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THE RESTORATION OF GOD'S TRUTH

PART II

By J. C. Clifford

Former President, Gold Coast Mission

The institution of marriage comes to man as a gift from God in Eden. He said, "It is not good that man should be alone, I will make an help meet for him." Gen. 2:18. God gave to Adam his wife Eve and blessed their marriage. "And God blessed them, and God said unto them; Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth; and subdue it." Gen. 1:28.

If the only purpose of marriage was to multiply the race it would have been easy for God to have made a second wife for Adam. But God gave man only one wife, not two or more. God was concerned not merely with the number but the character of the children and the happiness of the home. It was His plan that each child should have the undivided love and attention of both father and mother, which is not possible when a man has two or more wives.

Many years ago when I visited Kumawu in Ashanti the chief of that town informed me that he had many wives and one hundred and forty-four children. I ask you; How could that man give to each of his children that personal care and love that God intended a father should give to his children?

It is a fact proven by birth statistics that in all countries an equal number of boys and girls are born into the world. God alone controls this, so His Eden plan still holds good—one wife for one man. When men change God's way and practise polygamy, what is the result? The older men have money, want several wives, and can pay a high bride price. The younger men cannot

pay this high bride price, brought about by polygamy, and fornication and adultery often result.

The Bible records that Lamech, a descendant of Cain, was the first to practise polygamy, Gen. 4:19. Others followed him until the Bible says: "They took them wives of all they chose." Gen.6:2. God said Man had "corrupted His way." Gen. 6:12. It is perfectly clear that polygamy is a corruption of God's way of marriage. In consequence of these sins God destroyed the earth with a flood, and it is worthy of notice that all the polygamous people were destroyed, and the only people saved to repopulate the earth were Noah and his three sons, each with his wife. Peter tells us particularly that "eight souls were saved by water." 1 Peter 3:20

Thus we see that one wife for one man has always been God's plan. Whenever this was changed it has been to man's sorrow. The child of Abraham by his second wife was "a wild man" Gen. 16:11, 12. Jacob said of his life with four wives: "Few and evil have the days of my life been." Gen. 47:9. David, who was a man after God's own heart, 1 Samuel 13:14 in his youth before his marriage to Michal, later disobeyed God's direct command that a king should not "multiply wives unto himself." Deut. 17: 14-17, and as a result was driven from the throne by one of his own sons. II Samuel 15:10-14, 30. Thus Satan tempted good men to go contrary to God's explicit commands, and by them "truth had fallen in the street."

We may follow their good deeds, but we dare not copy their evil deeds if we would be ready to meet Jesus. We must restore God's truth to its rightful place in our lives and teaching.

Let us now consider Christ's teaching concerning marriage. In Matt. 19:4-6 we see clearly that Christ recognized only the marriage of one man with one woman. He thus confirmed God's original plan. He said "they twain shall be one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." He also stated clearly that a man who took another woman as his wife where the marriage covenant had not been broken by fornication, would be living in a state of adultery. Matt. 19:9. Men had so often tried to change God's plans, both for Sabbath and for marriage, but Christ always brought them back to God's true standards "as it was in the beginning" Matt. 19:4, 5, 8.

As with the Sabbath, so with marriage, Satan led men to extremes in his plan to "cast down the truth to the ground." On one hand certain authorities would forbid marriage to their priests and others. 1 Tim. 4:3. On the other hand some would take to themselves many wives. The apostle Peter was married, but to only one wife. Included in the qualifications for church office was the requirement that a leader should be "the husband of one wife." Titus 1:5,6. Thus we see how Christ and the apostles restored God's plan of marriage to its Edenic simplicity.

Guided by this important truth our church elders in the Gold Coast rightly decided that a man with two or more wives could have no voice in church matters, but should come to church as a visitor until he could bring his life into harmony with God's plan.

During my ministry in Nigeria a member of the Apostolic church who had accepted the Sabbath, but had two wives, asked me to baptize him, claiming that he had a right to follow the failures of Abraham and David. When I asked him to show me one single case in the Bible where a man with two or more wives had been given Christian baptism he had no answer. In these last days God has called us out of darkness to light, and opened our eyes that we might turn from the power of Satan and the customs of the world to do God's will and follow His ways. Acts 26:18.

God's way of Christian marriage is illustrated by the love of Christ for the church. "For the husband is head of the wife even

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The Ministry Calls You

Among the gifts placed in the church by the Spirit of God, none is more sacred and important than that of the Evangelist and Pastor. Men are needed greatly throughout the missions of the West African Union who will heed the call of God and dedicate their lives to the sacred ministry. Especially are men needed who are educated, but who with secondary education or teacher training are qualified to enter the ministry because of their evangelistic zeal and their proven ability to care for the flock of God and to preach the word of Truth. Dear trained teacher, or educated young man, will you not let God speak to your heart to tell you what he wants you to do? If you feel the call to the ministry will you not contact your Mission President now.

