New Baptismal Record

The Ivory Coast Mission first pioneered and established in 1946 became organized in 1952. Slowly and painstakingly the work has grown upon the first foundations until at the close of 1968 there were 443 members in its 7 churches.

In the first quarter of 1969, sixty souls were baptized in what was the largest gain in any one quarter since the mission started.

Pastor P. Heise the Mission President just reported two baptisms which took place on June 28th with 47 baptized at Divo and 21 at Daloa. This with other baptisms not only surpass the first quarter’s record but bring the total number for the six months to 140.

It is worthy of special note that of this number 32 were Voix de l’Esperance (Voice of Prophecy) students.

When it is realized that never before has the century mark been reached in a whole year it will be seen that great things are happening in Ivory Coast. The present tally reads 8 churches, 574 members. We rejoice at the evidence of the Lord’s leading and pray for His continued blessing on the labours of His faithful servants in this great French-speaking land.

New French Correspondence Course

In addition to his many duties as President of the Ivory Coast Mission, Pastor P. Heise has ‘made’ time to write a new correspondence course for the French Voice of Prophecy (Voix de l’Esperance — literally — Voice of Hope.) The course used thus far has been very involved and not suited to West Africa. After much research, Pastor Heise has produced a 20 lesson course which is already proving very acceptable in the Ivory Coast and it will very soon be introduced in Togo/Dahomey. We anticipate a greatly improved enrolment, graduate and baptismal rate from the introduction of this course.

Accra Has First Five-day Plan in West Africa

In the luxurious atmosphere of the banqueting room at the Continental Hotel Accra, fifty people benefited from a specialized course of instruction geared to help them break the smoking habit. For five successive evenings the medical and psychological aspects of the addiction were explained by Drs. R. Krum and H. Harden of Kwahu Hospital and Dr. C. L. O. Allen who is also appointed to Kwahu Hospital but at present acting as a gynaecological consultant at Korle Bu Hospital Accra, with Pastor R. P. Faber directing the programme and adding the spiritual emphasis.

The Five-Day Plan has been used most effectively in many countries and as well as directly helping to promote good health it has proved to be one of the richest means of making friends for the church among the professional and executive classes.

From the experience gained in Accra we have reason to believe that this plan will extend to the major cities of West Africa bringing its blessing to the mental physical and spiritual needs of many.
BAPTISM at Peninsula

Soon after the close of a Week of Prayer conducted by Pastor Walton Whaley, Evangelist of Freetown, he baptized ten students of the Peninsula Secondary School, Waterloo, on Sabbath afternoon June 14th, in the palm-decorated baptistry of the Freetown SDA Church.

Five of these students come from Moslem homes and five from Christian homes; including Cecelia Palmer, daughter of the SDA education secretary of the Sierra Leone Mission. The majority of the Moslem students say that they are "now the only Christian convert in their family." One boy, Gibril (Islamic for Gabriel) Fofana, asserts that he is the "only" Christian in his family of 54. It appears his father, an ex paramount chief, boasts 27 wives!

The 90-minute programme itself featured several items of music. The Waterloo SDA Church Junior Choir did a spirited 2-part anthem, "Marching On," and a 4-part Swedish folk melody, "Children of the Heavenly Father." Veteran ministers, Pastors J. B. Terry and J. B. Leigh took a leading part in the service, too: the first, preached on the "Mystic Change"; the second, offered a Prayer of Dedication.

Two features that lent special "tone" just prior to the "burial" of the candidates, were: choice paragraphs from Desire of Ages, narrated by Principal D.M.P. Rao; and brief biographical sketches presented by the Bible teacher, Mr. Herchel R. Hendley.

A Prayer—Hearing God

Pastor J. A. Makinde of West Nigeria sends us the following report from a layman who rejoices in serving a prayer hearing God.

"One day in my working place a fellow worker asked me to buy some food for him. After he had eaten he developed severe stomach trouble and became unconscious. While we were waiting for him to be taken to hospital I knelt down and prayed and God answered my prayer. He later said that if it had not been for my prayer he would have died."

"A woman whose child was seriously sick came to me. I asked her to believe that God could save her child. She knelt down and I prayed for the child. To the amazement of all, the child started to improve immediately. The woman left praising God for His kindness and love."

We know that God hears and answers prayers. Let us in simple childlike trust believe that He wants us to pray and is ready and willing to answer.

