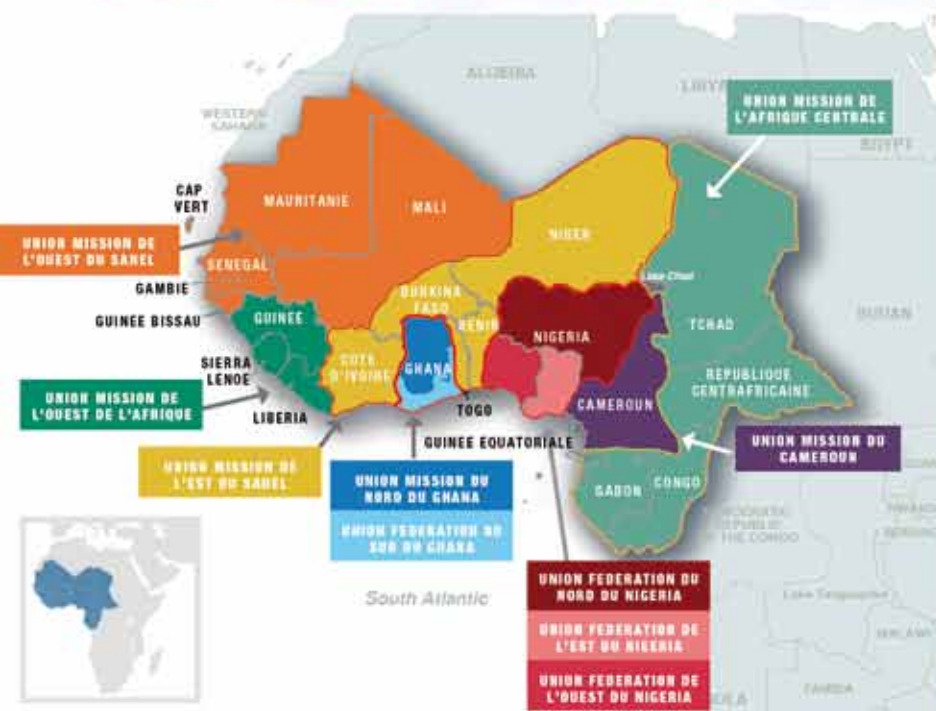




CONCILE DE FIN D'ANNEE

10 Unions!



Le Premier Ministre du Cameroun en communion avec 1500 délégués pour la Liberté Religieuse **p.10**

Les Dirigeants de l'Eglise Adventiste du Septième Jour reçus par le Président du Ghana **p.10**

God is blessing His Church in Africa and around the world!

The Seventh Day church is celebrating its 150 years of existence. Glory be to God! Progress is noted in the number of baptisms, churches, institutions, schools, the media, and especially the preaching of the gospel to everyone, by mission preachers, volunteers and employees, by internet, by testimony, by voice and by attitudes.

In The West Central Africa Division, Our Division, we have witnessed this sharp growth to the point of reaching 10 unions in this division!

Amen! The church is growing!

As we approach the end of year, the project of developing a media center is taking shape because the equipments are available now. Soon we shall be producing outreach programs and also broadcast news whereby sharing news about the wonderful blessings of our Father, in our Division, with the entire world.

Next year, TV channel "Africa Hope Channel" will be available! An exclusive channel for Africa! With speakers, programs made in Africa for Africa! Now we can produce programs and be present on our Adventist Hope Channel in Africa!

Another blessing is the Congress of Religious Freedom held in Yaounde Camerron. A success! We expected to have 500 participants, but on the first day, we had one thousand five hundred people, and on the last day, 5000 people!

Other areas experienced blessings too: Maranatha projects for education, ADRA, AYS, Health, Literature evangelism, Women ministries, etc. God has poured out blessings thus giving the assurance of God's guidance over His church!

The Future? «We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way of how God has led in the past.»Ellen White – Life Sketches, p. 196).

As you read the good news through the pages of this magazine, you can surely realize how God is blessing his church!

Let's keep following our Master, obeying his precepts, hearing His voice, following His will, and He will grant us victory.



Irineo Koch

Directeur Communication (DAO)



LETTRE A MA FAMILLE ADVENTISTE

Un message personnel de la part du président de l'Eglise mondiale

Ted N. C. Wilson

Dear Adventist Family,

Working in New York City this past summer was an amazing experience! It brought back many memories of working in the city many years ago as an intern and later as a district pastor. Nancy and I feel very much connected to New York City: We invested a number of years in that great metropolitan region, and two of our daughters were born there. New York City became a second home for us.

Preaching at the historic Manhattan church on West 11th Street was especially moving. Forty-two years ago I briefly worked as a pastoral intern in that same church, and along with several others, including the current pastor, Tony Romeo, pioneered a special youth center in that church during the "hippie" era.

Greenwich Village [the city neighborhood] was a center for young adults then just as it is now (see "City Lights Burn Out").* It's also one of the toughest, most sophisticated, most expensive places to live and work in the United States.

New York City's residents are dynamic and demanding in their search for something better in life. God is working through many dedicated servants to reach them through creative and innovative outreach programs.

Preparing the Way

Shortly before our recent evangelistic meetings began, students from the Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) went to Greenwich Village to

find opportunities to give Bible studies. Amazingly, in just two four-

hour sessions with four teams knocking on doors, the students returned with 106 requests for Bible studies! Even in difficult territories people eagerly seek for Bible answers to today's questions and are thrilled when they discover the good news of the three angels' messages and Christ's soon return.

Many others also helped prepare for the public evangelistic series.

Health and cooking schools were offered. Community services—food, clothing, and instruction—were shared. Church members were trained in small-group evangelism and how to use Bible study presentations. Hundreds of Adventist young adults moved out across New York City to witness for the Lord!

Drawn to Christ

Watching hundreds of people coming night after night to the evangelistic meetings was very moving to me. Many non-Adventist guests attended and were drawn to Jesus as Bible truth was presented through the power of the Holy Spirit. I watched lives being changed as they responded to biblical truth and made commitments to baptism and membership in God's remnant church. Some of these included a Chinese architect and his wife who plan on witnessing to their family in China; a sales executive with a major hotel chain who is now planning on becoming a minister of the gospel; a Ukrainian woman who had someone translate the nightly sermons into Ukrainian; a husband and wife who were baptized together; and a local man who grew up in Greenwich Village and now feels a gospel "burden" for those in his old neighborhood.

When you preach the prophetic, biblical messages explaining the book of Revelation, something happens to your own heart as well as to those who are listening. I found my own heart being renewed by the Spirit as I shared with others what it means to be ready to meet Jesus in peace.

During the month of June more than 100 evangelistic meetings were held across the metro New York area, with a total of nearly 400 evangelistic meetings planned for the entire year of 2013. Many other General Conference officers and department directors participated in evangelistic meetings in New York City and the metro region. The NY13 activities covered a wide range of outreach events and were coordinated by a committee chaired by Don King, president of the Atlantic Union Conference, and involved the North American Division, the Atlantic and Columbia union conferences, and five local conferences—Northeastern, Greater New York, Allegheny East, New Jersey, and Southern New England. There was a tremendously cooperative spirit from all the church entities, and from pastors, church members, supporting ministries, and ASI [Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries] organizations. Through the blessing of the Lord NY13 showed how a united church can work in a harmonious manner to accomplish the Mission to the Cities goal of reaching a great metropolitan area for Jesus.

The International Field School

Another feature of NY13 was the extraordinary International Field School of Evangelism (IFSE), led by pastors Mark Finley and Robert Costa. Representatives from all world divisions participated in the IFSE, attending classes during the day and participating in the meetings during the evenings. At the beginning of the field school, Mark Finley provided a remarkable presentation on the need for evangelism in 2013 that inspired us all.

