

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT

MESSENGER

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H. J. WELCH ELECTED UNION PRESIDENT

By Pastor A. F. Tarr

President, Northern European Division

For the past six years Pastor J.O. Gibson has given strong and energetic leadership to the Seventh-day Adventist cause in West Africa. Every department of our work has, during that period, shown marked advance. For this advance, and for Brother Gibson's faithful and untiring lead, the Northern European Division and the entire working force and membership of the West African Union, are, we are confident, deeply grateful.

Recently, however, Pastor Gibson has felt that for family reasons there was need for him to return to the United States. Therefore at the recent Biennial council for the Nor-



Pastor
H. J. Welch

thern European Division held in Watford Pastor Gibson made request that his name be not considered for re-election to the presidency of the West African Union.

As the nominating committee gave study to the selection of a successor to Pastor Gibson their minds unanimously turned to Pastor H.J. Welch. Pastor Welch has spent many years in active service in West Africa, and is a man well-known and greatly loved. It was felt that his leadership at this time would go far in building upon the foundations already laid, and in advancing the cause of God throughout the field. The Council in session heartily endorsed the recom-



Pastor
J. O. Gibson

mendation of the nominating committee, and Pastor Welch now becomes the president of the West African Union.

As we bid farewell to Pastor and Sister Gibson and their family we thank them most deeply for their eleven years of faithful, self-sacrificing service,—three years in departmental and treasury work, two as president of the Gold Coast Mission, and the past six years as union president. We know how gratified Pastor and Sister Gibson must be over the progress that the field has made during their service here, and how the burden they have carried for the work and people of West Africa will always live in their hearts and someday be greatly rewarded.

We wish for Brother and Sister Gibson, both on behalf of the Northern European Division and the West African Union, God's richest blessing on their lives and service in years to come. Their great contribution to West Africa will long be remembered by the workers and constituency they have served and by the many friends they have made here. In that great day when all our labours are ended, how good it will be to enter together into the reward that our heavenly Father has in store for us who have laboured together in His vineyard here below!

And now to Pastor and Sister Welch we extend a most hearty and cordial welcome to the responsibilities that have been placed upon them. We believe that the God who has helped and blessed them in all their past services for Him will be with them in the larger work that they are now called to do and will vouchsafe them the wisdom and

grace adequate to their every need. We believe that the entire West African constituency will not only give them most generous co-operation but will daily remember them before the throne of grace where lies the supreme source of the help we all so greatly need in our individual lives and service for God.

May rich and unprecedented blessings from above be poured out upon the millions of West Africa in these growingly serious days, and may God use the consecrated lives of Pastor and Sister Welch as His human instruments in bringing a rich harvest of souls from among these many hungry people into His soon-coming kingdom.

Progressive Evangelism

By F. C. Barfoot

West African Union Mission Publishing Department
Secretary

"Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" It has been a great privilege to conduct the first Colporteur Institute for West Nigeria from December 17-20. Just prior to this gathering, we had an opportunity to testify of God's love and grace in the workers' camp meetings held in Aiyetoro, some 160 miles northward. Thus our batteries were fully charged as we assembled together at Oke-bola Church, Ibadan to commence our week's instruction. We who love the Lord value His order of perfection and considered our small but perfect number of seven colporteurs a good men for the spiritual blessings we anticipated. This little group of workers are very ably led by Mr. Hope Oriaku, the Publishing Secretary for West Nigeria, who gave some very profitable instruction throughout the institute in his practical demonstration classes. The Mission President, Pastor G.M. Ellstrom, inspired us by his opening address, "The Call of Colporteur Evangelism," and surely these humble men had gladly left all to answer this call. Other inspirational studies were conducted by Pastor R. Coen, the V.O.P. Secretary, Mr. S. Gustavsson, Secretary-Treasurer, and the writer.

Our Friday evening programme was an interesting symposium, and our little group under the leadership of Mr. Oriaku conducted a Sabbath service in a nearby church. They had eagerly answered the call of the prophet Isaiah to "Arise, Shine; for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."