Konola Campaign "YOUTH FOR CHRIST"

Young people and staff from the Konola Academy in Liberia directed by Pastor Gustavsson, the Mission President conducted a four week Evangelistic campaign with meetings held five nights each week.

At the conclusion of the campaign, 35 interested persons joined the Bible Study Class. Of these a number have been attending the Church Services and the prospects for good results look bright.
Dr. J. Ashford-Hyde

Many expressions of sympathy have flowed into the Union office upon receipt of the sad news of the passing to his rest of Dr. John. A floral tribute from the Union was sent, and to Mrs. Myrtle Hyde and her children our prayer filled empathy has been expressed.

We regret a typographical error which crept into last month's report of Dr. Hyde's work in West Africa. Masanga was not the first hospital to be moulded and organized by his capable talents but the third. Jengre and Kwahu hospitals also were established as a direct result of his medical missionary endeavours.

LOME

INVADED

By Seth Abarg Laryea, Publicity Sec.

For two years, the Temperance Club members of SDA Training College have looked forward to the day when they could present a programme in Lome. They anxiously waited for word from Pastor Kempf that the new evangelistic centre was ready, fearing that it might be delayed beyond this academic year, and they would lose their chance. Upon learning that the college would permit them to go during their mid-term break, they were happy to share expenses to realize their dream. On the 5th of June, 1969 this dream became a reality as we started our journey. We were delayed in Accra (where we picked up our travel document), so we could not reach the border before it closed. Consequently, we decided to spend the night at Agbozume where three of our former schoolmates are teaching. Early Friday morning we arrived at the border. This was as far as the school truck was to go, so we walked across and arranged for a bus on the other side to take us to Lome. The only address we had was a copy of the "Messenger" for May, which had a full picture of the new Evangelistic Centre on the cover. Our sponsor, Miss E. Eckerman, showed this to the driver who nodded his head and promptly took us to the Calvary Church! By showing the magazine to some other people, we finally got our bearings and arrived at the correct place.

We were happy to see the Kempfs who immediately made us welcome and helped us get settled in the old mission house. The rest of the day was spent in visiting and shopping in Lome.

By the beginning of Sabbath we were all seated in the new church for Vesper Service. It was then that we were officially welcomed and introduced to the members of the Lome Church.

On Sabbath morning, dressed in white, we all marched through the streets from the old mission house to the new evangelistic centre. Since we were differently dressed, many passers-by questioned us. Some of our Ewe-speaking members explained who we were and what we were doing. The people's actions showed that they knew little about the Sabbath, so we invited them to come and see our programme. Miss Eckerman taught the English Sabbath School class and a brother who has been working with our host, taught the Ewe class. (Mrs. Kempf conducted the children's Sabbath School.)

During the divine service, the sermon preached by Pastor Kempf was interpreted by Brother Godsaver Azilah, who is an old student of our college and an associate member of the I.T.A.

Service over, we had our pictures taken outside the Centre and returned to our 'new home' for lunch. Arrangements had been made on Friday for a beautiful new Togolese tourist bus to take us on a nature excursion in the afternoon. The trip, which ended at Grand Popo in Dahomey, was really enjoyable! We saw places of historical value, beautiful sandy beaches, coconut groves, and curious shells on the banks of the river at Grand Popo. We realized that the book of nature (God's second book) really needs to be studied.

"True Temperance Boys and Girls are we. . . ." Yes, this was the song which began our Temperance programme Saturday night after our trip to Dahomey. Though the audience was smaller than what we are used to in the College, we were happy because if each one present would tell only five friends, many people would benefit from it. We tried to show our audience the "do" and "don't" of health and the effect of alcohol and tobacco on various parts of the body by flannel-board illustrations and experiments. In the poster parade we exhibited the posters made by club members for this year's Poster Contest. "Animal Antics" included cartoon pictures to show the abnormal behaviour of people who use alcoholic beverages. Pastor Kempf interpreted and recorded our songs on his tape recorder.

All being over, we said good-bye to our hosts and Lome brothers. We will always remember Mrs. Kempf for her surprise breakfast and help in transport during the rain. We say a big "THANK YOU" to the Kempfs for their hospitality and kind reception. We pray for their success in Lome.

Last but not least, we say "Ayekoo" to our sponsor, Miss Eckerman, who, unfortunately leaves in July. We, of the Asokore chapter of the I.T.A. appreciate her good work and promise to be true to our Temperance pledge and keep the banner of I.T.A. going.

