabbath school programmes and the average number present was 30. On the 13th Sabbath in June, the pupils playing the parts of missionary colporteurs, doctors, evangelists, teachers and nurses, dramatised some of the mission appeals of the quarter. This pageant was a great success especially the scenes of Samson's death, David and Goliath's fight, and the warning of Jonathan.

An M. V. society was founded, and a weekly progressive class in the open, organized with 6 teams named by the pupils: Abel, Eden, Lambs, Lion-cubs, Pigeons, and Swallows. The M.Vs have studied the Pledge and the Law, knots, and Adventist youth songs and choruses in the Baoule and French languages. On August 28, 1955, at the end of the school year, 13 boys and one girl were granted a special M.V. membership card for knowing and respecting the pledge and law. How gratifying and encouraging is the fact that 8 are Moslems, 4 Fetishists and 2 Christians. One of the Moslem parents, a Koran school teacher and an Imam (Mosque leader) has come several times to congratulate and thank our once Moslem S.D.A. teacher from Dakar (Senegal), for teaching Bible lessons in a very appealing and helpful way. Another parent politely said to show his gratefulness, and according to the custom often followed in West Africa: "I wish to entrust the Mission with my son Issa" (Moslem man for Jesus).

Our school children have already several times proved to be actual channels of light and truth for their parents and relations and we praise God for the good Christian influence of the first S.D.A. Mission Primary School in the Ivory Coast.

WHY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

By E. E. Cossentine

Belief in Christian education is a fundamental concept of Seventh-day Adventists. Although the first church school was opened more than one hundred years ago, it was not until forty years later that this concept took firm hold upon the leaders and a strong educational programme began to develop under the impetus of the counsel and instruction given through the Spirit of prophecy.

For a number of years testimonies had been coming from the pen of Mrs. E. G. White on the subject of proper education. "The subject of education should interest the whole Seventh-day Adventist body."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, page 162. "The work that lies nearest to our church members is to become interested in our youth."—*Ibid.*, page 196. "The churches in different localities should feel that a solemn responsibility rests upon them to train youth and educate talent to engage in missionary work."—*Counsels to Parents and Teachers*, page 69. "As long as time shall last, we should have need of schools."—*Ibid.*, page 417.

This denomination holds as its concept of education a Christian education that prepares men and women for a full and distinctive way of life. We believe this concept is divine in its origin. It is designed to produce godliness in its youth, and regards character development as its chief objective. "The highest class of education is that which will give such knowledge and discipline as will lead to the best development of character, and will fit the soul for that life which measures with the life of God. Eternity is not to be lost out of our reckoning."—*Ibid.*, page 45. "Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator,—individuality, power to think and to do. . . . It is the work of true education to develop this power; to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought."—*Education*, page 17. "Such an education provides more than mental discipline; it provides more than physical training. It strengthens the character . . . It fortifies the mind against evil. . . . As the perfection of His character is dwelt upon, the mind is renewed, and the soul is recreated in the image of God."—*Ibid.*, page 18.

Church schools were established as a result of giving study to these inspired testimonies.

Our people developed a growing consciousness of the need of the church for an educational programme apart from the world, a programme in which our youth might find their way to God and prepare their lives for His service, a programme in which religion takes its ascendant place. Early progress toward this ideal was slow; then, as our people became increasingly aware of the importance of Christian education, more and more schools were established; until today, wherever this message is proclaimed, there is found a strong belief in Christian education as God's plan for saving youth and training them for His service.

It is our conviction as a denomination that religion is not only to be taught in formal Bible classes, but also is to be integrated throughout the activities of each school day. Religion is to be a part of the atmosphere of each classroom, and is to be seen in the consecrated lives of the teachers. The teacher should be a "living embodiment of truth, a living channel through which wisdom and life may flow."—*Counsels to Parents and Teachers*, page 31. He brings "the Saviour's righteousness and peace" into the classroom (*Ibid.*, page 151).

