

West African Advent

messenger

Voice of The West African Union Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists

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The worst kind of ROBBERY!

"THE WORST KIND of Robbery!" the people shouted, when the report was heard. A benighted wayfarer with a tired and hungry boy could not find a resting place in a town because of the lateness of his arrival there. They were seen by an old man who took them into his house and entertained them free of charge. He allowed them to sleep on his own bed in his own room only to find the next morning that his room has been ransacked and his clothing, money and valuables all taken away by those who had been blessed by his kindness, and self sacrifice.

Now listen friends to the Word of the Creator of the Universe from whom comes "all good and perfect gifts."

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

By PASTOR C. B. MENSAH
President,
Ghana Mission



Dedication of Nkwaakwa Church

By I. F. Antwi
Akoman-Ashanti
(Techiman District)

Nkwaakwa Church was dedicated to the glory of God on the 16th of April, 1960. There were about 1,000 people present during the dedication. It was a day of merry making. Pastor C. B. Mensah, President of the Ghana Mission, including the Secretary-Treasurer and Pastor A. M. Moyer now Principal of S.D.A. Training College, Bekwai, were present. We had several invitees too who were non-believers. The crowd included the Paramount Chief of Offinso State, Queen-Mother of Offinso State, Dadeeso Aba (Ksi) Chief, Nkwaakwa Chief, Asempanaye Chief and one other Chief whose name has escaped me.

The Paramount Chief later appealed to the President to open a higher Institution in his State. The Chief in the person of Nana Wiafe Ababio promised to give £3,000 towards the building of any College which will be built in Offinso or elsewhere in his State. The President (Pastor C.B. Mensah) thanked the Chief for such offer and promised to deal with the matter in their next meeting.

The dedication was originally scheduled to take place at 2.00 p.m. prompt but Pastor Agyei altered the time to suit our convenience. We started our usual Sabbath School lessons at 11.00 a.m. and closed at 12.10 (noon). Everybody enjoyed the Sabbath School lessons in spite of the delay caused owing to the arrival of the invitees.

At last the great day came. We were wondering as who should occupy the chair for the big occasion, but with God nothing is impossible. Nkwaakwa Chief who had opposed us in several ways agreed to occupy the chair with two Chiefs acting as his assistants.

Pastor A. M. Moyer delivered an inspiring sermon. The Scripture reading was read by Pastor Agyei (See 2 Chron. 6:32-42). The first

prayer was offered by Brother D. Akuoko. Kumasi singing band sang Isaiah 61. One by one all the various bands sang beautiful melodies to praise God. Akoman, Namon, Techiman, and Kumasi singing bands were the centres of attraction. They dressed like the lilies of the valley and marched through the principal streets.

Pastor Moyer continued his sermon by telling us a story about the well known parable of the two men who built houses on the rock and in the sand. (See Matt. 7: 24-29). This time the builders were Kwame and Kofi. They had identical doors, windows, walls, but the only difference was the site where each chose. He also told us a story about a cripple who decided to give himself at a thanksgiving service. The cripple was very poor and he decided to sit on the pan used by the collector signifying his whole-heartedness in giving generously to help speed God's work. This is a good example which should stir the hearts of all good Christians to follow. Is this not a good gesture? Has someone ever thought that to give is more precious, honourable and blessed than to receive? Acts 20:35. Pastor Moyer warned the believers not to use God's house for any other purpose other than worship. That was a good speech. Historians will agree with me that monasteries in Henry VIII's day were destroyed simply because (1) they were said to be centres of drunkenness and vice, (2) the monks tried to stir up discontent among the people by denying Henry's supremacy. This shows that all chapels which are not used in God's own good way will be destroyed by a mighty hand; this time not Henry but the Everlasting God. There should be quietness in the house of God. (See Habakkuk 2:20.)

The building of the church cost about one hundred and some odd pounds. The various donations received totalled about fifty odd pounds.

Brother S.K. Donyina formerly church elder of Akoman, gave a brief history of the church which dates back from 1958. Whilst Brothers Aniboe, Donyina, Johnson Barfi, Elijah Kyei, Benjamin Duodu and others were preaching at Asuoso, a village 45 miles from Kumasi, a voice called upon them to leave the people for a new station called Nkwaakwa. Although they encountered some difficulties in their new station, but it was not like the opposition they met at Asuoso. Several folks flocked to listen to the Gospel message. Was it not like the call of Peter to the house of Cornelius? (See Acts 10).