We realize that some may not be called to the ministry; some are called to be teachers or colporteurs or office workers. If you are free and your heart responds to the call, do not hesitate. God does not promise you high salaries or easy living. He does not promise you worldly honour. These things all pass away. God does hold out to you, however, the joy of seeing souls saved in the kingdom of heaven and the satisfying experience of leading God's people to greater consecration and service. You need not fear to trust Him. If he calls you and you respond, He will bless you with all spiritual blessings and besides will care for your temporal needs.

If you are a trained teacher and you have found your greatest joy in winning souls, you are invited to consider the possibility of making that your full time work. Your training for the teaching profession will not be lost, for preaching is teaching, and the patience and tact you have learned in working with children is just what you need in helping the members of the church. God needs you; the church needs you. It may be that you hear the call of the ministry. Pray about it, and if God calls you, go forward and present yourself to your Mission authorities for ministerial service.

(The above article was prepared as the result of the earnest study given at the recent Union Committee meeting to the need for Ministerial Workers. It is published in the hope that some trained teachers will read and consider the appeal.—Editor.)

The Lay Men Must Harvest

By J. K. Dankwah

Colporteur Evangelist, Gold Coast



The colporteur's most frequent lament through the years has been that his work has not been followed up. He would sell scores of high-priced books indicating the interest of the purchasers in religious matters, but that, in too many instances, would be the end of it. Sometimes he has undertaken to give Bible

studies himself to the most interested people. I personally have done that, but I agree with Mr. Dallas Young's opinion given in the "Review and Herald," November 4, 1954, when he says that this proves to be an exhausting programme. The colporteur who gives three or four selling canvasses an hour for eight hours is pretty well used up at the end of the day, nervously speaking. Then add to that a Bible Study in the evening and you are likely to have a tired colporteur starting out the next morning. Such being the case, his work will be affected, sales will be less, and the colporteur may become discouraged.

God has been good to our denomination in giving us the Colporteur plan. This divinely given plan has proven invaluable to the progress of our work. Pastors, evangelists, churches, and conferences have all benefited, and this in spite of our failure generally to follow up the interest. Undoubtedly, and I say this after careful reflection, our sin of omission in failing to follow up the colporteur's interest is one of the greatest sins of which we are guilty. However, something has been done, and more must be done.

A layman in Ohio, as we read from "Review and Herald" November 4, 1954, is enthusiastically busy in doing something to remedy this situation and doing it in a way that could be easily followed by our West African lay members. He secures all the available names of interested people from the colporteurs and then gives them Bible studies, using illustrative pictures to increase interest. Here is a wonderfully fruitful field for soul winning in every church. Several qualified laymen, evangelists, pastors and church members could be kept busy the year round giving Bible studies and developing the interest found by the literature evangelist. In some cases two lay

brethren might combine their efforts working together. It almost never fails that when Bible studies are secured in a home the interest expands. In some cases the interest from colporteur contacts has been so great that the pastor of the church has devoted his efforts almost wholly to this phase of soul-winning endeavour. This method has proven highly effective.

In the light of this, I believe that our members should be trained to do the same. "The minister should not feel that it is his duty to do all the talking and all the labouring and all the praying; he should educate helpers."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 197.

"Millions of books are being placed in the homes of the people by colporteurs. Usually the colporteur must pass on to new territory after delivering the books, but there is very great need of calling on these people after due time has elapsed, with a view to establishing and developing the interest which may have been created. . . . Every church should receive lists of customers for books in the vicinity, and urge the members . . . to follow up and extend the interest."—*Training Light Bearers*, p. 70.

Even in the Correspondence School plan the time comes when there must be the human contact or the interest will wane and fail. It may be, as time passes, that God will give us other methods of following up the colporteur's interests. Right now it seems to me that we need to make a better use of the method He has already given us. There are possibilities in this method that we have not yet realized. May God bless us as we read to be doers. "But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only." James 1:22.

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as Christ is the head of the church." Eph. 6:23. Again "Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it." v. 25-27, and the apostle concludes "nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband." v. 33. Thus in God's plan husband and wife live together in happy Christian relationship, and give their full and undivided attention to the care and training of the children God gives them.

In our last article we shall consider other ways in which the truth of God's sacred institution of marriage has "fallen in the street," and is to be restored to its rightful place.

