

WILL A MAN ROB GOD ?

I DIDN'T ASK THE QUESTION. No man asked it. It is God's question, and a very serious one. God created us; God gives us life, and all the many good things we enjoy. Why then should any man want to rob Him? God loves us; He gave His only son Jesus to die for us. How can any man bear the thought of robbing Him. God is our Judge and knows every thought and act. Someday we must face Him in the judgment. How can any man dare to rob Him?

Some men may rob Him in ignorance because they have never read in His word "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord" . . . and concerning the tithe of the herd or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord" Lev. 27:30-32. But what about us who know His word and who profess to obey His will. How can we possibly allow Satan to trick us into actually stealing from God what He has intrusted into our hands?

Dear brother, sister, let no excuse keep you from being faithful to God in this matter. Your own eternal salvation may be at stake for he who "knoweth to do good and doeth it not to Him it is sin" James 4:17. Furthermore God's blessing is awaiting those who are faithful. We need that blessing. We must have it. Will a man rob God? God forbid that we his children should be found at all guilty of this offence in failing to return to Him the tithe or tenth that is rightfully His.

BY H.J. WELCH
President,
West African Union

One-tenth for God
Nine-tenth for you.



How much you can stand

BY G.M. MATTHEWS

All Christians are familiar with the statement found in 1 Cor. 10:13; "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." In spite of this wonderful promise and provision, we often feel that the trials and troubles that come to us are considerably more than we can stand.

The story is told of a man, the only survivor in a shipwreck, who finally reached an uninhabited island. For several days he built fires on the highest part of this island, hoping to attract some ship, spending all his time and energy upon this project. Then he built a little hut and hunted birds' eggs for food, but still spent most of each day watching for a ship. Each day he would go to the highest part of the island and watch in all directions, to see if he could spot some ship on the horizon, to which he might signal.

But more and more, as his strength waned, he found the little hut a welcome protection from the burning sun and the cold wind at night. Each day he found the trip to the top of the hill more and more taxing and the comfort and rest in the little hut more and more satisfying.

One day, as he started back to the hut from the top of the hill where he had been watching all day, he saw that the little hut was afire. Before he could reach it everything he had salvaged from the shipwreck and built during his stay in the island had gone up in flames. Heartbroken, discouraged, he felt that this was too much; it was the last straw.

As he sat disconsolate and utterly broken, he glanced out over the sea as he had been doing for many, many months and saw a little ship coming toward the island. He rallied all of his remaining strength and rushed to the top of the little hill to wave frantically. The boat turned and came to the island.

As he rushed down to greet his rescuers, he shouted, "Oh I'm so glad you saw me waving!"

The rescuers replied, "We did not see you waving, but we did see your smoke signal of

distress, and we came to investigate." His "last straw" trial had resulted in his salvation and rescue!

Often we are tempted to ask, "Why does God test so closely and so carefully?" The answer is; God must make sure; the new heavens and new earth must not contain any one whose character has not been so thoroughly tested that there is no possibility of sin arising the second time. Someone was watching the testing programme at an army weapons manufacturing plant. As each new part was added to the weapon on its way down the assembly line, it was retested. After being completely assembled it was again tested on the firing range in all types of circumstances. It was plunged into water: it was covered with sand; it was exposed to high temperatures, then to low ones: then it was tested again and again.

The observer asked, "Why do you test these weapons so very carefully?" The supervisor in charge of the inspection programme answered, "We must do everything we can to ensure that the weapon will not fail in battle."

God is making certain that sin will not arise the second time on this earth, so He tests, tries, and inspects, to find all the imperfections and to correct them, so we can become citizens of the perfect land He has prepared for us.

The Blacksmith's Prayer

In one of J.L. Tucker's Quiet Hour sermons he relates the following: "One day a friend who was not a Christian stopped at the little forge where a blacksmith was working, to talk with him. He was quite sympathetic with the blacksmith, for it seemed that he had many, many trials and troubles. Finally the friend said, "It seems strange to me that so much affliction should pass over you just at the time when you have become an earnest Christian. Of course I don't want to weaken your faith in God or anything like that, but here you are, trying to do your best, being faithful in every way that you know how, praying for God's help and guidance, and yet things seem to be getting steadily worse. I can't help wondering why it is."