I wish every pastor, evangelist, and administrator from every division, union, and local field could have attended the IFSE. When you see renewed dedication—when you see leaders rededicating themselves with new fervor to the work they've been given—you regain your confidence that we really can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!

Reaching the World's Cities

Currently the world divisions, unions, and local fields are working diligently on plans for their targeted large metropolitan areas, with the goal of reaching approximately 630 of the world's greatest population centers— all through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Recently the South Pacific Division sponsored a coordinated evangelistic series titled "The Last Empire" in 27 churches in the greater Sydney area. According to reports I've seen, the churches in Sydney were so excited about the meetings that they plan to do it again next year!

I found it an amazing privilege to again be part of frontline evangelistic activity. Although it was challenging to organize time in my schedule for holding a three-week evangelistic series, it was entirely worth it! I wouldn't trade the experience in New York City for anything! In 2014 I'm planning to be involved with evangelistic meetings in Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, and the Philippines, and in 2015 I expect to preach a major evangelistic meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

A Comprehensive, Sustained Outreach

It's critically important that we encourage a comprehensive and sustained

outreach and evangelistic approach to the work God has given us—a work that involves every member. As part of Mission to the Cities, comprehensive urban evangelism can include each local church's outreach; the establishment of "centers of influence" in the big cities through vegetarian restaurants, health centers or clinics; community service outreach; the distribution of church publications; healthful lifestyle seminars and lectures; small-group ministries;

door-to-door personal evangelistic work and Bible studies; engaging Adventist young adults in personal witnessing, integrated media evangelism, and other creative approaches that touch the lives of city residents.

And for those who wonder how to go about it, the good news is that there are wonderful resources available for doing public evangelism. At the meetings in Greenwich Village I used a digital evangelistic sermon series called "Revelation of Hope," produced by Mark Finley. The evangelistic series has 28 subjects, complete with beautiful graphics that the public sees and written sermon scripts that show up on the speaker's computer screen or monitor. You can adapt the scripts according to your particular needs and illustrations. The system works amazingly well, and provides anyone willing to try with an opportunity to share the full message in a powerfully effective way.

Thank you, worldwide church family, for what you are doing for the Lord and this Advent movement as we focus on Mission to the Cities. I know

God will continue to use you in helping to prepare people for the return of

Jesus. Let's pray for each other as we lift up Jesus, His righteousness, His sanctuary ministry, His Sabbath, His three angels' messages, and His soon return!

Ted N. C. Wilson

1 Adventist World, juin 2013, p. 8,9 ; en ligne : http://issuu.com/adventistworldmagazine/docs/aw_french_2013-1006/1

Annual Council delegates review suggested changes to 28 Fundamental Beliefs

Annual Council delegates today approved the next step in a five-year process to better articulate the church's core beliefs, using clearer—and frequently more inclusive—language.

Adventist theologians led delegates through a reading of an edited draft of all 28 Fundamental Beliefs prepared by the church's Fundamental Beliefs Review Committee. The group was appointed in 2011 to follow up on a decision during the 2010 General Conference Session to strengthen the church's interpretation of origins.

It came as no surprise, then, that Fundamental Belief Number 6 received the most red ink. One proposed edit to the church's belief on Creation replaces "In six days, the Lord made" with "In a recent, six-day creation, the Lord made." Another suggested change specifies that creation took place within the span of "six literal days."

The word "literal" closes what some Adventists have claimed is an interpretive loophole that hypothetically allows theistic evolution to explain the Genesis origins account.

The edited draft also replaces the document's citation of the first verse of Genesis, which states "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth" with a passage from Exodus 20, which says God created "the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them..."

The change allows for differing understandings of whether the creation of the universe was coincident with the six-day creation of life on earth. Some creationist Adventist theologians believe Genesis 1:1 may refer to creation in a broader

sense (see Job 38:7), whereas Exodus 20:11, the draft states, "seems to restrict the creative act to what took place during the six days of creation."

"The suggested version doesn't bring anything new to the belief. It just states with a firmer voice, or a more clear voice, what we have always believed," said Artur Stele, an Adventist world church vice president and co-chair of the Fundamental Beliefs Review Committee.

Overall, the draft proposes changes—most of which are minor and editorial in nature—to 18 of the church's 28 Fundamental Beliefs.

Stele provided additional background on the new gender-neutral language that shows up consistently throughout the draft document. "Man and "mankind" now read "human" and "humanity."

"We wanted to determine whether the suggestion was biblical or just reflecting the spirit of the day," Stele said. After a close study of Hebrew usage in the Old Testament, "you cannot conclude words such as "man" only refer to the masculine gender."

Even in the New Testament, Stele said, inclusivity is the clear biblical intent. The original Greek word "man" was always gender-neutral until the modern era. "It means human being," he said.

The draft also underscores the church's belief on Marriage and Family, suggesting that the phrase "a man and a woman" replace the current word "partners" to ensure that

the church's definition of marriage cannot apply to same-sex unions. The new version "removes any ambiguity," the draft states, that could be "misused" by Adventists supporting gay, lesbian or transgender marriages. Changes to Fundamental Belief Number 23 also include removing the word "disciplinarian" when urging parents to emulate Christ's relationship with humanity when raising their children.

The draft also does away with outdated English vocabulary and usage. "Which" frequently becomes "that" and "gracious" is now used to describe God, instead of "beneficent." Another change replaces the archaic word "fruitage" with "fruit." Stele assured delegates that the Fundamental Beliefs Review Committee only included proposed changes that met several criteria. The only included suggestions that survived editorial scrutiny were ones that "deepen" the statement, refrain from "elaborations of ideas already present" or present key ideas currently missing. The committee also welcomed editorial suggestions meant to clarify or condense the beliefs. Members rejected any suggestions that they felt "primarily promoted a personal agenda," he said.

Adventist world church General Vice President Ben Schoun, who chaired the presentation, reminded delegates that the draft is "not the final copy" and urged them not to spend the afternoon debating semantics. He then invited delegates to lead discussions in their respective church divisions and submit further edits to the Fundamental Beliefs by June 1, 2014. The Fundamental Beliefs Review Committee will prepare a second draft of the document for the 2014 Annual Council, Schoun said. Ultimately, delegates will vote whether to add the second draft to the agenda of the 2015 General Conference Session, where a final vote would occur.

Source ANN

Annual Council delegates review suggested changes to 28 Fundamental Beliefs, deacons, deaconesses now under care of Ministerial Association

Attention dwindled in the auditorium of Seventh-day Adventist world church headquarters on the final day of Annual Council, as some delegates bid farewell to colleagues and others considered the logistics of wedging hefty agenda binders and a week's worth of handouts into already bulging carry-ons.

But, as Undersecretary Myron Iseminger reminded them, there was still unfinished business.

One item, introduced by Jonas Arrais, associate secretary for Elders and Ministerial Training, asked delegates to officially place deacons and deaconesses under the care of the Adventist world church's Ministerial Association.

Arrais explained that there are fewer than 30,000 pastors to oversee the Adventist world church's 140,000 congregations. The church's 250,000 elders are often recognized—rightfully so—as surrogate pastors, he said, but the work of the church's 700,000 deacons and deaconesses often goes unacknowledged and unsupported.

"When Jesus came to earth, he came to serve. The ministry of Jesus as a servant is the model for the ministry of deacons

and deaconesses," Arrais said. "They have a deep spirit of service. We need to recognize, we need to value, the work of these volunteers."

Delegates approved the request unanimously.

Afterward, Andrews University President Niels-Erik Andreasen introduced a new Bible commentary to be published by the university's press in 2015. The commentary is a companion to the previously released Andrews Study Bible, Andreasen said. It was edited by former Biblical Research Institute Director Angel Manuel Rodriguez and written by an international, diverse team of Adventist Bible scholars.