It is recognized that in our schools lies the hope of the church; the young people sitting in our classrooms today are the ones who, under God, should finish the work. It is apparent, therefore, that the church must win the student's mind to God's will and exert efforts to hold it. Minds equipped with knowledge of the sciences are not enough. These minds must be disciplined, their powers must be surrendered to Christ and must always move under His direction.

The Christian school, properly utilized, is among the greatest evangelizing agents the church has for saving our children. The Adventist school makes Adventists. Once a student is admitted, teachers and Christian students work together to help him make his decision for Christ. This was brought forcibly to our attention by a survey made a few years ago. It was found that of our youth who had attended Seventh-day Adventist schools from the elementary grades through college, all had been baptized. Among our young people who had never attended Seventh-day Adventist schools, only 32 per cent were bap-

lized, and of these, 16 per cent had withdrawn from the church. It was also shown that the longer students continued in our own schools, the more permanent the effect upon their lives.

In the mission field these schools have also been a powerful factor in spreading this message and building up a loyal constituency. For example, in the South African Division one out of every four persons baptized is a student enrolled in an Adventist school, and in some countries the proportion is even greater. In the field, on the average, one out of every six persons baptized is a student enrolled in an Adventist school.

In many places the mission school is the entering wedge of our work, and an organized church follows as the outgrowth and development of the school. In North America in the last four-year period, more than 8,700 church school young people were baptized. In this we see the church fulfilling its task not only of preparing a people for the kingdom of God, but also for training a large group as future workers. Each year more than 1,200 young people leave the schools of the denomination to enter the organized work of the church.

The support of these schools and of the young people attending them is of utmost importance. To meet today's higher educational standards and the rising costs of obtaining such an education, the church has had to give careful study to devise ways and means that would make it possible for our youth to obtain the kind of education demanded by the exacting conditions of our present world. In almost all of our schools industries have been established where students may not only learn practical lessons of industry, but also earn, in many cases, a large portion of their school expenses.

Last year in our colleges and secondary schools in North America alone, over three million dollars was paid to the youth for labour performed. In addition, many hundreds of thousands of dollars were earned by students through the sale of gospel literature, and in other employment outside of our own institutions. On the average, our colleges in North America last year paid more in student labour credits than the colleges received in cash from student payments.

We are told that "the youth need to be taught that life means earnest work, responsibility, care-taking. They need a training that will make them practical,—men and women who can cope with emergencies. . . . No man or woman is degraded by honest toil."

—*Education*, page 215. "Let the children and youth learn from the Bible how God has honoured the work of the every-day toiler. . . . Let them read of Jesus the carpenter, and Paul the tent-maker, who with the toil of the craftman linked the highest ministry, human and divine."—*Ibid.*, page 217.

It is our own conviction, based on the experience of thousands of our youth, that many students gain a most valuable training while becoming self-sustaining. "The lessons of economy, industry, self-denial, practical business management, and steadfastness of purpose, thus mastered, would prove a most important part of their equipment for the battle of life."—*Ibid.*, page 221.

It is to this end that large sums of money have been invested by our schools in the development of suitable industries. It is our conviction that it is of far more lasting value to our youth to give them the opportunity to work to help defray the cost of their own education than it is to secure funds from others to assist in their education.

Students in our schools today are to be found working in every department—from keeping the books to milking cows, from baking bread to preparing visual aids to be used in the classrooms, from building furniture to weaving cloth and making garments. We believe these things occupy a position of just as great importance in the education of our youth as the formal knowledge received in the classroom. We believe that today any and every Seventh-day Adventist young person, regardless of means, who is desirous of receiving an education and is willing to work for it, can and will find the opportunity to do this in one of our schools.

Having established these schools and built them in obedience to the instruction given in the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy, and with the positive conviction that such schools are absolutely necessary for the saving of our youth for the church and the work of God, it becomes vitally important to see that every young person in every church has the opportunity of attending a Christian school. It is the duty of each local church to see that its youth are thus provided for. Every pastor and church member should accept his responsibility, making sure that the young people in his church are in our own schools, for "nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children and our people. . . . In this time of peril, fathers and mothers must arouse and work as for life, or many of the youth will be forever lost."—*Counsels to Parents and Teachers*, page 165.