"The blacksmith did not answer immediately. It was evident that he had thought of the same question before. But finally he said,

'Do you see the wrought iron I have here to make into horseshoes? Know what I do with it? I take a piece and heat it in the fire until it is red, almost white, with heat; then I hammer it unmercifully, to shape it as I know it should be shaped; then I plunge it into a pail of cold water to temper it; then I heat it again and hammer it some more. And this I do until it is finished. But sometimes I find a piece of iron that won't stand up under this treatment: the heat and the hammering and the cold water are too much for it. I don't know why it fails in the process, but I know it will never make a good horseshoe.'

"He pointed to a heap of scrap iron by the door of the shop. 'When I get a piece that cannot take the shape and temper, I throw it out on the scrap heap. It will never be good for anything.'

"He went on, 'I know that God has been holding me in the fires of affliction, and I have felt His hammer upon me; but I don't mind, if only He can bring me to what I should be. And so in all these hard things, my prayer is simply this: Try me in any way you wish, Lord, only don't throw me on the scrap heap.'

How much can you stand? You can stand whatever you have been built to stand. One

day a 75-mile-an-hour hurricane hit the \$35 million Golden Gate Bridge. The city administrators watched with anguish as they saw this great suspension bridge sway twelve and one-half feet. One of them rushed to the telephone and called the man who had built the bridge, an engineer who was then living in New York City. They told him about the storm and about what was happening to the great bridge.

The engineer did not seem to be alarmed and asked the inspector, "How much sway did you say the bridge has?"

The answer came back, "Twelve and a half feet."

The engineer said, "The bridge has been built to bend 18 feet before it will break. Unless the storm drives it farther than an 18-foot bend, it will stand undamaged.

Sure enough, it did stand this terrific hurricane without the slightest damage. The big 36-inch steel suspension cables, the huge
(Continued on page 6)

In the vast arenas of Rome Christians were fed to wild beasts and others burnt as torches to light the spectacle, but in spite of the fear of torture and death, they remained true to their God!





OTUN: Left to Right: Pastor & Mrs. B.A. Roberts; Pastor & Mrs. T.K. Olufemi; Pastor R.W. Simons; Pastor & Mrs. S.A. Majolagbe; Pastor & Mrs. J.E. Adewoye.

ORDINATION SERVICE

Otun

Ordination Service In Otun

By G. M. Ellstrom

President,

West Nigerian Mission

Before a congregation of about 125 delegates and 200 members from the district at the West Nigerian Mission Constituency meeting, held at Otun, five men were ordained to the Gospel Ministry. Standing in front of the motto: "Go Work today in My Vineyard", which was the motto of the Constituency meeting, Brother Henri delivered a very stirring message, especially prepared for the five candidates to the Ministry, but a blessing to us all.

After this inspiring sermon a beautiful ordination service took place. Pastor S.A. Dare offered the prayer as fifteen ministers took part in the laying on of hands in consecrating these five candidates to the Gospel Ministry. Our Union President, Pastor H.J. Welch, then gave the charge, pointing out the great responsibilities to which they had been called. The writer then had the privilege and the joy of welcoming the five candidates into the high calling of the Ministry.

The five newly ordained Brethren are: Pastors B.A. Roberts, President of North Nigerian Mission, R.W. Simons, former treasurer of East Nigerian Mission, J.E. Adewoye, T.K. Olufemi and S.A. Majolagbe, district leaders in West Nigeria.

We wish these men God's richest blessing as they fulfil the greater responsibilities that have now been placed upon them. We trust that God will give them great success in their ministry.

ATION ICES

Accra



ACCRA: Left to Right: Pastor C. D. Henri; Pastor N. B. Nielsen; Pastor J. B. Fridley; Pastor Henri Kempf; Pastor Frank C. Barfoot; Pastor H. J. Welch; & Pastor A. F. Tarr.