The one-volume commentary offers an alternative to the seven-volume Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary set, which costs more than \$400. Andreasen said the new commentary will deepen readers' understanding of biblical themes, going section-by-section rather than verse-by-verse. Verses, he explained, were not added to the Bible until later, making thematic study of the Scriptures essential.

Delegates each received a printed sample of selected portions of the commentary. The project is funded by Adventist world church headquarters and Andrews University.

Several agenda items in, Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson took to the microphone to draw attention to the "distinction" between church and institutional structure. Some church entities, he said, are now using the title "Vice President for Finance" instead of the traditional "treasurer." Similarly, he said, some church administrators now favor "Vice President for Administration" over "secretary."

"This is not as it should be. Please use the correct nomenclature," Wilson said, pausing after each word for emphasis. "When you use the other nomenclature, you are setting up a presidential system. Within the church, we report to the Executive Committee, not the president. We work in consultation."

Shortly after noon today, Pardon Mwansa, a Seventh-day Adventist world church vice president chairing the business session, asked delegates to approve several reorganization requests from local church administrative units.

The Indian Ocean Union Mission and Botswana Union Mission will each become union conferences, a move that recognizes self-sufficiency in leadership and finances.

"It hasn't been easy to gain union conference status in some parts of the world," Mwansa said. "This is a huge accomplishment. Congratulations and blessings."

Delegates also approved the reorganization of the Kenya Union Mission into two union conferences—the East Kenya Union Conference and West Kenya Union Conference. Similarly, the Tanzania Union Mission will split into the North Tanzania Union Conference and the South Tanzania Union Mission.

Delegates also voted to grant union mission status to the North East Congo Attached Territory. All reorganizations will go into effect by December 31, allowing the newly created administrative units to send delegates to the 2015 General Conference Session.

Undersecretary Iseminger offered a few final words today, asking delegates to leave their bulky agendas behind to be recycled, unless, he jokingly added, they needed "reading material" on the flight home. Annual Council delegates were offered a paperless agenda for the first time this year, but many opted for the traditional binder.

At the 2014 Spring Meeting, delegates will receive electronic

copies of the agenda by default, Iseminger said. Earlier this week, Annual Council delegates also voted to receive a statement from the recent International Urban Mission Conference, in which the church pledged to make significant efforts to reach large cities, particularly those without a Seventh-day Adventist presence. The statement calls for a "twice-yearly reporting and assessment system that informs the church about urban mission objectives, activities and progress.»

Delegates this week also celebrated the success of The Great Controversy Project, an initiative to distribute copies of the book "The Great Controversy" authored by Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White. More than 142 million copies have been distributed since the initiative launched in 2011.

Many people have joined the Adventist Church through the initiative, including Marcelo Pereira dos Santos, and his family, from Brazil. "We understand that this is only the beginning of a new life," said dos Santos, who addressed delegates from the stage. "I hope my life and testimony will be useful to many brothers and sisters who have not yet realized the infinite love of God."

Source ANN

Ghana 2014!
West-Central Africa Division

Women's Ministries Congress

Venue:
Valley View University Campus

**Theme: Arise for Service!
Revived Women for Christ**

**Date: 27th July
August 3, 2014**

**Guests: Heather-Dawn Small - Arrais Raquel
Eminent Resources from GC,
WAD & Other Divisions**

**Closing date for Registration:
30th May 2014**



Year-end Council : Revival and Prophetic Truth

Leaders of the 22-member countries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's West Central Africa Division meet in Babcock for the year-end council. This year's programme held in the just completed Babcock University Guest House.

Babcock with its more than 9,000 student population is one of the denomination's largest universities globally.

The meeting which ended on Thursday November 7, 2013 also had in attendance, leaders from the General Conference Church headquarters, Berrien Springs, Maryland, USA.

The West Central Africa Division comprises 22 countries, right from central Africa in the East to Cape Verde. It is a policy making body.

Prior to the commencement of the executive committee meeting, the highest body of the division, pre-meetings held from October 28 to Sunday November 3, 2013. Among other key functions, the division also gives global plan and direction as policies and strategic plan on how to proclaim everlasting gospel of Jesus as well as disciple people for Jesus Christ and evangelism

The meeting also coincided with the Spiritual Life Division-led week-long revival programme Week of Spiritual Emphasis between October 25 and November 2, 2013 with the President of the Rivers Conference, Dr Dave Onyekwere, and Pastor Eddy Ewoh as facilitators.

Many, including WAD executives who attended the event, which held at both the main campus's sports complex and Iperu campus's main auditorium between the hours 6:30 - 7:45 in the morning and evening, summed it up as spirit-filled and awesome more so as one of the preachers Dr Dave Onyekwere, gave a good account of himself. He possessed deep knowledge about the world and bible, according to Professor Joseph Aina, Associate Dean School of Nursing. This is what he said about Onyekwere "when you hear people preach and use themselves as example then you will be sure that he can wins hearts to God."

Interesting Babcock's President/ Vice Chancellor, Professor J.A. Kayode Makinde, who along with other men of God officiated in the baptism of the over 50 students, described as a rare privilege

for Babcock University organize the spiritual revival besides the annual conference of West Central Africa Division meeting. Professor Makinde and his guests from the West Central Africa division spared time to give their impression about the university's capacity to host the WAD, revival as individual understanding about the meaning of Sabbath among other issues.

To Makinde, he was overwhelmed with joy that WAD held for the first time in Nigeria and that Babcock University had the capacity to host it."

This in effect means that 'we are getting Babcock University closer to God'.

"Even though Babcock has successfully hosted the WAD, what is however missing is Africa's leadership development. Notwithstanding, he said he was excited producing a place for people to meet with God. "As President/ Vice Chancellor I am only a duty post and not an ordained position but a call to service even though my primary assignment is teaching. I will follow what God has for us. When I sit down to pray I always ask God: where do you want us to lead our people to?"

"I know when you follow Him he knows the best way to direct affairs and anybody who follows him will not get lost".

Babcock University has grown so fast than people have ever imagined. I do not know where God will lead us. If Nigeria can follow Jesus, who is our leader, she would go places. To him, God is the one that has assembled the team while his job is to translate God's plan, saying that "our plan in Babcock is to follow God's leadership," he said.

To the vice president General Conference Washington, Artur Stele, coming to Babcock in person and to see many of the positive things he heard about the institution was a dream comes through.

"Babcock University is not only one of the biggest, it is a missionary institution and many have made decisions for Christ," he said.

On what he thinks about Sabbath, he said it is more of God's creation as well as a celebration of creation. "I want to en-



courage the students to be faithful not only to achieve intellectual knowledge but also in communion with their God. It is better than academic achievement," he said.

Another officer from the General Conference in Washington, Myrom also had kind words about Babcock. He said he had also been forward to this day when he will set his foot in Babcock.

"I was very impressed seeing the commitment of the students especially looking back 100 years when the first Adventist missionary came step his foot here. I am equally impressed with the enthusiasm, commitment shown by the students," he said.

Sabbath, to him, is a day God rested after creation. "God felt it was important for man to have rest and commune with him. His advice to the students is that they remain focus on completing their studies as well as how to make this world a better place.

According to the executive secretary West Central Africa Division, Pastor Onaolapo Ajibade, Babcock is a blessing to humanity and Nigeria.

"It is also Nigeria's gateway to heaven. I congratulate students that have chosen Babcock University. As you can see many of the students have given their lives to Christ. In Babcock students are educated holistically and anybody who comes here is blessed.

To him, Sabbath is a day of rest after God created the world in six days and that all Christians believed this but not all of them keep the Sabbath day.

"All Christians agree that the Saturday is Sabbath and Seventh Day Adventist is a bible believing church so we keep the day. It is the righteousness of Jesus that saves the believers."