UNITY IN GOD'S WORK

By Jesse O. Gibson

President, West African Union Mission

The most urgent need among our workers and members is a greater out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. The best example of the fuller outpouring of the Spirit, came as we all know, on the day of Pentecost. Before this special manifestation, however, we read "They were all with one accord in one place."

Now the disciples had just experienced the great disappointment in having their Lord and Master leave them. The whole "world to be warned" was before them. They needed power, they needed the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They therefore came together "in unity" and as their united petition ascended to God, the Comforter came. We today as followers of Christ need to have unity among us. God will use us to win thousands if we yield ourselves to Him in unity with one another.

The Apostle Paul has much to say about unity among the believers. In writing to the Ephesians he said, "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3. He also admonished the church at Corinth to "Be of one mind" 2 Corinthians 13:11, and "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, *that ye all speak the same thing*, and that there be *no divisions* among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Corinthians 1:10.

We as God's remnant church, have little to fear if we have *unity* within the church. Too often the evil one creeps in because we are not in full harmony with our fellow members.

At our recent union committee where we had invited extra African brethren to be present, we studied ways and means of bringing about greater unity in our work here in West Africa. I am sure we all have a deep desire not only to be in full unity here, but to be in unity with the great Advent Church which encircles the globe. In order to help our workers to lead their members into this unity we have made several suggestions.

"Review and Herald"

Our world church paper is the "Review and Herald," as we all know. It contains many contributions by our most learned scholars and our best Bible students. It has as one of its purposes that of bringing unity to our world field. It also contains many helpful articles on our doctrines, difficult Bible passages, sermon helps,—articles which will help our workers and members to grow in grace. It also includes news of the progress of our work throughout the world. We voted that we urge every evangelistic worker, teacher, full-time colporteur, and selected institutional workers, to avail themselves of this good paper which is published every week in the year. In order to make this possible the union and local mission field will help by subsidising the cost so that the above mentioned workers may have it at a price they can afford.

The Church Manual

This, as you know, is the manual containing the objectives of our church, the fundamental beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists, the organization of our church, baptism standards, church membership, church officers and their duties, various church services and how to conduct them. Church elections, gospel finance, Christian standards, church discipline, and many other items about the church are included in this manual. Many times the Seventh-day Adventist standard has not been followed in some church matters because the worker and church members have not had a church manual. Now it had been proposed at our last Union Constituency meeting that we have an abridged Church Manual which could be translated into the various verna-

Plans are not enough however good they may be
Let us all move Forward in unity. J. O. G.

culars. We found, however, that such a plan followed in other fields had not been too satisfactory. Some would have the General Conference Manual—others the abridged. This would not tend to unity. We therefore voted to recommend to our workers and churches the full General Conference Manual (latest edition printed in 1951).

Every church and company should have a copy of this good manual. It can be purchased from local church expense and ordered through your district leader from your Book and Bible House or Mission office. Each worker should also have his own copy.

In order to help every evangelistic worker to purchase this guide to church organization we have agreed to subsidise this book heavily by the Union and Local Missions so that every worker can have a copy of the latest edition. (Old copies should be discarded.) We then urge our workers to study the "Church Manual" thoroughly. They should then train their church leaders in their duties, thus making the organized churches stronger. It will help prepare companies for church organization. It will help greatly in bringing *unity* into our work.

Manual for Ministers

This is an important book for every ordained minister. I think most of you have it. I fear, however, that many may have out-of-date copies. The latest General Conference edition printed in 1954 is much larger than the older one and covers more items. Every Pastor should have this latest edition or otherwise he may be in conflict with his brother who has the latest edition and confusion may result. Some licensed ministers may also like to have a copy. This too is subsidised by the Local Missions for

all African Licensed and Ordained ministers.

On all of the above you will be advised by your local mission as to the prices and the amount of the subsidy offered.

Ministerial In-Service Training

The following action was taken in respect to the above mentioned subject.

Objectives

Whereas, many faithful Ministerial workers have not had opportunity for training courses in a Training College and because of family problems, age or financial difficulties cannot have access to these courses in residence, and

Whereas these workers should be encouraged and assisted in raising the standard of knowledge and efficiency in service, and

Whereas there is need for a standard of attainment which might furnish to some extent criteria to guide mission committees in making promotions and granting increments to these workers, we therefore:

Recommend, that an in-service training plan be set up providing definite courses of study for each level and setting standards of attainments by means of examinations to serve as incentive for self-improvement and taken together with practical experience as a measuring device for determining fitness for promotion to added responsibility.