Ordination Service In Accra

By M. T. Battle

Director of Public Affairs

West African Union Mission

On Sabbath, January 30, in Accra, Ghana, West Africa, Jack B. Fridley, Frank Barfoot and Henri Kempf were ordained to the Gospel Ministry. Those taking part in the ordination service were A. F. Tarr, President of the Northern European Division and H. J. Welch, President of the West African Union. Others taking part in the ordination service were C. D. Henri, Ministerial Secretary of the Union and N. B. Nielsen, Union Secretary-Treasurer.

Pastor F. C. Barfoot is a graduate of Newbold Missionary College, London, England, and has his second tour of service in West Africa as the Union Publishing and Sabbath School Secretary. Pastor Henri Kempf is President of the Ivory Coast Mission and is a product of the French Adventist Seminary in France. Pastor J. B. Fridley is a graduate of P. U. College.

We wish for these brethren the richest blessings of heaven and much success in their work.

How much you can stand?

(Continued from page 3)

steer towers cemented in great blocks of concrete on the bedrock of the ocean floor, and every other part of the structure were all built so that the great bridge would stand through a terrific storm . . . one of the greatest America has ever known. I believe that the promise and provision we find in I Corinthians 10:13 is assurance that you and I have been built to stand with God's help through all the trials and difficulties that He will ever allow to come upon us.

All Things for Good

Note these comforting words from the pen of Ellen G. White, from *The Review and Herald* of April 10, 1894: "He (Satan) may cause the furnace to be heated, but Jesus and holy angels watch the precious ore; and to the trusting Christian, grace will be



Never does the human soul
appear so strong and noble
as when it foregoes revenge
and dares to forgive an injury

E. H. Chapin



found sufficient, and nothing but the worthless dross will be consumed. The fire kindled by the enemy can have no power to destroy the true gold."

In Romans 8:28 we read the following: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Here is a plain declaration from Holy Writ that every detail of life's activities is ordered by One who is all-loving, all-wise, and all-powerful. Please note the expression "all things." When Jacob's sons returned from buying food in Egypt and reported to their father the conditions upon which they might return to Egypt for further provisions, he said, "Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away; all these things are against me" (Gen. 42:36). As Jacob found out later, he was greatly mistaken. While he was bereaved and saddened by the loss of Joseph, God was working things out so that his family would be preserved during the terrible time of famine that was to come.

Once-prosperous Job, bereaved of everything he had, including his precious children,

was sitting on a pile of ashes, scraping his running boils. He could not think of any great sin he had committed, so in his mind the questions kept rolling around like a great wheel: "Why, Lord, oh, why did this happen to me?" How could the destruction of all his property, the death of his precious children, ever be used to the good of anybody?

The book of Job answers this question fully. Nevertheless, most of us have asked many times the same question that Job asked. The great lesson that God wanted to teach the children of Israel in their journeys across the wilderness from Egypt to the Promised Land was simply to trust God. This is the lesson He desires to teach us today.

Although God does not give us the privilege of peering into the future, to see beforehand the experiences that are to come to us, and although we are not privileged to understand the full meaning, or at times any of the meaning of some of the experiences through which we are called to pass, yet each of us can look back and see God's hand working in our behalf. We can see that whenever we have trusted God fully and completely we have been blessed. Then, let us learn to fully trust Him with our lives every day.

Another great lesson the heavenly Father wants us to learn from these troubles and trials is that we are happy, we are successful, we are victorious, only when we have fellowship with Christ. The history of man seems to bear out the fact that often full fellowship is never entered into unless and until great suffering comes to us and drives us into the arms of Jesus. "God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him." — *The Desire of Ages*, pages 224, 225.

From the pen of the same writer a statement appeared in *The Review and Herald* of November 25, 1884: "He (God) . . . has a song to teach us and when we have learned it amid the deep shadows of affliction, we can sing it ever afterward." Apparently the special song the saints will sing throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity is a song of their experience." We can never sing the "experience" song in heaven unless we have the experience on this earth. Then let us each determine, by the grace of God, to learn that song on this earth, so we may sing it joyfully and gladly throughout eternity.