West Nigerian Literature Evangelists

Many hearts were touched as these humble workers testified to the power of the Holy Spirit working upon men's hearts today in darkest West Africa.

On Sabbath afternoon, Pastor R. Coon conducted the first Communion service in this very attractive and newly dedicated Oke-Bola church for the benefit of our Colporteurs, and many church members joined us.

To conclude such a happy week, Dr. Nagel, who is the Medical Secretary of our Union, and superintendent of our hospital at Ile-Ife, kindly agreed to show his film "Martin Luther" at the colporteur social. This great church reformer inspired courage and determination for 1957 to our Book Evangelists.

Report of Warri Work February to November 1956

By Pastor P. E. Onwere

From the report of the spies sent to the land of Canaan we learnt the lesson that while it was true that there were strong and tall people there, the land had much to encourage God's people that they were "well able to overcome it." "We came to the land, whither thou sentest us," said the spies, "and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it." Numbers 13:27.

Our missionary activities for this year started from February, and from that month to November fifty evangelistic meetings were held during which time fifty-three Bible studies were given in Warri, Ugheli, Sapele, Abraka and Ob'aruku. But lack of time and great distances made it impossible to do much follow-up work after the lectures had been given in these places.

1. *Sapele*—In this township there are many of our members who have gone in to work out their living, about twenty of whom meet every Sabbath for worship and study of God's word. Apart from our usual visits to this group we have held special evangelistic lectures in the heart of the town to which many honest seekers for truth attended. This township of Sapele is one of the thickly populated towns in this Western area. With people of many nationalities it challenges us for more aggressive evangelism.

2. *Abraka and Ob'aruku*—These two towns which are thirty and thirty-five miles

from Warri are separated by five miles. Ob'aruku is a mile long, and much interest has already been awakened there by our periodical visits and Bible studies with the people. Already we have a little group of Sabbath keepers.

In Abraka where a Government Teacher Training College is situated, many especially among the students, are becoming interested in the message we preach. During my last visit to this area, I had the privilege to address the whole student body with the faculty during an evening chapel service, and great was their interest in the message of "The Second Coming of Christ." "We shall be glad to hear from you again on your next visit," was one tutor's parting remark to me.

3. *Warri Township*—Here we conducted twelve hall efforts meetings for twelve consecutive nights. Though our attendances were discouraging, we prayed and worked till the expiration of the allotted time. Few decisions were secured, and as a result of our meetings and follow-up visits a small branch Sabbath school is now being conducted there. The last attendance before this report was written was seven.

4. *Thursday Bible Lessons*—Our Thursday Bible lessons with a group of the United Commercial College students still continues. There is a growing interest among those who attended the Bible class, and our tracts and the "Signs of the Times" are quickly received and read by many. There is a hope of good fruitage here in the near future.

5. *Isoko*—As a result of our last year's visit to, and dissemination of tracts and "Signs of the Times" in this area a call now comes to us to come and open a Sabbath school and to send a worker. Due to its distance (about 50 miles) from Warri and many other pressing duties our plan to visit them again this year failed. That this area is more susceptible to the reception of the truth is evidenced by the success of other missionary societies there. Here is another area challenging us to "come over to Macedonia and help us." What is your answer?

6. *Final Words*—Last year I was able to report sixty Sabbath school members but this year I am glad to say that we have up to ninety, meeting every Sabbath for worship. We have up to twelve in hearers' classes. As a fruit gatherer must give the fruits time to ripen before plucking them, so we saw fit to allow our few souls to become ripe before baptism.

Your prayers are needed for the progress of the work in Warri.

Missionary Volunteer Golden Anniversary

By Theodore Lucas Secretary

General Conference Missionary Volunteer Department

This 57th year of the 20th century is an important one for Missionary Volunteers around the world. It is their Golden Anniversary. We recognize this milestone with deep reverence. We are stirred as we recount the meaning of Missionary Volunteering in the lives of the youth for whom it exists.