Scope of Training

We recommend that the total plan endeavour to make provision for reading and training in the following general fields of study:

1. Bible Doctrines
2. Old and New Testament History
3. Prophetic Studies
4. Epistles
5. Denominational History
6. Church History
7. Homiletics—Sermon Building
8. Denomination Organization and Policy
9. Spirit of Prophecy
10. Field Evangelism."

Now the above subjects are suggestive of the field to be covered. A Committee has been appointed to work out the full details of the plan. I am sure it will be carefully



worked out so as to be a great help to our evangelistic workers and yet not be a burden to them.

It will give our evangelistic workers a chance to improve themselves for more effective service and for carrying greater responsibilities in the cause of God.

Now I am sure you will agree with the Union Committee, that if these four steps are carried out, they will help God's remnant church here in West Africa to move forward "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13.

We Are Growing

By I. Nwaobia

Sabbath School and Missionary Volunteer
Secretary, East Nigerian Mission

A good report maketh the bones fat." Indeed, brethren, it is encouraging to see the rapid growth of the new work at Calabar, the ancient city. Below is the report of growth in the excellent work Pastor E. E. Hulbert is doing at Calabar.

	June 1955	1st Qtr 1956	2nd Qtr 1956
Sabbath School			
Members	46	60	137
Adults	28	41	80
Children	18	19	57
Branch Sabbath Schools	—	1	2
Total S.S. Offerings	£9.0.6d	£10.0.3d	£12.13.8d

We are hoping and praying that this excellent work may result in many souls being won into the Lord's Church. "We pray that our Sabbath School membership will continue to increase," said Pastor Hulbert. "We hope to baptize eleven or twelve next month, and will probably have another baptism in December, and one, if not two, next year."

We solicit your prayers for the new converts, and especially for those who have problems to face. We think particularly of one church elder who has a great temptation to face as his mission is thinking of making him a pastor, and he knows that he could not teach the truth if this happened. Please pray for him and for our work here in Calabar.

Sabbath Observance

The following resolution on Sabbath observance was passed by our recent Union Committee Session. It will be included in our policy later, but we would like to share it at this time with our *Messenger* readers. I trust that it will be a help in bringing more faithful observance of God's holy day among our workers and members.—Editor

If there were not real danger of our forgetting, surely the Lord would not have begun the fourth commandment with the word "remember"—"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

We appeal to believers everywhere to "remember"—to keep in mind the principles of Sabbath-keeping as touching our personal, home, and church relationships. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" is God's word to us today. In thus remembering the Sabbath, heed should be given to such matters as the following:

1. That we draw the attention of our workers and members alike to the statements on proper Sabbath observance made in the Church Manual under the section on "Sabbath-keeping."

2. While marriage is a divine institution, yet because of the arrangements that are unavoidable before and after the ceremony which probably lead to that which is contrary to proper Sabbath observance, we counsel that marriage ceremonies and marriage blessing services be held on days other than the holy Sabbath.

3. In connection with funerals, there are inevitably work and arrangements which should not ordinarily be done on the Sabbath. We therefore earnestly counsel our workers and members to plan for the conducting of funerals on some other day, except where local conditions or regulations make Sabbath burials unavoidable.

4. We particularly caution our workers and members that when raising money, or in supplying literature, or in promoting campaigns in connection with our Sabbath services, that they in no way violate the sanctity of the Sabbath.

5. That we request our workers to provide in all churches for vesper services on Friday and Sabbath evenings.

Let's Start an M. V. Society

By Howard J. Welch

Union Missionary Volunteer Secretary

In many churches there are young men and young women and often many junior boys and girls. Why not capture their youthful enthusiasm and energy for the cause of God by uniting them in a Missionary Volunteer Society. It is true that where there is a Seventh-day Adventist school the juniors are enrolled in the School J.M.V. Society but what about the Seniors (ages 16 - 30)? Let's get them organized.

Here's how to do it:

First of all let the Church Board (if an organized Church) study the situation and recommend to the Church that a Society be started. In the case of an unorganized company your District Committee acts as a Church Board and will study the situation and if it is approved, the District Leader will help you get started. The Church Board or District Committee should nominate the following officers for your Society. After nomination in the case of an organized Church the names should be approved by vote of the Church.

1. The Missionary Volunteer Sponsor:

This should be a mature person who works well with young people and who has interest in the Missionary Volunteer work.

2. The Missionary Volunteer Leader and Assistant Leader:

These should be young men or women who are faithful, baptized members of the Church and have leadership ability.

3. The Secretary-Treasurer:

In large groups it may be well to have also an Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

The Society itself may choose its own song leader, an organist and leaders of any bands it may decide to have. These officers and band leaders together with the Elder or Pastor of the Church and the Church Home Missionary Leader form the Executive Committee of Missionary Volunteer Society with the M.V. Leader as its Chairman and the M.V. Secretary-treasurer as its Secretary.