God is calling us as parents to fulfill our responsibility. God is calling each young person to attend the "schools of His planting," where the teaching of the commandments of God is the basic concept, where the main objective is "to restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection

in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized. . . . This is the object of education, the great object of life."—*Education*, pages 15, 16.

—from REVIEW AND HERALD, August 4, 1955.

East Nigeria's Bookmen Meet in Aba

By D. L. Chappell, Union Publishing Dept. Secretary.

Twenty literature evangelists attended the Colporteur Institute held in Aba, 13th—19th September, under the chairmanship of Publishing Secretary S. A. Iheimeje.

Keeping ever in mind their motto "Love and Service," they listened attentively to the valuable counsel presented by Pastor G. D. King, Publishing Secretary of the Northern European Division of Seventh-day Adventists with offices in London. His lectures on "Sanctified and Scientific Selling" will long be remembered by these devoted pioneers of the printed page of truth.

Several of the men related soul-winning experiences during the colporteur symposium held in the new Aba Town Church on Sabbath afternoon. We were thrilled by the news that four of the colporteurs are operating branch sabbath schools and that twenty-one cus-

tomers have begun observing the Sabbath since the last institute in February 1954. One customer has been baptized.

The members rejoiced when they learned that the colporteurs delivered £3,871 worth of gospel literature during the first eight month of this year. This is an increase of £1,860 over the corresponding period of 1954.

Five of the men are canvassing in Jos, Kano, and Zaria in the far North of Nigeria. Two colporteurs, A. A. Ubani of Lagos, and M. Y. Achor of Calabar, were unable to attend. In attendance from Ibadan was Brother Hope Oriaku, the newly appointed Publishing Secretary for the West Nigerian Mission.

Following the Aba institute, Pastor King and the writer conducted an institute for student colporteurs at the Nigerian Training College.

Colporteurs and Instructors who attended the colporteur Institute in Aba held from September 13th to 19th 1955. The fourth from the right, on the front row, is the East Nigerian Publishing Secretary, S. A. Iheimeje who served as Chairman. Second from the left on the front row is Hope Oriaku, the newly appointed Publishing Secretary for the West Nigerian Mission.



Man Proposes, God Disposes

By Pastor J. B. Leigh

As a friend, I trust this short tribute to the late Pastor Henry Dove Wilson, will bring him to our memory as he lays in a strange land waiting the coming of our Lord Jesus.

I first knew him at a Seventh-day Adventist Conference convened in Freetown, 1913. After closing the S.D.A. Sanitarium during 1913 in Freetown, where he served while attending school, he joined us in the Waterloo Industrial boarding school for a few months. He was said to be of the 5th grade or standard; but his intelligence and experience was above the ordinary. While over us during working hours then, we began our friendship.

He began his missionary career at Matamp, Sierra Leone Protectorate in 1914 under Dr. E. W. Myers. There, he served as a teacher, preacher and dispensary assistant, and also as a postal messenger, in 1918 I relieved him from school work, dispensary and messenger, and he centered his efforts in evangelism with success.

Pastor Wilson who was born at Success village, about 1896, married in 1925 and was ordained in 1929. He worked many years in the Temne country, but spent most of his time in the Mende country. He mastered both languages, and could talk and translate them conveniently. As a creole, he adapted himself for the advancement of the work and to the people for whom he laboured; yet he maintained the principles and the standard of his Master's message. He had many good friends wherever he worked. He will long be remembered for his wise counsels and kindness.

This self made gentleman, courageously and successfully worked his way up in life in the midst of storms, persecutions and sickness, and attained the capacity of acting superintendent of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission, Sierra Leone.

In 1952, he accepted a call to serve as lecturer in our Theological College, Bekwai, Gold Coast. In a letter to me at the end of that year, he said, "Well Pa Leigh, students, and church members are good to us. God is good to us also. We experience wonderful changes in our health. We shall carry out our five years here as we proposed."