AUGUST, 1969
“Pastor, if we have a youth camp here next year, there will be at least 500 young people who will attend.” These words were spoken to me by a very enthusiastic young Nigerian on a camp site situated eight miles from Jengre on the high plateau in the Northern States of Nigeria. What prompted him to there will be at least 500 young people who had to walk the remaining miles to the place we were by travelling part way over rough ground by Land-crible the camp site as rugged. It could only be reached the whole area. Pastor Berger Schantz Christensen, the local mission president and myself were housed in the finest dwelling. It was made of woven grass supported by branches. There was an opening for a door and a smaller opening for a window. We slept like all the campers, wrapped in our blanket directly on the ground, though we were protected from insects by our mosquito nets.

The young people had travelled miles to reach their destination. Some had even walked fifty miles to the camp and when they reached there they did not erect a fine light-weight canvas tent, but went to work with a knife cutting branches from the short shrubs that grow on the Jos plateau until they had enough to erect little huts. Someone suggested that it was like the Feast of Tabernacles for we were in semi wilderness country and they really were booths such as the Israelites must have used.

The fact that the camp took place in the dry season was a blessing but not altogether an unmixed one. If there had been any rain all would have been lost, for even in the camp masters domain, we could lie on mother earth at night and look through the roof and see the stars. The fact that there had been no rain, however proved to be a source of inconvenience for the streams had dried up completely so water was at a premium. However a water hole was dug in the mud of the stream bed and gradually water seeped in to provide enough for the minimum needs of the campers. Survival in these surroundings was no problem for these young Nigerians, for they are as hard and rugged as the land in which they live.

Apart from the rigorous incurred by our physical surroundings, a regular normal camp programme was organized by the local mission M.V. Secretary, Brother Isaac Kakwi and by a remarkably fit mission President. From dawn till dusk, the hours were filled with activity and the rocky savannah grass-land provided ample opportunity for exciting exploits. We tracked for miles and climbed the barren mountains, baked scorching hot by the African sun, but it was a great experience for everyone. The thrill of it all was evident on faces of every single member of that camp.

One moving experience occurred on the Sabbath afternoon. We divided into two groups and each group climbed a high rock separated from the other by about 2 miles. Pastor Christensen led one group while Brother Kakwi and myself led the other. We could see the other group clearly silhouetted against the skyline and then at a predetermined time, Pastor Schantz Christensen spoke to me over his walkie-talkie radio which we had carefully concealed from the campers. Most of those young people had never ever seen a walkie-talkie radio and the experience was almost overwhelming for some of them. They heard the other group singing choruses, they heard the voices of their friends and when they talked into my transmitter, they received an answer back from the one to whom they spoke. One younger boy muttered something to Brother Kakwi in his Hausa language.

“What did he say?” I asked. “He said,” replied Brother Kakwi, “Does that thing speak Hausa too.”

We all laughed, but that night as we gathered round the camp fire for worship, the experience of that day was brought home. We may be miles away on a barren mountain or alone in the bush somewhere or even in a busy city street, but we can always tune in to one who can see us and hear and answer us wherever we are.

Yes, and He can speak Hausa too.

Contd. from page 5.

After that, the programme continued with Mrs. Rosiny’s gripping address, in which she stressed the importance of personality development as compared to acquisition of knowledge. She explained that a sense of responsibility and power of creativity and strife for perfection are important traits of a fully developed personality. Finally, she pointed out however, that to reach this goal of full development for one’s personality is one’s own decision and that training is just a means to that end.

After Mrs. Rosiny’s address, prizes were awarded to students for outstanding academic work, good leadership and excellent conduct. The Guest Speaker and the Chairman also received their tribute from the Staff and the Administration.

In his final remarks, Mr. I. K. Annan emphasized again the importance of the Guest Speaker’s Speech. He stressed the need for better understanding between the Administration and the students and expressed the hope that, with the support of the Ghana Government and the Mission the expansion of the Institution would be even more rapid than it had been in the past.

J. Tabi-Agyei
SPEECHDAY AT BEKWAI

The twenty-third anniversary of the Speech and Prize-Giving Day of the Seventh-day Adventist Teacher Training College Bekwai-Ashanti, Ghana, fell on June 8, 1969. By 3 o'clock p.m. the College chapel was almost full of people made up of both new and old students and the invited public. Among the gathering were such guests as Pastor J. K. Amoah, President of the Ghana SDA Mission, Nana; the Paramount chief of Bekwai-Ashanti, Mr. I. K. Annan, a senior Education Officer, Kumasi, and the chairman for the function Mrs. A. F. Rosiny, wife of the Press and Cultural Attaché Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ghana was the Guest Speaker for the occasion.