This Committee should be called to make plans for the Society. It should choose a time and place for the meetings. It should plan several meetings in advance and work

out plans for missionary activities and social and educational features. It should hold regular meetings not less than once each month.

You are now ready to hold your first Missionary Volunteer Society Meeting. Usually Friday night or Sabbath afternoon is the best time. At your first meeting enroll all whom you can as members and then prepare membership cards for them. You can obtain these from your Mission M.V. Secretary who of course, should have been previously informed of your plan to organize a Society. Your Society Secretary-treasurer should keep a record of your membership and of all activities and report regularly as requested to the Mission M.V. Secretary.

Your meetings should be well planned and enlist the services of as many of the young people as possible. Avoid making the meetings just another preaching service. Much excellent material may be obtained from the M.V. Programme Kit which your Society should obtain by ordering from your Book and Bible House. While your Society is for young people you may invite the older members of the Church to attend and from time to time you may wish to ask some of them to help in your programmes; however, most of your parts should be taken by the young people in your Society.

When your Society is organized and your meetings started you should then plan some Missionary bands and organize groups for Progressive Class work and other activities. Do not try to start too much at one time however. It is better to do a few things well than many things poorly.

If you need further information on running your Society we suggest you read the Church Manual (ed. 1951) pages 140 - 148 also 119 - 120. You will also find your District Leader and your Mission M.V. Secretary very glad to help you. Let's get going.

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Editor - - - - - J. O. GIBSON.

News Notes

✘ We welcome Brother and Sister Eugene Christoph and daughter to Ihié. The Christophs come to us from America and Brother Christoph is to be the new science master for the high school at Ihié.

✘ Pastor E. Keslake recently attended a large anti-Alcoholic conference in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Some French political leaders are doing a splendid work in the fight against alcoholism.

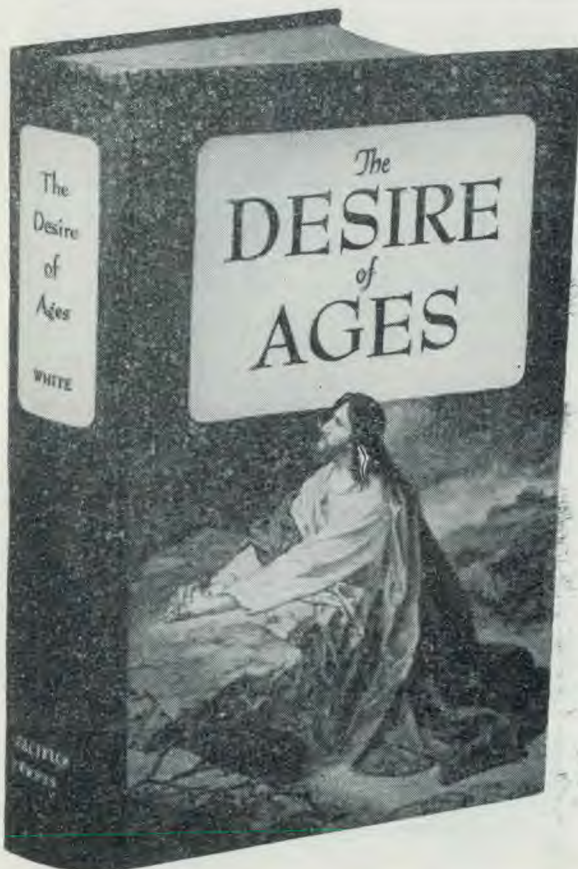
✘ Pastor C. B. Mensah, acting President of the Gold Coast, and Pastor A. Nzotta of East Nigeria sailed on the 15th of August for England. They are to attend a special course for one year at Newbold College after which time they will return to service in the field.

✘ Pastors Keslake and Gibson recently attended the Ivory Coast Constituency Meeting. The evangelistic possibilities are great in this field.

JUST THINKING

I hadn't realised how short life was until I turned the average seventy-year span into seconds one day while waiting for a telephone call. It figures out, in round numbers, at about 2,250,000,000 seconds, of which the average man is likely to be awake, or at least partially awake for 1,500,000,000 seconds.

I thought, how foolish of any of us to spend those precious seconds—those eye-winks in eternity—quarrelling, worrying, or being just plain bored. I think I am going to be a reformed character from now on. My friends and relatives tell me I could stand some reforming. I could tell them a thing or two, too—but there goes another precious second, never to be recaptured!—A Reader, *Sunshine Magazine*, May 1956.



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