The Gospel has now reached the gentiles

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT MESSENGER

A TEST OF FAITH

By
Pastor D. K. Omoleye

Towards the closing of the year 1959, one of our members in Yaba, Lagos Church was facing what we called, 'A Test of Faith'. This young man was and still is working at the Meteorological Department under the Federal Government of Nigeria in Lagos.

About two years ago, during Pastor C. D. Henri's Evangelistic Campaign at Surulere, Lagos, this young man Mr. S. J. Anuligo by name, was converted into the Adventist faith. Later he was granted Sabbath off in his Department. Since the time of his conversion his faith has grown stronger and stronger in Christ; he fully embraced all that the Seventh-Day Adventist Church stands for. At this time of writing, he is the treasurer of our local Church at Yaba.

Now, to him the 'Test of Faith' has come. One bright morning in the month of November, 1959, he was called to the office of his boss where he was told that an examination for Efficiency and Promotion was going to be held soon, and that he has been selected as one of those who should sit for that examination, and that the examination will be held on a Saturday of that month.

This young man came to me for consultation and advice. After much discussion, we prayed that God might lead us aright in this matter. Finally, he determined that he would not take the examination on Sabbath day, 'Come What May'! A few days later, he approached the Head of his Department for a change of the date, or if not, that he could be allowed to take the examination on the Sunday which followed the official date, or any other day.

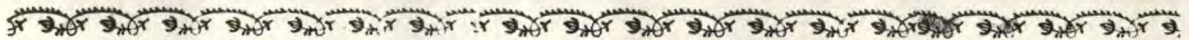
After a long pull, and clear cut discussion, the Authority of his Department saw that he was sincere and determined, and was sure of what he believed, so he was permitted to take the examination the day that followed the official date which was Sunday. We called that permission he obtained, "Victory No. One".

God who was with Daniel and his colleagues and gave them wisdom, which they needed when Nebuchadnezzar tested them in the days gone by, gave this young man wisdom to tackle the problems.

The day of examination came, 'the die was cast' he sat and took the papers which he called "The toughest examination he has ever done in his life". Other candidates said, 'the papers were very easy and simple.' But when the results were out in February this year 1960, he was the one who took the first place in the efficiency section of the test and he was the only one succeeded in the promotion section of the test. This was our "Victory No. Two". He is now on the way up to the Executive grade in that Department.

Dear readers, see what God has wrought, and see what He is able to do for those who know and are sincere in what they believe, and put their trust in God. Such people proved God's power, and God's cause is vindicated on their behalf. It has been written, 'Nothing that is good shall be withheld from those who walked uprightly. Such people publicly confessed Christ, and they were publicly honoured and rewarded.

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God with its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." "Praise ye the Lord."



and what next? It should go to the corners of the earth. (See Matt. 28:19-20). Our end is doomed. We are now in atomic age. There is no hope for us except in Christ Jesus.

Pastor C. B. Mensah dedicated the church at Nkwaakwaa to the glory of God at 1.30 p.m. prompt. Although the chapel is only a little one yet it is a good effort on the part of the believers. We sang hymn No. 74 to bring our service to a close and Brother Sarfo of Kumasi pronounced the benediction.

The believers are strong in faith. Last year someone from the group recited the

memory verses learnt in 1959. The outstanding debt to be redeemed is over £50. Why not help them now? Yours will be appreciated.

Lest I forget, the Offinso Chief gave four guineas as his contribution towards the building of the church. He left the congregation to tour his district for an urgent matter before the end of the closing exercises.

I am in the hope that you will pray for the believers in this new church so that they could stand against any possible opposition which they may encounter.

This is the victory -

By Dr. L. H. TURNER

OUR FAITH

I take as my text this morning a sentence from I John 5:4, a sentence which everybody here knows very well: "And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

For anyone who loves the pomp of words, and a pageant of mighty ideas moving half-hidden among them, it is a stirring text, one of those old martial metaphors the Bible writers loved so much. Here is the tramp of marching feet. Here is the might of empire. Here is victory! Not the victory that comes reluctantly, as one army bends slowly before the gathering strength of another. This is blitzkrieg victory, that rolls its armed mass forward and is not checked by the might of a whole world. And this is the victory that overcometh the whole world.