Pastor Oyeleke Owolabi, Western Union Conference secretary and Pro Chancellor Babcock University, said his joy knows no limit hosting the West Central Africa division conference in Babcock University.

Ascribing it is a sign of development, collaboration, togetherness; he said he would continually praise God for the provision of the facilities in the university to host the historical conference.

On what Sabbath means to him, he said when God created the heaven and earth he rested after the sixth day and that when Christ came to redeem us he also rested on Sabbath therefore it is a day of redemption and it is a sign of the Lordship.

His advice to students is never to lose focus of their creator because "we are here for a mission and will not be here for long and should therefore be prepared to meet Jesus in his glory."

Shedding more light as to what informed the hosting of the conference in Babcock Nigeria, the education director and executive secretary board of education, Professor Chiemela Ikonke, said though the meeting was originally slated to hold at the Western Nigeria Union Conference headquarters in Lagos but it was moved to Babcock University Guest House for want of a befitting facility at the moment

According to him, it was customary of West Central Africa division to move its meeting round member countries outside Abidjan every five years.

One of the high points of the meeting of the WAD is the participation of the member countries and that the election of new officers in some of unions in Ghana informed the high attendance.

It was understood that during the meeting, the North Ghana Union, Sahel East Union, Sahel West Union of the West Central Africa division had new officers elected to run their affairs.

Speaking specifically about the role of the education committee, he said: "We make plan to improve, strengthen the scripture. We want to use the core values our lifestyles to lead other people to



ask a rhetoric question: Why Adventists are caring people, healthy and always ready show the love of God in them?

In addition, the education committee strategically plans on how to increase the effectiveness of educational institutions in offering quality and holistic education as well as how to develop students spiritually, academically, socially and physically.

“The ultimate goal of the meeting was to re-affirm faith in Jesus and to improve our love for people as God witnesses and ultimately lead more people to Jesus Christ,” he said.

The highlight of the meeting was the final approval of the new unions missions of the West African Division, which went from 6 to 10 new unions.

Their names of the unions and their leaders are :

Northern Ghana Union Mission ,Kumasi Ghana. The teritor is northern and central part of Ghana. NGUM,President Kwame Boakye Kwanin,secretary Kwame Annor Boahen,tresurer Dickson Sarfo Marfo.

East Sahel Union Mission with headquarters inLome Togo. This union covers Benin Togo, Cote d'Ivoire ,Guinue and Niger. The

More news, more blessings!

When we share good news, It makes other people happy, safe and more confident in God and in his Church. The good news can be a blessing to the whole world!

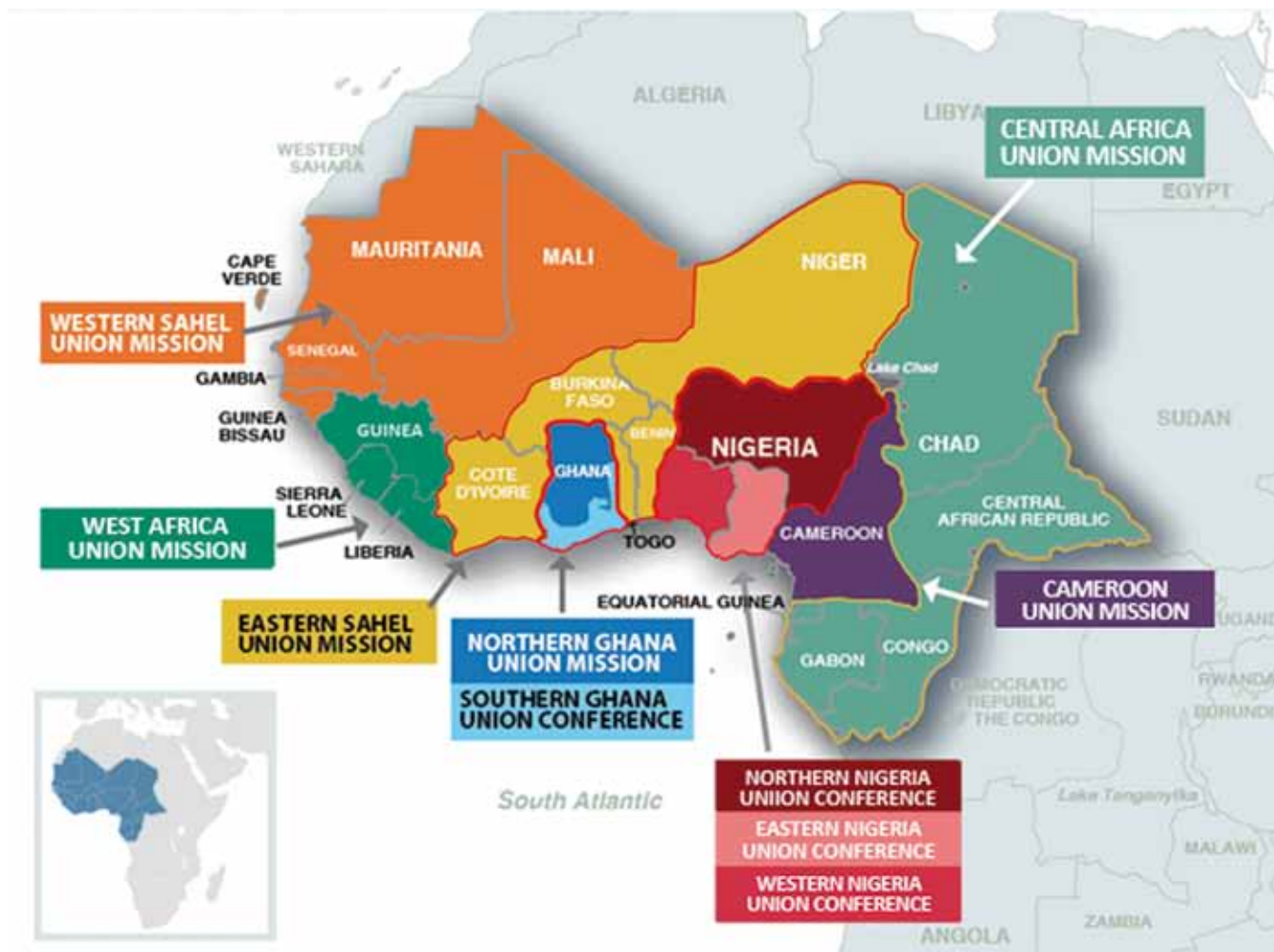
With the goal of motivating our Unions to share more news, we presented gifts to those who sent more news this year.

First of all was the Union of Cameroon, with the Elder Bakari, sending 15 news this year, he received a new Laptop, Dell, with touchscren, delivered to President of Union,PR. Valere. Next, was the Valley View University , Ms. Dollar Bill sent 9 news items in the year, they received a Cannon camera, digital, full HD, delivered to the institution's Director, Prof. Daniel Buor.

The goal is to motivate each of ten new Unions to send more news because the world wants to know what is happening in this part of Africa.



Map of The Ten Unions



Nigerian Church Reorganised to Fly : Leaders and Laity Counsellled to Unite

Par Dayo Alao



A Cross Section of Field Presidents who worked and supported the Growth

The North Western Nigeria Union Mission has been reorganized into Western Nigerian Union Conference. The reorganisation that was witnessed by church leaders around the world and enthusiastic members including the General Conference Vice President, Pastor/Dr. Benjamin Schoun, the General Conference Associate Treasurer, Elder George Egwuakhe, the WAD President, Pastor/Dr. Gilbert Wari and the WAD Executive Secretary, Pastor/Dr. Onaolapo Ajibade during the inaugural constituency session of the Union at Akure, Ondo State capital.

In his admonition to the leadership of the new union conference, Pastor Schoun said the reorganisation is not a way of creating jobs for qualified workers, but a conviction to make the church what Jesus Christ expects the end time church to be.