The death news of this dear friend fell upon me with crushing weight. He was capable of doing much good in the cause of God. He was a pillar to the cause of truth, and it

seems indeed to me like a mysterious providence that he should be laid away from our sight in a grave in a strange land and his talent be hidden.

Lo! How quickly and faithfully he served this college for 18 months, instead of 5 years. Indeed man proposes, God disposes. May he rest in peace.

Nor will our days of toil be long;
Our pilgrimage will soon be trod,
And we shall join the ceaseless song,
And keep the Sabbath with our God.



I Proved the Lord

By Colporteur
Paul Emelogun,
East Nigeria.

One of the biggest temptations colporteurs face is to use money belonging to the Book and Bible House and to God. This is especially true when the colporteur sees that his half of the delivery is not sufficient to meet his expenses until the next delivery day, which is a month away here in West Africa, as we can deliver books only at the end of the month. I was not exempted from this awful temptation, but by the grace of God I resisted it.

I remember how strong the temptation was about three months ago. When I counted my money, I saw that if I paid my account and my tithe I would have exactly one shilling left! A number of my customers had disappointed me that month so I had not had a good delivery. I thought, "Surely God doesn't expect me to starve just in order to pay my account in full. I could catch up next month, because I know that I would have a really good delivery then." The tempter tried, but he lost, for I decided that I would pay my account in full and pay my tithe and prove the Lord.

With 3d of the one shilling I bought some bread and used 3d for bus. Just how I would live a month on 6d was hard to see. But the money had been paid, so I waited upon the Lord.

During the next two days I decided to try to deliver some of the books where the prospects had put me off "until next month." And to my surprise some of them claimed their books, and I was able to live, yes, to really live happily—free of debt.

I invite all my colporteur friends to be faithful in paying their accounts and their tithes, and know by experience the joy of "proving the Lord."

Home Visitation

By E. W. Pedersen,

Home Missionary Secretary, Northern European Division

The classics are timeless. That is why they are classics. The words of this visionary one from the infallible pen of inspiration, should ever be ringing in our ears and stir us to action, particularly so at those times of the year when special emphasis is placed upon the message it proclaims.

"Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the Word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit and the spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be livened by the heavenly influence."—*Christian Service*, page 42.

Who are these hundreds and thousands the servant of the Lord is seeing going from home to home, accompanied by and collaborating with the Holy Spirit? It is a personal question to you, whoever you are, who have tested the grace of God, for you are one of them, and should be.

We speak continually of finishing the work, and that is how it should be. But we should also be careful that our talk does not deteriorate into mere hackneyed phrases. How can the great work of the third angel's message be accomplished, comes the challenging question from days gone by. And the answer is as clear as the sun at noon-day. "It must be largely accomplished by persevering individual effort, by visiting the people at their homes."—*Historical Sketches*, page 150.

"Persevering individual effort." Joint effort can be strenuous, depending upon the task to be accomplished; individual effort, even more so. God is taxing us individually. The burden is yours and mine as individuals, and it calls for that princely character which will

form the prominent part of the personal make-up of those who in the final onslaught shall stand when others fall around them: perseverance.

Spasmodic outbursts of zeal are better than nothing. For one thing they show that we after all are alive and can be aroused. But how much better the steady, unrelenting, persevering keeping at it! In home visitation this is especially important. Rome was not built in a day, but it was built. So the kind word too may take time to produce kindness in response. The seed of life sown in the human heart does take time to germinate and bring forth fruit, but it shall not return void—that is God's assurance.

Regular, systematic home visitation is one of God's methods for reaching the multitudes and finishing His work. Ours is to go and do it.

From *H.M. Worker* July—September, 1955.

The Question of Rebaptism

There is still another lesson for us in the experience of those Jewish converts. When they received baptism at the hand of John, they were holding serious errors. But with clearer light they gladly accepted Christ as their Redeemer; and with this advance step came a change in their obligations. As they received a purer faith, there was a corresponding change in their life and character. In token of this change, and as an acknowledgement of their faith in Christ, they were rebaptized, in the name of Jesus.