But these were not mere words to John. For as he wrote them he was looking proudly into the battlegrounds of the soul. A battleground where all must fight against the invading forces of the world. A treacherous terrain, where victory comes to few. Of all the battles, this is the only one that counts at the end; because on its outcome hangs the destiny of the human soul.

You have to fight that battle — and you may lose it, because everyone who has ever fought it in the armour of humanity has been defeated. Many men have been defeated with advantages stacked heavily in their favour. Judas lost the battle while he stood in the very gates of the kingdom, with the King Himself. The rich young ruler lost the battle even while he was looking into the eyes of the Master whom he had come to seek. Saul lost the battle after being chosen as the king of God's kingdom on earth. Solomon lost it, and he was the wisest of us all. He lost it after his wisdom had won for him humility, and then won it again.

Is there anything more worth listening to than God's pronouncement, God's way of victory: "As this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"? What is this talisman that can change vanquished humanity into the heroes of the cross? It is a God-given power to believe without the aid of the understanding or the senses, or the reason, or experience.

As the Bible uses the term, it becomes more than that. It is the opening of the soul to the influences of all the things we have lost as a result of sin; all the influences that were able to impinge on the consciousness of man without the aid of these things.

Did you ever stop to think how our field of awareness has been limited by sin? How shut in we are by our humanity? How we stumble over barriers in our poor search for knowledge? There is the barrier of dimension. What a tiny segment of dimension is opened to our awareness! All the bigness of the universe that we can see even, but which is too big to put together to make meaning of; all the microscopic world that hides away in every cubic centimetre of this earth. Countless events are taking place of which we know nothing. There is the barrier of understanding. Our understandings are too weak to comprehend what does come into our ken. There is the barrier of memory. Things are gone before we can put them into perspective. There is the barrier of the sense of perception. We can hear only a few vibrations. We can see the results of only a few vibrations.

But faith can leap over all these barriers. We don't have to understand to believe. We don't have to see to know, when we know with the eye of faith. Faith widens our eyes, our perspective. It reaches out like a great Telescope into the beyond and brings into our ken the universe. It makes the earth become a small thing; time, a little thing in the span of eternity. Pain and distress, little things against the joy of the hereafter. It is no wonder it becomes such a weapon in the hand of the Christian. How does this talisman work for us? How does it change erring humanity into the storm-troopers of the kingdom?

In the first place it takes away our fear. We don't like to admit it, but we are full of fear. Fear holds us back. Fear of the future,

fear of failure, fear of embarrassment, fear of the unknown. Many a man is chained to fear of his past. Many another finds before him a barrier of fear of the future. How different we would be if we could walk straight ahead without fear! What strength we could bring to others! What victory there would be in our own lives!

Fear makes little people of us. It makes the kind person unkind; the thoughtful person spiteful; the unselfish person in the grip of his fear becomes intensely selfish. If you want to have some conception of what faith does to banish a man's fear, you want to get into the cage, into the pit, with Daniel among the hungry lions.

What a night of suffering that would have been for us! What though the lions did not attack, how we would have listened with pent breath as the minutes dragged by; for every breath from those beasts, for every softly padding step. But to Daniel it was nothing, because he did not spend the night with the lions. He spent the night with God. And as the anxious Darius looked down into the pit — of course God had shut the lions' mouths! Daniel never expected anything else.

Faith gives us confidence. How many of us go about life's commonest assignments with dragging feet, because we have no confidence? All the perhap's and the maybe's

frown upon us and sap our strength. We would like to believe. We would like to hope, but we go without real confidence, real strength. What a difference faith makes!

It was like that with David. He came down to find the armies of Israel rigid with fear. He looked across at the hillside and he saw what they saw, but what he saw was not what they saw. He saw the giant but not the giant's bigness. What David saw was an uncircumcised Philistine defying the armies of the living God. And he went out to stop him! Armour? Well, that was a little uncomfortable. Weapons? He had always been used to a sling. He did the giant the honour of putting five stones in his pouch, I sometimes wonder why he did. He listened to the challenge from that mighty man. He simply explained to him that he had come in the name of the Lord and went out and vanquished him. There was no hesitation — he was confident, and it happened. That is the miracle of faith.