According to the vice president of General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist, the church is not just a building used for public Christian worship or a particular Christian organization, typically one with its own clergy, buildings, and distinctive doctrines, but the church should be a place for the oppressed to gain freedom, the hopeless to restore hope, and a place for transformation of lives, and character formation.

He appealed to church officers to be one in their aspirations and desires in their evangelistic plans and in presenting the church in good image, while soliciting the support of church members in stewardship and other developmental programmes of the church.

The newly elected President of the Union Conference, Pastor/Dr. Oyeleke Alabi Owolabi said at the beginning of the administration in 2010, the Lord gave the leadership of the church the vision of setting a five point agenda for measuring the level of performance. The five-point agenda are:

- Revival and reformation of every member and clergy through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that will lead to primitive Godliness.
- To enhance the effectiveness of the ministry through intentional and effective collaboration between the



clergy and the laity.

- To build a systematic and purposeful evangelistic programme through intentional small group model that will result in doubling, tripling and quadrupling our membership by the year 2015.
- To encourage our members in faithful stewardship lifestyle that will lead to self-support status by the year 2013.
- To have enough resources that will lead to territorial restructuring.

The President said "With every sense of humility, fulfillment and gratitude, I am happy to announce to you that God has achieved everything in the 5-point agenda and many more within the last

He said the union has been able to achieve the followings:

1. It has successfully inaugurated 12 conferences and two administrative units. This has not only reduced the area coverage but has also encouraged more effective evangelism at the grassroots.

2. It has inauguration of Lay pastors institute to make the ministry all inclusive. (The institute has completed three out of the four scheduled semesters). This we hope will enhance the collaboration of the clergy and the laity for the effectiveness of the ministry.

3. The progress made so far in evangelism outreach can be traced to the boost given to the small group model as of today, every field, district, local church understand that the small group is the best method for now.

4. The administration has experienced unprecedented financial breakthrough through intensive promotion and faithfulness of members. Statistics shows that self-support has increased from 165.30% in the year 2010 to 207.5% in the year 2013, liquidity increased from 58.36% to 114.63%, working capital from 71.49% to 290.20% while within the same period the wage factor increased from N47, 000.00 to N80, 000.00.

5. The above mentioned achievements can be easily

traced to the zeal with which the church leaders and members embraced the 777 prayer, daily bible reading and other spiritual programs.

He observed that the constituency meeting in Akure is for an epoch making inauguration of the WESTERN NIGERIA UNION CONFERENCE adding that by December 11th – 14th, God willing the Northern Nigeria Union Conference will be inaugurated at Jengre, Plateau State.

The President observed that "the success so far is based on the unprecedented collaboration with my counterpart in the Eastern Nigeria Union Conference, Pastor Bassey Udoh. This experience has given me hop that the creation of the Northern Nigeria Union Conference will further strengthen the unity of the church in Nigeria".

In appreciation, Pastor Owolabi recognized and expressed gratitude for the tremendous support the administration has enjoyed from the General Conference Administration, Division

leadership, fellow officers Pastor (Dr.) Ernest Okei Okonkwo, the executive secretary and Elder Marcus Muse Dangana, the treasurer, union Directors, and office workers for their indefatigable support in the course of their duties.

He also commended the effort of the field generals that are made up of the conference presidents, their fellow officers, directors and workers for the uncompromising dedication and priceless support for God's work in their various fields.

Pastor Owolabi who observed that a tree does not make a forest said there is little or nothing the clergy can do without the support of the laity hence he expressed the administration's gratitude to the Adventist Men's Organization (AMO), the Women's Ministries (AWM) and the Youth Ministries (AYM) for constituting a band of tireless vanguard in proclaiming the everlasting Gospel.



The newly nominated officers and director of the Union Conference are :

- President : Oyeleke Alabi Owolabi;
- Secretary : Ezekiel Adeleye;
- Treasurer: Amos O. Ibhiedu.

Union Mission de l'Est du Nigeria devient L'Union des Fédérations de l'Est du Nigeria



A Cross Section of Field Presidents who worked and supported the Growth

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the lower Niger region in Nigeria has been conferred with a new status of a UNION CONFERENCE with Pastor (Dr) Bassey Udoh elected as pioneer President.

Other Principal officers elected include:

Pastor Moses Njoku	Secretary
Elder Emmanuel Manilla	Treasurer
Pastor Kingsley Anonaba	Field Secretary

Inaugurating the former Eastern Nigeria Union Mission into a Union Conference in line with the action of the Annual Council of the World Church taken in October this year, the General Vice President at the World Headquarters of the Church in Washington D.C., Pastor Benjamin Schoun expressed delight over the growth and development that have taken place in the Eastern Nigeria Union Conference culminating in the granting of Union Conference status to the filed.

Pastor Schoun commended the commitment, dedication and patriotic spirit of the membership of the Church in Nigeria particularly Eastern Nigeria Union Conference which he noted has made remarkable progress within a short period of operation as a Union Mission.

Also speaking, the Associate Treasurer of the World Church, Elder George Egwakhe, expressed joy over the development and progress being made by the Adventist Church in Nigeria, particularly Eastern Nigeria Union Conference. He urged both the clergy and the laity of the Church to continue

to unite and work together for the progress of God's work because doing the contrary would amount to going back to Egypt.

Speaking earlier, the President of the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) of the Church, Pastor (Dr.) Gilbert Wari commended the vision of the pioneers of the defunct Eastern Nigeria Union Mission which has translated into a dream come through with the conferment of a Union Conference status on the former mission.

Pastor Wari also lauded the efforts of the present leadership of the Union Conference and the supporting role of the membership of the Church in catching the vision of growth and expansion to bring the administration of the Church closer to members stressing that the new status is a sign of good things to come, maturity, responsibility and self-determination. The WAD President urged both the leadership and members of the new Union Conference to work hard and do more towards the creation of the envisaged Union Missions within the Eastern Nigeria Union Conference.

In his acceptance speech the newly elected President of Eastern Nigeria Union Conference, Pastor (Dr) Bassey Udoh expressed gratitude to God and called for continued unity and support of members and promised to serve faithfully to move the new Union Conference to greater height.

Top ranking officers from the World Church Headquarters, the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) and Sister Union Conference in Nigeria who graced the inaugural session of the Union Conference include Executive Secretary of WAD Pastor (Dr) Onalapo Ajibade; President of North-Western Nigeria Union Conference (NWUC), Pastor (Dr) Oyeleke Owolabi; Pastor Okei Okonkwo (NWUC), Elder Markus Dangana, (NWUC), Vice Chancellor/President of Babcock University Prof. James Kayode Makinde; the Vice Chancellor/President of the Clifford University (Proposed), Prof Chimezie Omeoun and Pastor (Dr) Sylvanus Chioma as well as the pioneer President of ENUM, Pastor Gideon Nwaogwugwu retired.

**Reported by Communication Department
Eastern Nigeria Union Mission
Pastor Uzoma Nwosi
Director
Elder John Abbey
Associate Director**





Ps Ben Schoun
GC-Vice president



Ps Basey Udoh (Eastern Nigeria Union Conference President) and Mrs



M. Manila (Treasurer) and Mrs



Ps Gilbert Wari
WAD President



Brad Thorp
Hope Channel President

How do you expect and under what format do you want us to send programs to you?

The WAD has purchased High Definition (HD) TV production equipment. When the program is edited, it needs to be rendered in the HD 35 format. This format is one of the options available in the editing software and is easy to provide to us.

For Standard Definition production the format is DVC PRO 25. When the editor renders the standard definition production he should use the DVC PRO 25 format.

Hope Channel will only accept programs in either of these two formats.

Could you give us a technical and simplified form for our communication directors and any other organisations which want to produce programs?