After melodious music given by the student-body, the Senior Prefect, John Y. Anafi, gave his report which was followed by the Principal's Annual Report. Briefly and competently the Principal, Mr. E. K. Boateng, recounted the progress of the Institution from its very humble beginning in 1945 with only fifteen students, (one of whom was himself) to its present status with 273 active young men and women. Praising the Ghana Government for her support of the Institution, he stated that it has given the institution sufficient for the construction of three new staff quarters. Pastor J. K. Amoah paid a fitting tribute to the Principal, speaking of his long devoted service to the Institution and the Mission.

Contd. on page 4.

EVANGELISM SCHEDULE TO DATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. S. Onwuka</td>
<td>Nneoyi</td>
<td>23 - 1 - 69</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Amapunta</td>
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<td>Osa-Uku</td>
<td>30 - 4 - 69</td>
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<td>Obete</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. T. Vinom</td>
<td>Mbutu-Ichi</td>
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Pastor Imo reports that 91 souls have been baptized during the month of June. Our Brethren are to be commended for their work in God's vineyard. Let us pray for their efforts and for the conclusion of the conflict there, so that the work can go forward with even greater impetus.
GROUP STUDY PLAN BAPTISM

Pastor S. Gustavsson, president of the Liberian Mission, has turned in a glowing report of a successful group study which he has conducted during the past six months in Monrovia.

Using the Voice of Prophecy lessons, he has week by week taught a group of about thirty young people using the Monrovia SDA Church as the teaching centre.

Under his expert guidance the group made solid progress and the lessons were well learned. At the end of the course when certificates were awarded, twenty-six of these young people upon their request were baptized and added to the membership of the Monrovia church. This has brought added strength to the youth work there and we sincerely hope that not only will they remain staunch and true but that they in turn will prove to be soul-winners for the Lord.

UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP IN LIBERIA

It is with pleasure that we see loyal Seventh-day Adventist young people preparing to make the most of educational facilities available and we are happy to report that there are at present sixteen Adventists studying in the University of Liberia.

One of our Monrovia Church members, Sister Elizabeth Swen, is on the faculty of the University where SDA are held in high esteem.

Plans have recently been made to form an Association of Adventist Students at the University and we believe this will do much to bind them closer together and make their combined influence more effectively felt among faculty and fellow students.

ADVENTIST AT BIBLE TRANSLATORS INSTITUTE

Th. Kristensen
Visits West Nigeria

Our Union President visited West Nigeria for the Workers meetings. Accompanied by D. R. Pierson and I. T. Nelson of the Union Treasury Department, Pastor Kristensen spent June 24/25 in counselling and instructing the combined working force of the Mission.

Pastor Omoleye, the Mission President in welcoming the Union representatives expressed his personal gratitude for the sincere interest taken in the affairs of West Nigeria.

Pastor Kristensen explained in detail the working of the Voice of Prophecy Group Study Plan and very strongly promoted its adoption by every worker in the mission. Eager discussion and questions ensued showing the intense interest of all in this new soul-winning plan. A resolution was adopted whereby all workers will continuously conduct at least two group studies starting with the release of the new Voice of Prophecy course which is in process of production.

After leaving Ibadan the Union president went to Ile-Ife for a hospital board and the Treasury Department men visited Ife, ACWA, North Nigeria and Jengre auditing the accounts.

BALL SINGS IN ACCRA

Pastor James Ball was the featured soloist in a public musical programme presented on July 19th in the Community Centre Accra. Supported by the combined choirs of Hansen Road and La Bone Church, Ball sang gospel items in the presentation entitled "A Fantastic Dream." Pastor Richard Faber wrote and read the connecting narration. Plans are being made to take the entire programme to other cities in Ghana.
Equipped for Service

Believing that every means must be used for carrying the final gospel message, the SDA Church of Sierra Leone has acquired some valuable and effective tools to help raise its efficiency level in evangelism and camp meetings. Including in this equipment, pictured here with Pastor J. M. Hammond the Mission President, is a generator with a 1,250 watt output, a battery operated loud-hailer speaker and a 350 watt film strip/slide projector.

An estimated value of this equipment would be in the region of £500 but its value in practical terms is inestimable. That members may be well grounded and more souls reached in the shortest time possible is ample reason for using these mechanical aids to evangelism.