— REVIEW AND HERALD

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT MESSENGER

My times are in His Hands

BY MARIE C. WRIGHT



*My times are in His hands,
How comforting the thought
'Tis not for us to understand,
Nor raise our fears for nought.*

*He leads us all the way,
If we but trust in Him,
Though hard and long the day,
And faith in Him grows dim.*

*The sunset hour draws near,
With promise of sweet rest.
Release from anxious fear
Sweet trust that He knows best.*

*His love has constant been,
Though oft we wander far
And grieve His heart by sin,
Our character to mar.*

*His hands, always held out,
Do beckon us each hour.
His care is all about,
In every leaf and flower.*

*Then trust His heart of love,
Thy times are in His hands.
Thy help is from above;
Just know He understands.*

Action Evangelism

BY C. A. BORAM

Principal of the
West Nigerian Training College

Since about 1946 we have had a church in the village of Epe, Ekiti. It has been supervised off and on by a few as part time work and an evangelist was even there a short time. There have been about 90 people including children attending at one time and we have no baptized members among them. They have been sheep without a shepherd, not even a small boy shepherd. This year we were again unable to supply a shepherd but the "Adventist Training College with the students and tutors working together are trying to shepherd this small flock with the Lord's help."

Although this is an early time to report results we feel the Lord has blessed so greatly we must share our experiences. The first Sabbath, several students and I conducted the Sabbath school and preaching service. In the afternoon our Senior Tutor Mr. J. O. Ogunniran conducted a Baptismal Class with 12 attending. The next Sabbath another Tutor Mr. D. K. Omole conducted the Sabbath Service and again Mr. Ogunniran conducted the Baptismal Class and

there were 22 in the class, almost a 100% increase. The next day, Sunday, six students from the College (Joshua Adeogun, Ajibade Awopetu, David Babalola, James Ibidun, Johnson Oyawale, and Joel Oyedijo) and I went to help the members work on their church. We plastered a wall, filled cracks, whitewashed and tried to do what repair work we could. It was wonderful to see all working together mixing cement, hauling water and sand and plastering the walls. Everyone was very happy and surely received the Lord's blessing. About 60 or more helped in the project. Wednesday afternoon the boys went back to help again and had prayer with the members. We are praying for these members in the College Church and we can hardly wait until Sabbath to see if the Baptismal class will double again this week. We trust that some of these people will be ready for the harvest in the near future. With the Lord's blessing and with the help of the students and tutors, the future is bright for Epe-Ekiti, West Nigeria.

OFFICIAL ORGAN of the West African Union Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists — P O. Box 1016, Accra, Ghana
Printed at The Advent Press — Box 0102, Accra, Ghana
EDITOR: Pastor C. D. Henri — ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Mrs. N. B. Nielsen





NEWS NOTES

✘ Mr. and Mrs. B.A. Roberts and children left Jos on March 14 for furlough in the U.S.A. Brother Roberts is the President and Secretary Treasurer of the North Nigerian Mission.

✘ Mrs. Henri and children, Burdetta, Patricia, and Dunbar accompanied Pastor C. D. Henri to Ile-Ife Hospital where Pastor Henri conducted the Spring Week of Prayer.

✘ Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Jordan and children, Caudace and Tommy left Accra on the first week in March for their furlough in the States. Brother Jordan is the Principal of our Bekwai Seminary. Brother Jordan was in a car accident a few weeks previously when he was injured and the car demolished. When in Accra, both Brother and Sister Jordan were ill with dengue fever and so were detained a week, but finally succeeded in getting started on their way. We trust they will be more fortunate while in the States.

✘ Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Meredith, and children Susanna, Roland, and John have left for their furlough in their homeland. Enroute they expect to visit friends in various parts of Europe. Brother Meredith is in charge of the Advent Press in Accra.