This denomination has not always possessed the assets of a Young People's Department. God in His perfect timing sent urgent counsel to the church through the Spirit of Prophecy to organize its young people. This message from heaven set the leaders to action. In February, 1907, in Gland, Switzerland, the General Conference committee made the decision heard around the world. In July of that same year a convention of young people's leaders was called at Mount Vernon, Ohio, U.S.A., and there was laid the foundation of our Missionary Volunteer work as we know it today.

There seemed to rest upon that gathering the consciousness that it was making denominational history. Elder A.G. Daniells, then president of the General Conference, said of this convention: "I am profoundly grateful for this meeting. It is my conviction that insofar as its purpose, character and far-reaching results are concerned, this meeting will take its place among the most important meetings in the history of our cause."

God's Holy Spirit hovered over that large tent on the Mount Vernon campus. Leaders of God's work were there, many whose names are familiar to every student of Seventh-day Adventist history. Each swiftly passing year has borne witness to the zeal of the leadership of that day and the importance of that convention. What a revelation there would be could those who had a part in the beginnings see the place to which we have come under divine blessing! God's messenger had spoken of the youth of the church as an "army," but who could tell at the momentous meeting that it would be "such an army." Today we find even in the most remote places of earth an advancing host of young people marching under the MV banner, marshalled by Jesus Himself.

How small were our beginnings. Fifty years ago there were fewer than 100,000

Seventh-day Adventists in the whole world. At that time we had entered 78 countries and were using 52 languages to send the Advent message to all the world. What an astounding history has followed by God's help! Since then with the aid of this fine army of Advent youth which through 50 years has been enlisted and trained for world service, our church membership has grown to a million, and the Advent message has gone into 184 countries, using 731 languages. Young people have pioneered the way.

This world movement of Advent youth which we see today began 50 years ago when there were only 8,933 young people enrolled in the 461 societies scattered over the field. Today we have nearly 13,000 societies with a membership of 407,576. The onward sweep of this message, crossing all oceans, entering all countries, pushing up all great rivers, traversing all great deserts, penetrating all great jungles, adapting itself to all climates, learning to speak in all languages, acquainting itself with all customs and religions, and persuading the hearts of all peoples, is a striking fulfilment of prophecy. It must stir our hearts with new faith in God's leadership and with new hope in the quick finishing of the work.

At this half-century mark the Missionary Volunteers continue to march to a world task, not with fear but with faith, not with crutch and bandage, torn banners and quenched music, but with the sound of trumpets and with devotion to Christ our deathless leader. What God has wrought in a half century of service by our youth is full proof of His leading.

Evangelism is the important task before us. Careful details of our special plan, the MV Voice of Youth, are being printed and circulated throughout the world that youth might know the exact steps to take in forwarding this message through their own hearts and voices. The Pathfinder work, begun only a few years ago, has prospered unbelievably. Our MV camps provide for our youth an opportunity for study, consecration and relaxation under the most welcome and advantageous circumstances. Our leadership training programme is the strongest it has ever been. MV Leadership is known everywhere. Materials are now available that

teach in the most modern techniques the important truths as to how to handle men and women and to make the kingdom of God attractive to them. Our M.V. literature is being developed with a circulation such as it has never enjoyed in previous times. Share your Faith has been translated into more than forty languages and provides a golden opportunity for each individual to participate in personal witnessing. Almost daily tickets are being purchased for the trains, the ships, and the planes that carry our youth to the ends of the earth to do missionary service. There are not listings of our achievements but the blessings of glorious success under the leadership of God.

As we review what has been accomplished during the five decades past, should we not also consider plans for the achievement of even greater things in a much shorter period? Conditions about us indicate that the signs of Christ's coming are rapidly fulfilling. The final movements of this world's activities are to be rapid ones. This is also true of the work that must be carried on in connection with God's cause. "He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth."

God is going to accomplish this short work very largely through the young men and women. In order for the youth of the church to be used as the medium through whom He may work, they must keep close to Him. They must keep their lives free from sin. They must be in the place where they will always recognize His voice and be ready to answer, "Here am I, send me."