Hope Channel will broadcast only good quality programs. Heaven gave its best for our salvation and we must do our best with what equipment and circumstances we have. We will assist the WAD in specific training. In a short summary, programs need to be in focus; with clear consistent audio; good lighting with no harsh shadows; have interesting sets; be enthusiastic and well hosted; have an interesting relevant topic.

Thank you, Pastor Brad Thorp and Gideon Mutero for accepting this interview for our members within the West central africa area. Would you briefly introduce yourself?

Thank you! We are happy to share about Hope Channel. I am Brad Thorp, President of Hope Channel Inc. I am originally from Canada and have had the privilege of working with my wife Kandus since the very beginning of Hope Channel. We have three grown sons who are dedicated Adventist Christians. Gideon Mutero is the Financial Vice President for Hope Channel. Originally Gideon and his family is from Kenya. Gideon has had extensive experience in financial

leadership in the Adventist church serving in a number of different financial leadership positions. Gideon not only cares for our finances but is a strong supporter of evangelism and particularly Hope Channel in Africa.

Our talk will mainly focus on Hope Channel. What is Hope Channel?

Hope Channel is the official television voice of the world Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is a network of channels owned and operated by the Adventist church.

Our roots are in the NET evangelism events and we began Hope Channel in 2003. This year 2013, is our tenth birthday!

We started with one channel in South America and now there are 14 – soon to be sixteen full time 24/7 channels. Hope Channel works to facilitate and empower the church to produce its own TV programming. We do not believe one culture or language should represent the Adventist Church. Jesus said the gospel was to go to every nation, every kindred, every tribe, every language.

We have two channels in English; two in Spanish; one each in Portuguese, Romanian, German and Russian. We have a channel for the Middle East primarily in Arabic; one for India that broadcasts in English, Tamil, Hindi, Telegu and other Indian languages. We have a channel for China and soon a channel for the Philippines will open. We look forward to the soon opening of the Hope Channel Africa with indigenous African languages.

We broadcast extensively on the Internet and wireless based devices. All our channels are available on streaming video.



Gideon Mutero
Hope Channel Vice President in charge of finance

Many programs have their own web sites. We have the Hope Channel App that gives you easy access on smart phones, tablets and other mobile devices. Many of our programs are also available based on Video on Demand. You can go to www.HopeTV.org and learn all about Hope Channel.

Our goal is to have a globally recognized brand that wherever people watch Hope Channel it will help them see the beauty of God's message and the wonderful diverse people who compose God's family around the world.

Several Hope Channels canals are more and more visible on the same satellite, we would like to know more.

We started Hope Channel for Africa by broadcasting in English. Several years later we added Hope Channel Portuguese called Novo Tempo. It comes from Brazil with some programming from Angola. Recently we secured more satellite space and are now able to add Hope Channel Africa which is to open soon. In time we believe there will be a number of African Hope Channels. So as production grows and we become increasingly effective in helping everyone everywhere in Africa to watch the best Hope Channel for them, we will continue to expand the number of channels.

Why Hope Channel Africa, and when is it going to start broadcasting?

The Commission of Jesus Christ is to take the gospel to everyone. English and Portuguese do not provide for all the languages of Africa. So we are starting Hope Channel Africa to provide more indigenous language programming. We will start with programming in French, Swahili, Afrikaans and a number of additional African languages. Our dream is that as we grow our programming inventory we can start full time

channels in a number of these languages.

We anticipate starting test broadcasting later this year and to actually begin Hope Channel Africa the beginning of 2014. Exact dates will be announced.

What can we expect from this channel devoted to Africa?

You can expect programming produced by people living in Africa, for people in Africa. You can expect great diversity and beauty because Africa is very diverse and beautiful. You can expect wonderful inspiring messages and practical messages on health, family, youth and music.

In what languages are the programmes going to be?

Initially some programming will be in French, Swahili and Afrikaans. We can only broadcast what we receive. We encourage viewers to work with their church leaders to produce programming in the various languages they desire. Hope Channel facilitates broadcast; we do not primarily produce the programming. Production of programming is the responsibility of the local Adventist Church. We are very happy with the work of Pastor Koch and the WAD to begin producing programs for Western Africa. We believe soon there will be excellent programming representing this region of the world.

For our local collaborators, what types of programmes do you wish to have, and could you give us some technical details?

We want programs that represent the local Adventist church. We want programs that are relevant to the situation of Africa. We want programs that are gospel preaching and featuring our mental, physical, social and spiritual view of life. We want programs that practically help people have happier, healthier life and meaning and hope in Jesus Christ.

The recurring problem people are confronted with is the quality of the signal, thus will it possible to have local relays to pick up the signals of the and broadcast programs via private TV stations?

Hope Channel provides an excellent strong satellite signal. If your local dish and receiver are properly tuned, you will get a good quality picture and sound. Our satellite signal is also available for local TV stations to relay on open TV so that anyone with a local antenna can get Hope Channel. Broadcast on local TV relay stations have to be arranged locally. We encourage members, Pastors and Churches to secure local licenses and construct broadcast relay stations. Hope Channel will do all it can to assist in this work, so please contact your mission, conference, Union or Division leaders and the communication secretary for more details.

What is the greatest reason why you personally work for Hope Channel?

Hope Channel is a very powerful tool to help people discover the transforming power of Jesus Christ in their lives. Hope Channel is about evangelism and seeing lives changed by the Gospel. Let me share two letters we recently received.

One was from a man in Africa. He thanked us for our Hope Sabbath School program. Then he added these words: «I once was a drunkard and a very violent man. But Jesus had mercy on me and now I am an elder in my local Adventist church.» That is amazing! A life transformed by the power of God. A second letter came from a lady who recently retired from her work and went to live with her daughter. She discovered Hope Channel «by accident». (I believe it was a miracle of God). Her daughter was involved in an immoral lifestyle and caused great pain to her mother. Over a three year period God worked in this home. The daughter left her sinful life. The lady wrote at that at any time of the day she could go to her room and watch programs filled with the gospel, health, family and peaceful music. She wrote: «By denomination I am not a Seventh-day Adventist, but in my heart I am». We get many reports like this from all over the world and this is why we share the ministry of Hope Channel. Digital communication is vitally important for sharing the gospel today and Hope Channel with its TV, Internet, Video on Demand and many other ways of distribution are sharing life changing messages and helping everyone know of Jesus soon return.

By Irineo Koch / Gilbert Weeh

NEW DEPARTURE FOR THE DIVISION PRODUCTION CENTRE



The Production Centre of the Headquarters of the West-Central Africa Division based in Abidjan, anticipates a new departure. In fact, the Studio, outdated a long time ago has been completely renewed. This renewal also announced that of material production.

As soon as his arrival, as The Communication Department Director of the Division, Pastor Koch, with the total / complete approval of the Division Administration, has made of this renewal its Battle Horse. So, since one /1 year, in permanent consultation with the General Conference Communi-

cation Department, this project was realised on October 8th 2013 with the arrival of 73 Production Equipments cartons / packets, carefully selected by Andre Brink. Among other primordial material / tools one can mention / cite, cameras, tables etc.

This studio will permit the West-Central Africa Division to produce quality programs for the HOPE Channel Television and will also permit the production of events within this vast Mission Field which contains 22 countries within West and Central Africa, which Pastor Gilbert Wari directs/ leads.

By Gilbert Weeh



BREAKING NEW GROUNDS AT BABCOCK UNIVERSITY 11TH CONVOCATION

Par Dayo Alao, Adaobi Nneka Ifeji et Ifeoma Ayeni



Sunday, June 2nd 2013 was a day to remember in Babcock University, Ilishan Remo in Ogun State, Nigeria, as the 11th Convocation of the University saw 1,360 graduating students gloriously dressed as they collect their degrees. They looked regal in the procession in the presence of family members, friends and admirers.