Many a sincere follower of Christ has had a similar experience. A clearer understanding of God's will places man in a new relation to Him. New duties are revealed. Much which before appeared innocent, or even praiseworthy, is now seen to be sinful. The apostle Paul states that though he had, as he supposed, rendered obedience to the law of God, yet when the commandment was urged upon his conscience by the Holy Spirit, "sin revived, and I die." He saw himself a sinner, and conscience concurred with the sentence of the law.

There are many at the present day who have unwittingly violated one of the precepts of God's law. When the understanding is enlightened, and the claims of the fourth commandment are urged upon the conscience, they see themselves sinners in the sight of God. "Sin is the transgression of the law," and "he that shall offend in one point is guilty of all."

The honest seeker after truth will not plead ignorance of the law as an excuse for transgression. Light was within his reach. God's word is plain, and Christ has bidden him search the scriptures. He reverences God's law as holy, just, and good, and he repents of his transgression. By faith he pleads the atoning blood of Christ, and grasps the promise of pardon. His former baptism does not satisfy him now. He has seen himself a sinner, condemned by the law of God. He has experienced anew a death to sin, and he desires again to be buried with Christ by baptism, that he may rise to walk in the newness of life. Such a course is in harmony with the example of Paul in baptizing the Jewish converts. That incident was recorded by the Holy Spirit as an instructive lesson for the church.—Ellen G. White, *Sketches From the Life of Paul* (1883 ed.) pages 132, 133.

The Ministry, August, 1955.

Baptism—Freetown Church

By Pastor A. M. Moyer

On Sabbath 11th June, two men were baptized at Regent, eleven miles from Freetown. Both Samba Bokari and Sorrie Sesay had studied with Pastor Clarke for over a year. This was the first baptism for the Freetown church in five years.

At 2.45 about 35 church members and friends boarded a bus and travelled over the winding road leading up in the hills to Regent. The scene of the baptism was a brook with crystal clear flowing water. The bamboo trees formed a canopy over the scene of baptism. It seemed that heaven was lowered to earth as the small group sang hymns on the bank of the little stream.

Sorrie and Samba stood true to the Lord after learning the Sabbath truth. They met difficulty but with their faith and the help

of Pastor Clarke, Sabbath privileges were granted. These young men have proven a help to the church and we pray that others may soon follow their footsteps.

News Notes

We welcome Pastor and Mrs. N. B. Nielsen to our Headquarters in Accra. Pastor Nielsen has been elected as our new Union Secretary-treasurer. He first arrived in West Africa in of November 1952, when he took up the post as Secretary-treasurer for West Nigeria. In the following year, he was called to be Secretary-treasurer of East Nigeria, where he served until his recent furlough. Pastor Nielsen has had many years of denominational service. He began his service in the Danish Conference in 1918. From 1925 to 1932, he served as a Missionary in India. He later served for 14 years as Treasurer of the Ethiopian Union and then for 3 years as President of the same Union. Pastor Nielsen comes to us with a wealth of experience. We wish him God's blessing as he takes up his new post.

We welcome Pastor and Mrs. Welch back to leadership of the Gold Coast field. Pastor Mensah has been looking after the field well during Pastor Welch's absence.

Pastor G. M. Ellstrom and his son Mervin visited Accra office on October the 5th. He was en route to Ibadan where he will take up his new duties as President of the West Nigerian Mission. Mrs. Ellstrom and their daughter joined Pastor Ellstrom at Lagos.

Pastor and Mrs. J. J. Hyde broke their return from furlough journey at Takoradi. They made a visit to their son at the new Kwahu Hospital where Pastor Hyde conducted the Week of Prayer for the staff. They then proceeded to Lagos, and to their new post at Jengre, where Pastor Hyde will take up the Presidency of the North Nigerian Field.

We welcome Pastor Henri and his family back to Monrovia, Liberia.

Pastor and Mrs. D. Hughes left recently from Bassa, Liberia, for a much needed furlough.

Welcome back Pastor and Mrs. Coon. A large work at the Voice of Prophecy awaits you.

We are happy to have Dr. and Mrs. A. R. Bergman spend a few months with us at Ife. They are en route to the new Hospital in the North Cameroons.

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