✘ Mrs. D. H. Hughes and daughter Augela have recently returned to Ibadan, West Nigeria after furlough in the States. Brother Hughes is in charge of the West African branch of the Voice of Prophecy and Mrs. Hughes also assists in the work. Brother Hughes and son, David, returned some months ago, but Sister Hughes remained longer for needed medical care.

✘ G. C. Winslow, Principal of our New Adventist College sustained severe injuries when the car he was driving was in collision with a lorry at Ilshan. Brother Winslow is recovering rapidly.

✘ Dr. and Mrs. L. D. Longo and family, of the Ile-Ife Hospital visited the Union headquarters and Kwahu during their local leave. Dr. Longo is a Specialist in Gynecology and is giving excellent service at the Hospital.

✘ Pastor Frank Barfoot has returned to Accra after two months spent in the United Kingdom. His own severe illness and the care of his widowed and aged mother made the trip necessary. Though back in West Africa and anxious to resume his responsibilities as Publishing and Sabbath School Secretary, we are sorry to report that Brother Barfoot has again been hospitalized. He needs our prayers.

✘ NEWS NOTES from West Nigerian Mission

We regret to inform our readers of the death of Brother Isaac Aborisade in a motorcycle accident on Friday the 11th of March. For many years he was a faithful cashier accountant in the West Nigerian Mission Office. His wife and two children, his father and mother, four brothers and eight sisters and a host of friends mourn the loss of this faithful christian brother. We regret losing this young man who was so valuable

to our work in West Nigeria. He has been laid to rest to wait the coming of the Lord Jesus. May we who remain so live that we can meet him in that glorious day.

Teacher Oyerinde the travelling teacher for West Nigeria and the owner of the Motorcycle was seriously injured and is in the University College Hospital in Ibadan.

Our hearts go out in sympathy to the family and other relatives of Brother Aborisade and Oyerinde.

Our Grammar School opened on the 28th of February, 1960 with 20 students present. A class of 30 is expected when all are present.

Mr. Myron Cross arrived in West Nigeria from East Nigeria on the 1st of March to take up his duties as the principal of this new Grammar school. We welcome him with his wife and three children to the West Nigerian Mission.

A successful institute was held for recruits to our Literature Evangelists force as well as those who have begun this work during the last year. Though he received help from the Mission Office for his worship talks, Mr. Hope Oriaku carried the load of teaching all alone and did a very commendable job. We trust that our colporteurs will show by their success in the field that they have benefited by this good meeting.

✘ GHANA MISSION WRITES:

A successful Constituency meeting was held in Ntonso. The delegates resolved to double their tithe and the number of new souls won during the past two years before the next session.

Mr. R. D. Jordan the Principal of the Bekwai Seminary has been miraculously saved from a lorry accident which might have been very fatal. He was in the Hospital for 3 days. Thanks be to God for sparing his life. He is now gone home on furlough.

We are happy to welcome back to the field the Moyer family who faithfully laboured in the field for about 5 years. He is now the Acting Principal of the Bekwai Seminary.

The Mission officers and staff are conducting a public Meeting in a nearby village. They visit this place four times a week in the evenings.

A lively and interesting workers meeting has been held at the Headquarters Office from 29th February to 3rd March. Pastor C. D. Henri and the brethren from the Seminary contributed greatly to the success of the Meeting.

It was decided that each worker — from the District Leader to the pupil evangelist — should at least raise one new company this year.

We were sorry to miss the councils of some of the older workers who are now on Sustentation, Pastors S. B. Essien, J. M. Arloo, D. K. Asare and Evangelist I. A. Mensah, but six new pupil-evangelists were employed to help in the growing work.

The Self-help Campaign which was launched the beginning of last year to raise money for a new opening in an unentered territory still continues. A thousand pounds have been realised. The campaign will be closed in July. All those who desire to see the work of the Mission be finished in the shortest possible time should give liberally to this "Isaac Offering" either to their churches or post it direct to:

The Secretary Treasurer, P. O. Box 480, Kumasi.