May this 50th Anniversary be a time of heart searching, a time of consecration. May it be a time of renewed purposes and resolutions. May it thus lead the youth and workers for the youth into that fellowship with God which will make it possible for Him to use them mightily for the finishing of the work in all the earth.

Ye Are The Light of The World

By M. E. Lind, Secretary.

Northern European Division M.V. Department

To our youth, this creaking old world with so little time left, presents with its teeming multitudes a challenge, unsurpassed in magnitude and unparalleled in pathos.

In spite of knowledge, unfathomed only a few decades ago, in spite of awe-inspiring

progress and fantastic materialistic achievements, this world is in dire need of the kind of light which radiates from the lives of young persons completely dedicated to their Saviour.

Although accustomed as this world is to surrogates, it can find no substitute for consecrated youth. This generation, with its multitudinous problems of perplexing and complex character, with its moral decay and indifferent outlook, is the mightiest challenge to integrity and true Christian example that the world has ever witnessed.

A few months ago, two boys went singing and witnessing in Colombia, South America. Although they were only 12 to 14 years old they brought hope and joy to many people. The boys were eagerly looking forward to Sabbath, September 29, for on that day they were going to be baptized. Joy filled their young consecrated lives. Hope radiated from their innocent faces, and wherever they went, they sang. The song that the Advent people throughout the whole world cherish, became known to many people of that country. The boys themselves became better known as the "Singing Sabatistas" than by their true names.

However, not all the people appreciated the testimonies of these "Singing Sabatistas." Many were enraged. Enraged by a hatred uncontrolled and unbounded. The very sight of the two innocent looking boys was more than they could endure. One day a mob gathered. The boys were caught. They were tied back to back. The mad crowd shouted at them: "Sing heretics, sing!" The boys sang. Despite the threatening attitude of the crowd, they continued singing. There they stood, tied back to back and surrounded by this angry mob, but they went on with their testimonies in song. They were indeed "the lights of the world." They shone brightly like two candles until heartless blows began raining down on them and cruel feet kicked them to the ground. When finally cold steel daggers pierced their little bodies, the lights were extinguished.

Reports from Columbia testify with abundant clarity that the progress of the spreading of the gospel there has by no means been hindered by this cruel act. On the contrary, more and more lights are being kindled there and new converts constantly won for Christ.

Young people, we are entering upon a new year. This will be no ordinary year. 1957 is our Golden Anniversary. It was in 1907 that

our world wide youth work was organized. To some of us that may seem a long time ago. Most of us were not even born then. Fifty years is really a very short time indeed in the history of this world, and yet events, unrivalled in their importance save for the birth of Christ, have taken place. During this short span of time, two horrible world wars involving millions of casualties have been fought. Inventions beyond the wildest imagination have become our daily property. The gospel has during this short period almost reached every country on earth.

In this age where youth in so signal a manner have contributed to the development of events, we appeal to you. Acquit yourselves so that your lights, through an intimate communion with the great Light, may so shine that souls otherwise irretrievably lost in darkness may find their way home. Let this Golden Anniversary be the greatest soul-winning event in our history, and let youth play their greatest part ever!

West African Union Mission Education Department Report 1956

Howard J. Welch, Secretary

Recently we have heard it said that the West African field is over balanced on the side of education. We will admit that there is need for a much stronger emphasis on evangelism but on the other hand we certainly would not minimise the place which our educational programme plays even in the evangelistic work. We all recognize that the work in West Africa has developed to a large extent as a school work, many of our present African workers and leaders have come to us from the schools which the early pioneer missionaries founded. Now that governments are coming more largely into the picture of operating schools it may be a bit more difficult for us to carry on any strong expansion of the primary school system and indeed it may not be advisable to open schools except where it is clearly seen that these can contribute to the evangelistic work of the mission in that area. We would point out however, that to abandon or retreat from our present position would have unfortunate consequences. Many of our churches would be deprived of leadership

were it not for the Seventh-day Adventist teachers in the schools. In a number of cases our trained Adventist teachers have been, though teaching in schools of other units, doing excellent work in building up the church. I think particularly of one school in the Gold Coast in which the teacher has in the last year added approximately 40 members to the church. This teacher is teaching in a school of another denomination but gives religious instruction to the Adventist children in that school and in out of school hours does the work of an evangelist, I think also of another one of our teachers who is teaching in a small school managed by us and has within the last two years raised up two additional companies. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless our faithful teachers. We must do everything possible to encourage them and strengthen their work.