It had been a long stretch of preparation and anticipation spanning several weeks and culminating on Convocation day. Indeed, all roads led to Ilishan-Remo, a short distance from Abeokuta, the state capital of Ogun State. The sleepy town of Ilishan Remo took the nation's centre stage as parents, special guests, faculty members and the entire university community jostled for space, both for their vehicles and themselves.

The Jacinth class, graduation paraded very important personalities. Former Governor of Cross River State, Donald Duke, Founder of Adeleke University, Dr Adeleke, Secretary, Nigerian Universities Commission, Professor Julius Okojie, Chief Judge of Lagos State, Justice Ayotunde Phillips, Deputy Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief, The Sun Newspaper and President of Nigerian Guild of Editors, Mr Femi Adesina, multiple award winning musician, Don Jazzy, Vice Chancellors of universities, Rectors of polytechnics, Diplomats, industrialists, royal fathers, church leaders and other VIPs from different walks of life graced the august event.

In characteristic baritone, the Chancellor, Pastor (Dr) Gilbert Wari, who is also the President of the West Central

African Division of Seventh-day Adventist Church (WAD) declared the ceremony opened. For the graduating class, 'Jacinth,' it had been a committed journey from November 26, 2009 to the Convocation ceremony. The President/Vice Chancellor, Professor J.A. Kayode Makinde recalled the famous words of 20th century German Physicist, Albert Einstein, "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

In a speech entitled 'Academic Milestones,' Makinde opted for the latter. "Babcock is a miracle though. This second day of June, 2013, the 11th blessed convocation ceremony of Babcock, we are presenting in profound gratitude to the Almighty, students of the 11th Matriculation of Babcock University to whom we made a commitment on 26th November, 2009. With the acute economic and security situation pervading our beloved country today, our ability to operate and run as a private University without compromising our pursuit of excellence in spite of it all is a miracle indeed. At every point of our existence, divine omnipotence has never ceased to prove that Babcock is indeed His own university and an all-time pointer to God's faithfulness."

As the biblical sage says, "many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers him from them." Many students had escaped failure by making the lowest 'pass' grade 'E' (40 marks) but not anymore. Babcock University had championed removal of the weak grade 'E' that usually

Event in pictures



culminates in the unpalatable Third Class and Pass Degree. At first, making the 'Credit' grade (50) the lowest 'pass' grade seemed a tall order; Makinde recalled the outcry. "There was a loud outcry from various stakeholders and a section of the public denouncing the 'exclusion' of weak students. Undaunted in our default but unpopular lead role, we passionately dared the system to tap into this energy to drive the prioritization of functional employability and entrepreneurship of graduates over a mere facilitation of nominal graduation. Today, the National Universities Commission has regulations to outlaw 'Pass' degree awards in Nigerian universities."

"The logical next step, naturally, would be to cut out the notorious 'Third Class' no honours that are not accepted anywhere, not even for a direct Masters Degree admission by the very awarding institutions. To survive and prosper as a nation in this gloomy and stormy global economy, we need to effectively begin the reconstruction of vocational training to provide medium level highly skilled artisans, technicians, craftsmen and women to fill the indispensable vacuum in production and maintenance created by years of neglect and over-certification of mediocrity and 'lost glory' of past institutional and national achievements based on empty calorie degrees and a false image."

Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the Jacinth Graduating class of 1,359 comprises 52 First Class Honours Division, 1,059 Second Class Upper Division and 248 Second Class Lower Division. "No ordinary Third Class, no common Pass." Prof. Makinde emphasized. "With excitement, I present this year's President's Award to the best overall graduating student in leadership, academic, community and spiritual services – Nuhu, Benjamin Yem (CGPA 4.84, Christian Religious Study) and the Senior Vice President's Award to the 2013 graduating student with the highest CGPA – Oduyoye, Omobola Oyebola (4.92, Public Health)." President of the graduating class, Benjamin Nuhu sums up the experience, "we are here to present to the entire world the treasure and values Babcock has refined in us. The world is ill. We are the cure, the beginning of a world made perfect. We have our root from the Bible; Jacinth is a symbol of royalty. (Revelation 21:10-21)."

Also, it was a year of celebration for the second crop of graduating students from School of Postgraduate Studies, 20 students were awarded Postgraduate Diploma, 71 were awarded Masters and 40 were awarded the prestigious Ph.D. in different fields of study. Owolabi, Sunday Ajao bagged a Ph.D. in Business Administration with the overwhelming 5.00 CGPA.

The debonair ex-Governor of Cross River State, Dr Donald Duke got honorary Ph.D from Babcock University for exemplary leadership, particularly turning Tinapa into a global tourist attraction. He gave a rhetorical speech on the state of the nation. "We seek to belong to the club of 20 by the year 2020, the group of 20 nations that control 80% of the world's economy and this, we hope to achieve in the next seven years. By fluke of thought, we aspire to overtake 137 other economies within the period. Even more intriguing is that we are as to date, doing nothing, or at least conspicuously, the things required or measured investments and policy framework to achieve this desired unprecedented growth. Frankly, can we transform ourselves to be a part of the future? I would say the answer

is a definitive yes. Our principal resource which is our population makes us an attractive candidate as a future player. It is only when we are a productive nation where the mass of our population are skilled and employed that we can become a part of the world where our markets are reckoned with and our future is assured."

A day of sober reflection, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Makinde called for a minute's silence and prayer in honour of Babcock University's deceased graduating student, Faithful Andrew Afolabi and Margaret Okwuikpo who lost eight members of her family only two days before the convocation. The Okwuikpos comprising Margaret's father, grandmother, siblings and cousin died in a fatal motor accident while heading from Port Harcourt, Rivers State to Babcock University for the convocation. Margaret's mother and brother-in-law are in intensive care unit of the hospital. "My joy today is mitigated because I miss one of my own sons, Mr. Faithful Andrew Afolabi whose degree is hereby conferred posthumously, having completed all requirements for the award of B.Sc. International Law and Diplomacy but called to rest in the Lord on 22nd of April, 2013. The fatal accident that claimed and injured Margaret Okwuikpo's family is really sad. A day that should be a day of joy has turned sour for her; we pray this does not change her life negatively. We pray to God to grant the bereaved, the fortitude to bear the loss and to grant the deceased eternal rest." Makinde commiserated.

Responding on behalf of the graduating class, the class president, Nuhu Benjamin, was full of praises for Babcock in its role of building souls for service. He said "yesterday is the determinant of this success of today which is just the beginning of things to come". He thanked the parents, guests and well wishers for making the day a memorable one in the lives of the graduating class.

The same distinct way the Chancellor, Pastor Gilbert Wari had declared the convocation open with a thanksgiving prayer, he wound up the ceremony on a prayerful note, "Father, these are your children. Please prosper them; may they overcome as they advance in life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Speaking at the Baccalaureate service on Saturday, the Pro-chancellor who is also the President of North Western Nigeria Union of Seventh-day Adventist, Pastor (Dr) Oyeleke Owolabi, reminded the graduating students that they are going into a sick world where truth is a costly commodity and Godliness is an anathema. He said the road to victory is through the application of God's wisdom that they have acquired during their years of study in Babcock University. "Go to the world and make it a better place to live. Go as an ambassador of the Lord, armed with the message of hope to all those who are depressed not minding their social status, religious beliefs or ethnical background. Go to the world with the everlasting message that Jesus Christ is coming again", he pleaded.

Pastor Owolabi said the graduating class should not expect beds of roses, as their degrees may not immediately translate into meal ticket. He observed that Babcock University has not only prepared them academically, but has also prepared them for the challenges of life that will make them stand out of the madding crowd. He enjoined them to totally commit themselves to God in every encounter they witness as they go into the world.