Faith can do more than that for us. Faith can put us in touch with mysterious sources of power. And here is the real wonder of faith — that we do not understand. How often we feel the need for more power than we can command! How often we feel weakness, and realize that weakness is impending us! We lack the strength of will to say no when we should say no. We lack the strength

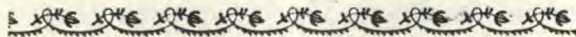
*In Christ and only
in Christ, is there
victory complete
victory over every sin.
At His feet there is
power and grace to
overcome every
tendency to sin,
whether inherited
or acquired.*



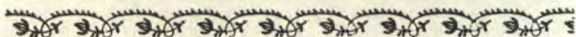
to rise above the mists of indecision and indolence, and get to work when there is work waiting to be done.

We lack the power to lift a brother when he is down in the depths of discouragement. We feel impotence as we try. Strange, because all around us there is power. Tremendous power. In the last decade or so, when scientists have been peering between the crevices of matter, as it were, and getting glimpses of stupendous energy, it has become easier to believe in the God of Pentecost. We know so little about the nature of matter. Who knows what there is to find out yet? Who knows if we have even entered the vestibule of knowledge in that regard?

Faith, it seems, has the power to break down the barrier of humanity and let in



*I glory in the cross of Christ,
For there He paid the awful price
In pain and grief and woe.
We know death is sin's penalty,
But Jesus died for you and me
And paid the debt we owe.
He gave His blood a cleansing stream
To wash believing sinners clean;
He did not die in vain,
And so I glory in His cross
And count the whole world little loss
If Heaven I may gain.*



power in a way that we don't understand. We don't have to understand. For one terrible moment of blind concentration, Samson laid hold on power that was like the power of nature in its most fiendish moods. Elijah, after an exhausting day on Carmel, ran twenty miles ahead of the war horses and chariots of the king. Peter, looking into the eyes of Jesus that night in Galilee, suddenly laid hold of power that enabled him for a moment to walk on the water. That is the power of Pentecost. And lack of faith is the only thing that stands in the way of that power. It is there, and as I think of it, it is not even a miracle. It is only the operation of natural laws, laws that we don't understand.

Faith can give us intellectual certainty. And how we need that today! How much of

our belief is, well, a ninety per cent hope, a ninety per cent belief, tinged with a little fear that we hide even from ourselves. What a difference it would mean if we really believed as Paul believed. Paul, who said, "I know whom I have believed." Paul, who was convinced that he had the mind of Christ. He said so: "We have the mind of Christ." And even if an angel should come down from heaven and preach unto them another gospel than this he warned them, "believe it not," because he had the mind of God. And how that certainty lifted him into position from which he could help the poor. Unconfident people of the succeeding centuries!

Too many of us are like Thomas. We need the confirmation of our senses, the certainty of understanding to underline what we ought to believe. Jesus told him that those who believed without seeing were much more blessed. To Paul, too, came the last great gift of faith — victory over death. Again, that is something we don't talk about very much. But what a spectre is death! How it dogs our footsteps, turns our brightest moments to dust and ashes. With the thought that all may be ended some day our work becomes futile; but after all, what a spectre is death!

Is there anything more sublime in all literature than the magnificent victory which Paul gained over death by faith? Paul, who was led to the very pinnacle of a great divide, and looked across the purple prospect at the sunset that was just before him; and death was just a shadow between the glory and the glory, and he cried, "I am now ready to be offered!" His course was finished and he had held onto his faith, because that is the translation — "held onto my faith." "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." And how those verses have given courage to many a trembling soul!

What a weapon is faith! How few of us hold it. But if we took it into the fight how sure victory would be! For we would have no fear; we would march with confidence. We would march with power. We would know. Faith transforms the shuffling Peters with their lying denials into the giants of Pentecost. Faith can take the little men, who seem destined for nothing better than to hold the coats of the persecutors of the Stephens, and turn them into that legendary figure against the sunset, who say, "I know." What better prayer can we pray than, "Lord, increase our faith"? For "this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"!

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT MESSENGER



NEWS NOTES

✘ Miss Katherine Freeth, nursing sister in-charge of obstetrics has returned to her post of duty at the Kwahu Hospital in Ghana, after a six months furlough in the United Kingdom. She looks the picture of health and vitality. Welcome Sister Freeth.