The growth of the education work in the West African Union can perhaps best be seen from the following recapitulation of the Educational Statistics based on school opening reports from 1949 to 1956:-

RECAPITULATION - EDUCATION STATISTICS Based on School Opening Reports Comparative Statement By Years

Year	Total Pupils	Total Schools	Total Teachers	Non-S.D.A. Teachers
1949	8216	92	313	?
1950	8463	94	324	?
1951	9207	104	398	36
1952	11534	121	444	25
1953	14607	120	525	26
1954	15784	141	548	23
1955	17251	164	619	35
1956	18328	155	674	44

It will be noted that in that period of time the number of pupils in our schools has more than doubled, the number of schools has not increased proportionately which indicates that the schools themselves have grown. It is to be regretted that it is still necessary in some places to employ non-Seventh-day Adventist teachers. As our own programme of secondary and higher education develops we should very soon be able to have all Seventh-day Adventist teachers in our schools.

The Work of God In Ivory Coast

By Gerrard Gutekunst
President, Ivory Coast Mission

It is only seven months since we had the privilege of joining with the workers in the Ivory Coast, this vast country with its 210,

000 square miles and a population of 4,800,000. It is bordered in the east by Liberia, on the west by the Gold Coast, on the north by the French Sudan and on the south by the Gulf of Guinea. This prosperous country owes much of its wealth to the coffee, cocoa, timber, bananas, pineapples, palm oil, cotton and many other resources which are abundant in this country.

Although Christianity has penetrated in most places, it is still possible to find villages where there are no churches, in which people are still following pagan tribal customs. The largest religious bodies are Catholics, Protestants and the Muslims. The Christian Council of Churches has divided up the Ivory Coast into sections giving one to each protestant group, Baptist, Assemblies of God, American Mission, Sudanise Mission, Methodists, etc. These missions must keep within their own section and not encroach upon any other part so that the minds of the Africans will not be confused with a great many different beliefs. As Seventh-day Adventists, of course, we could not agree with such an arrangement because our message consists of the preaching of the gospel to all nations and all tribes.

In the last two months we have started to preach in fifteen villages where our message has not been heard before. It is very interesting to see the response each time these meetings are conducted, sometimes the listeners boo at us, other times the whole village come and listen to the message. In several villages already the chief has asked his people to build a hut for worship. Although one can see that there is an apparent interest there are very few who actually accept the message because the pull of their ancestor's religion is so great or they are afraid of making a stand for the truth for fear of being mocked or isolated. It gives us a wonderful thrill, however, when someone does uphold their new-found faith and take their stand for the Lord then to watch them endeavouring to preach the coming of Christ to the rest of the village.

The Lord is still working miracles in our days for His followers. One night, a young man heard a distinct voice in his sleep which said "Go and worship tomorrow with thy brethren." This young man was only newly interested in our message but he obeyed the command which he had received during the Friday night. He had to walk several miles to the village where the meetings were being held and to his surprise when he got there he found that I was there to take the meeting

that morning. Now this village was about 130 miles from Abidjan, where our mission headquarters is situated, and I only intended to stay there about four hours but during that time I was able to encourage him to stand firm for the truth, which he promised to do.

In another place, three miles from Abidjan, an evangelist went to preach taking along with him a kerosene projector lamp. Some angry villagers told him to leave since they did not want a new religion in addition to the ones they already had. Several young men threatened to turn over the table on which the projector had been set up. However, there was a meeting held in spite of all these objections and the evangelist returned several times during the following weeks. He had the assurance that God was with him and would protect him at all times. These same angry villagers are now asking the evangelist "Why don't you come more often?"