Mensah in Sierra Leone

Pastor C. B. Mensah Lay Activities Secretary of the Union recently visited Sierra Leone where he conducted a series of five workshops teaching more effective methods of soul winning. The preaching of the word is still God’s way of reaching men and subsequent to the workshops. Sermon outlines are being translated into the Mende and Temine languages.

So thrilled and enthused were those who attended the workshops, reports the Sierra Leone President Pastor J. M. Hammond, that they have pledged to substantially improve their soul-winning record before Pastor Mensah’s next visit.

Bitter-Sweet Experience in Port Harcourt

Word has been received that a group of dedicated laymen have been extremely active in the Port Harcourt area and that in one sector 66 candidates have been prepared for baptism. As yet there is no ordained minister in the vicinity to conduct the baptism. Truly the fields are white ready for harvest but the labourers are few. The Messenger family is asked to add this situation to their prayer list.

Gift Bible Evangelism

In connection with the visit of Pastor Mensah, the Union Lay Activities Secretary, the Gift Bible Plan was launched in Monrovia. Thirty-five to forty active laymen met every night for one week to learn how to operate the Gift Bible Plan.

One hundred Bibles were distributed the following week. Laymen have now, for three months, been visiting the interested ones using the "Bible Speaks" lessons for their Bible studies. Pastor Chima, the assistant Pastor of the Monrovia church, has very enthusiastically taken a leading part in this programme.

At the close of the laymen’s campaign about 70 students were still active. Pastor S. Gustavsson, the Mission President, is now conducting a "Pastor’s Bible Study Class" every week with a number of the students attending. We hope this new soul-winning plan will be so successful that we can plan similar campaigns in other towns in Liberia.

AUGUST, 1969
It was Sabbath morning the 4th of December 1968 at about 11.30 a.m. when the sun was striving to stretch out its rays through the hazy harmattan skies when I saw a group of people carrying two bodies in hammocks made of the dark, unwashed, local blankets. They were hurrying to the hospital.

“What was this about?” I asked myself. These were two boys who had gone out on an insect and grasshopper drive; as the custom is with many boys and girls in Northern Nigeria at the close of the year, when many parks are brown, leaves of trees shrink, buds close, grasses droop in preparation of the dry season.

These boys of 9 and 6 years of age were on a grasshopper drive, when the park suddenly caught fire. The flames were soon sweeping across the park with a terrific speed, fanned by the strong N. E. harmattan winds.

In minutes, the two boys were almost completely entrapped by the blazing flames. When they became conscious of the danger they ran in all directions in search of a way outlet but in vain.

When they were almost despairing, they saw a small opening about 15 inches wide. Quickly they rushed to the place. The flames were soon sweeping across the park with a terrific speed, fanned by the strong N. E. harmattan winds.

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Back again into the circle of flames he jumped, and this time, the small opening had narrowed to about 6 inches wide. He grasped the little brother who had by now lost hope of survival, and made his way to the small opening which was now almost closed. He determined to save their lives.

The high flames had just been lowered by the strong winds to close the gap and apparently thus seal their fate. With a mighty jump, he threw both himself and the brother through the place which had just closed.

They fell on the safe side, but with their bodies badly burnt; and lay on the bare ground almost unconscious.

A woman who was just passing, raised an alarm which met with an immediate response from the villagers who streamed to the spot.

Quickly they hurried the two boys to the Jengre Hospital, where the physician was soon alleviating the suffering of the boys whose bodies were seared with pains.

They were admitted in the wards where I was able to meet them during their stay in hospital. I was told by the parents that the response to every greeting by their eldest son was a pointing to the junior brother. I quickly made a literal translation of the boy’s pointing; and I thought he meant “For my brother’s sake.”

Regrettably, because of the more serious burns received in going back to rescue his younger brother the older boy died.

How do you respond to the question that Jesus is constantly asking you. “I gave My Life for thee; What has thou given for Me?”

Mr. E. K. Boateng after a seventeen year connection with the Teacher Training College at Bekwai is to sever his ties. Attending as one of fifteen students in 1945 he returned as Principal and saw the enrolment grow to 273.

Brother Boateng’s long and faithful service so well appreciated by the Ghana Mission and West African Union has also been recognized by the Ministry of Education of the Ghana Government.

The Ministry of Education has appointed Mr. E.K. Boateng as Supervisor of Government Continuation Schools, which responsibility Mr. Boateng will assume at the beginning of the new school year.

We believe that Brother Boateng will continue to witness for his faith as he moves into this wider sphere of influence and wish him every blessing.