✘ Pastor C. D. Henri and Andrew Daitey, are in the midst of an evangelistic Campaign in Accra. The attendance for the past three weeks has averaged over 400. Prospects point to a good harvest of souls. We entreat our brethren everywhere to send a petition to God for the success of this campaign.

✘ Mrs. Thelma McKeever has arrived in Accra to join her husband. While here she is temporarily assisting in the Business Office of the Union. Brother McKeever is a partner of the African American Enterprises, a company beginning Agricultural, Export and Import business in Ghana.

✘ Pastor and Mrs. H. J. Welch are out of the Office for two weeks on a much needed local leave.

✘ We have received sad news here, that the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Larry Longo has been stricken with a serious illness and is in the Government Teaching Hospital in Ibadan. Though she is improving we solicit your prayers that God will continue to heal and bless.

✘ Dr. and Mrs. Donald Peterson and Dr. and Mrs. Paul Gentsler have left West Africa for the U.S.A. Dr. Peterson on permanent return after serving Nigeria and her people for five years and Dr. and Mrs. Gentsler, on six months furlough.

✘ Miss Amy Horder, Nursing Sister at the Kwahu hospital in Ghana for the past five years has returned to the United Kingdom on permanent return. Sister Horder gave years of valuable and self-sacrificing service at Kwahu and in Nigeria.

✘ Colporteur Orders and Sales for 1960 are spiraling up and up. An increase of £135. 0. 0. in deliveries is reported for the first three months of 1960.

✘ Pastor and Mrs. L. Nielsen, and family are enroute to their home in Denmark for furlough. Pastor Nielsen is Bible Teacher in both the Secondary School and Teacher Training College. In addition to these major responsibilities, Pastor Nielsen is also the leader of the Ministerial Training Programme and pastor of the Bekwai Church.

✘ A hearty welcome and Bravo to Sister Beryl Turfill. After a long, hard battle with pain of illness and surgery, undergone while in America securing her degree in nursing administration, she has returned to Ile-Ife where she assumes the very heavy responsibility of Matron.

Also aboard the M.V. Apapa when she docked in Lagos, Nigeria was Miss Anneli Ketola from Finland. She also is to assume nursing responsibilities at the Ile-Ife hospital. Miss Ketola is not new to West Africa. Her father was president of the Liberian Mission away back in 1943. So, welcome back to West Africa and the continuing challenge of mission service, Miss Ketola, and many more happy years of service.

J want to pay MORE than my tithe

By S. A. Majolagbe

A Voice of Prophecy student in Benin City by name Rufus Edorer, who is a local Government Police Officer told me that he was ready for baptism. His name was enrolled in the baptismal class. When we studied "Tithe Payment", he was convinced and started right away to pay his tithe. Other comrades of his tried to discourage him, but he persisted in spite of their attempts to dissuade him.

Before sixteen (16) calendar months from the time he was recruited had passed, he was promoted to second (2nd) class police officer, and surpassed his comrades in position and salary. To him was the promise of God fulfilled when He said, "Bring ye all the tithes into the store-house, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

On pay day, he came to my house and said, "I want to pay more than my tithe to the great God of heaven. I have proved Him, and I believe that 'He ruleth in the kingdom of men.'" He was instructed to pay only his tithe, and what he added was put into the "thank offering".

Today this police officer is a baptized member of the Church, rejoicing in the Lord. He is happy with his quick promotion, and he realizes that he was not due for it, but that God had so ordained because he did his best in paying to God what was His. May many of our believers experience, as this new member has, the joy that comes from the faithful payment of tithe.



THE WORLD'S GREAT Heart

The world's great heart is aching, It's aching fiercely in the night,
And God alone can heal it, and God alone give light;
And the men to bear the message and to preach the living word,
Are you and I, my brothers, and all others who have heard!

We grovel among trifles and our spirits fret and toss,
While above us burns the vision of the Christ upon the cross;
And the blood of God is dropping from his wounded hands and side
And the voice of God is crying, "tell poor sinners I have died!"

O, voice of God we hear Thee above the wrecks of time,
Thine echoes roll around us and the message is sublime;
No plan of men shall thwart us no stronghold us dismay,
For God commands obedience and love has led the way!



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