In Divo, which only a small town, the work was started about three months ago when our evangelist, without any financial help, was successful in opening a primary school with about 100 children in attendance. Their first school building is only a primitive grass roof supported by a few sticks but it is interesting to note that there is not one Adventist in that town as yet but the inhabitants have agreed to send their children to our school. This town also has a large public school, a catholic school and a protestant school. We pray now that many of the parents will be able to hear the echoes of Bible truths from their children. The parents have now given donations towards building a better and larger school building which we pray will be started in the near future.

This same evangelist was sent for from a small village near Divo and when he arrived there he was informed that they wished to enroll some of their children for one of our schools. To his joy he found that there were eight children for enrollment and the adults have asked the worker to come weekly to tell them about our precious truths from the Bible. A little bamboo house has already been completed for worship purposes.

One of the greatest ways of spreading the gospel message is through our schools. The children will take back to their homes the Bible truths and thus create in their parents' hearts a sympathy for us. However, because of lack of funds we cannot achieve such

News Notes

☒ Miss E. Rose left for her furlough in the United States on 17th January and we wish her a very pleasant time visiting her home country.

☒ We welcome Miss R. Crump who arrived at Ifo hospital at the end of January to take up her duties as School Teacher there. We wish her much of the Lord's blessing in her associations there.

☒ The West African Union Committee met for its annual session from January 1-10. Present from the Northern European Division were Pastors A.F. Tarr, President and E.W. Pedersen, Home Missionary and Temperance Secretary. Every Mission in the West African Union was represented at the meeting.

☒ Pastor A.J. Dickay, who has been serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the East Nigerian Mission, has been elected to become President of that field when Pastor A.E. Farrow leaves the field later in the year. Mr. R.W. Simons, who with his family leaves for furlough this month, will take over the Secretary-Treasurer's work in East Nigeria upon his return.

☒ Pastor and Mrs. A.M. Moyer from Sierra Leone are spending two weeks at Bekwai College where he is assisting with the opening of the new school year and conducting the M.V. Week of Prayer.

☒ Pastor and Mrs. D.H. Hughes have recently gone to join Pastor C.D. Henri to assist in the large evangelistic effort in Lagos which had its opening meeting on the night of January 13.

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Editor - - - - - H. J. WELCH

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Temperance Rally Stirs Monrovia

By Roger W. Coon Principal,

Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School
Ibadan

An audience of approximately 1,150 crowded the Liberian Centennial Pavilion in Monrovia last night to view the final public showing of "One in 20,000."

On Friday, November 23, following the premiere showing of the film to the cabinet, diplomatic corps, and top-ranking government officials, both newspapers gave prominently displayed reports of the film and carried announcements of the large Sunday evening rally in the nation's largest auditorium.

Included in this vast audience, the largest ever to attend a meeting sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Mission in the history of our work in Liberia, was the Honourable Mrs. Etta Wright, Under-Secretary of National Defence, who is prominent in the temperance work of several organizations in the city. When visited at her office and told of the nature of the film, Mrs. Wright agreed to lend her support, and campaigned actively in recruiting the temperance forces of Monrovia to make this mammoth rally a success.

The Work of God in Ivory Coast

Continued from page 7

a plan to the fullest extent but we are stretching our present budget as far as we can.

At Boussake, where we have a school situated, we opened, at the beginning of this school year, an evangelistic training school for young men who have not had a chance to go to school for very long but who are willing to serve in God's vineyard. All of them are coming to school with very little financial support but we are looking forward to the time when these young men will be ready for the work of spreading God's Bible Truths.

One can see in the Ivory Coast that both the Lord and the Devil are working hard but as children of God we have the assurance of our Lord's victory over the Satan which should strengthen our courage in the preaching of the second coming of Christ.

Lift up our eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. Pray that more labourers can be sent, so that a great harvest can be gathered into the heavenly barns.