Mrs. Onari Duke, the former first lady of Cross Rivers State in Nigeria who was the guest speaker at Sabbath vesper said the essence of higher education to make its beneficiaries exposed to entrepreneurship skills that could be more enduring than their paper qualification. He appealed to members of the graduating class to develop themselves to job providers rather than job seekers. "When you engage your hands on entrepreneurship skill the shy will be your limit", he observed.

One of the highlights of the 11th convocation of Babcock University is Doctoral Hooding ceremony that took place on Thursday, May 30, 2013. Citations of the 40 Doctoral candidates were read during the colorful academic ceremony that attracted scholars from all works of life. The ceremony did not only provide the opportunity of close interaction between the candidates and the university community, but made those present appreciate the research work of the graduating doctors and its relevance to the society. The President/Vice Chancellor, Professor James

Kayode Makinde, assisted by the senior vice president, Professor Iheanyichukwu Okoro, and the University Registrar, Pastor Hakeem Smith, charged the candidates to live up to their calling in academic and character.



*General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
West-Central Africa Division*

*Communication, Public Affair
and Religious Liberty Department*

*Wishes you and
an*

*Excellent New Year
2014*

Ps IRINEO Koch
Communication and Parl Director

May the God of Peace be with you in 2014.

Rom. 15:33



The President of the Republic appoints an Adventist Senator

The presidential decree of May 8, 2013 appointing Senators makes Mr. OYONO Robert, a retired insurer, an alternate of the Southern Cameroon Senators.

He got the news of his appointment when he comes out of the shower this Wednesday, May 8, 2013. This Adventist Church member from the Sola Gracia Community of Mvog Ada in Yaounde fell from the skies. «I have never expected such an action by the Head of State who does not know me, neither from Adam nor from Eve. Furthermore, I have never been a militant of a political party. I give thanks to God who brought me from nowhere and from nothing.» There was serenity on his countenance. His speech was coherent, his dress very simple. He came in a taxi accompanied by one of his children, a medical student.

Contacted on the phone the morning after his appointment, the new Senator visited the headquarters of the Central Africa Union Mission. It was a big surprise. For him, he had to come and meet the Adventist press. This humility has always characterized the man. He is easily noticeable in the «Inclusive Societies for the Defense of Persons with Disabilities» where he serves as Secretary. Disabled at both feet, he uses a tricycle for movement.

He shares his life with his wife Pauline and their ten children. This loveable head of family is still full of energy and is strongly com-

mitted to his faith. As he confided to one of the reporters of Radio «It is written», «God is the Supreme Being. I'll give myself more to my regular spiritual exercises. My key word is action. I must prove merit and show that disabled people have to bring their stone in the construction of an emerging Cameroon. «

Aged 65 years, Senator Robert is a native of Zoetele, a town located about 80 km from the capital city Yaounde. He is the first Adventist to be sworn in as Senator in Cameroon. It will be on May 14, 2013 the very first meeting of this Chamber. It should be recalled that the Senate enters the machine of the Cameroon government for the first time. It is a new institution. It enters the history with, among privileged witnesses, a Seventh-Day Adventist.

The Adventist Church in Cameroon has nearly 100,000 baptized adults and more than 300,000 people who come to worship every Saturday, it's for her a real source of satisfaction. The leadership of the Church did not hesitate to make contact with the new alternate senator to send its congratulations. The Church leadership in West-Central Region of Africa through Elder Gilbert Wari sent congratulations and encouragement to the newly appointed Senator Robert as well as the Central Africa Union Mission.

Abraham BAKARI
Communication Director (CAUM)

Le Premier Ministre du Cameroun en communion avec 1500 délégués pour la Liberté Religieuse



The Prime Minister of Cameroon (Philemon Yang) Welcomed by Church Leaders

The 3rd International Religious Liberty Congress was held in Yaounde, the Capital of Cameroon in Central Africa, from August 6 – 10, 2013. The opening ceremony was under the chairmanship of His Excellency Paul Biya, the President of the Republic. Dignitaries during the ceremony included Pastor Wari Gilbert, President of the West Central Africa Division of the Seventh Day Adventist Church accompanied by Professor John Graz (Secretary General of the International Association of the Religious Liberty). Dr Ganoune Diop (Associate Director, Public Affairs & Religious Liberty and the Director for United Nations Relations for the Seventh-day Adventist church, world-wide.) and a jubilant crowd of about 1500 people welcomed the Prime Minister Philemon Yang, representing the Head of State,

After the national anthem and the theme song of the congress by the «Hosanah» choir, various speeches were delivered.

Pastor Assembe Minyono, President of the Central Africa Union Mission, offered the opening prayer. The program ended with a cocktail. In an interview the Prime Minister told both

the local and international press. 'This is very important because we are in a country where religious liberty is respected. It is a constitutional principle. It gives us great pleasure, and we are glad to welcome all the people who want to worship God in a particular way without any discrimination.'

After the opening ceremony, various papers were presented on the theme: "Religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence for the sustainable development of Africa.»

On Saturday, August 10th 2013, there was an exceptional atmosphere at the "boulevard du 20 mai" in Yaoundé. The inhabitants of the capital city were wondering why such an



Ps Gilbert Wari Welcomes Special Guests

unexpected massive gathering. Members from all the Seventh Day Adventist churches of the city joined the conventioners of the 3rd Africa Religious Liberty Congress for a procession for religious tolerance. Other religious denominations took part in the procession to express their approval of the theme of the congress. The 2,000 participants in the procession were accompanied by the band of the National Youth and Sport Institute, the National Police and the Adventist Youth Society to the Polyvalent Sport Center for the Religious Liberty Festival.



group pictures

Dr John Graz, in his closing message expressed his satisfaction about the quality of the organization. « I have participated in many congresses, and this one in Yaounde is a real success. Congratulations! Congratulations! It was a masterpiece of professionalism.»



View of « palais des sports de Yaounde »

The representatives of the Muslims, Imam Moussa Oumarou declared : « Islam is a religion that advocates liberty and rejects violence and does not constraint anyone to accept their ideas. Without religious tolerance, Africa, including Cameroon cannot experience a sustainable development. Let's be examples, respecting our neighbors.»



AY



Delegates



Parade at boulevard du 20 Mai in Yaounde





Seventh-day Adventism in Ghana Is 125years

While the world church celebrates 150years, the Church in Ghana is also marking its 125years of the entry of the Adventist message. The theme for the celebration of the anniversary in Ghana is 'Proclaiming and living the Christian life'.

At a Press Conference to launch the logo and activities marking year long anniversary, the Ghana Union Conference President, Pastor Samuel Adama Larmie said since 1888, the Adventist Church has not only preached the gospel but helped in the transformation of lives in Ghana.

Key areas of Ghanaian social life impacted by the church include education and health. According to Pastor Larmie, the Church currently operates more than 600 basic schools; 14 High Schools, three Nursing schools, and trains teachers in its College of Education at Asokore.

"I am proud to say that the Adventist University of Value is the first private government accredited university in Ghana. The wholistic education it provides makes it the first choice of parents who want wholistic Christian education for their children," the Union President said.

In the area of healthcare, the church in Ghana is operating 12 hospitals, 12 clinics and a pharmacy. Aside providing healthcare, it is also involved in the training of healthcare personnel in its two nursing training schools,

ADRA Ghana has also impacted on the socio-economic lives of Ghanaian since 1983 when it provided food and clothing to poor communities. Today, ADRA is helping individual across Ghana to increase agricultural yield, planted trees, drilled bore holes for communities and providing credit for small scale businesses.

The core mandate of the church, the gospel commission has also yielded great results since 1888; from a single to a current Sabbath

school membership of over 700,000. Baptised membership is over 300,000 in a population of 24million.

"Today, through its media evangelism the Adventist message is promoted weekly on 48 radio and 4 TV stations. Ebenener, thus far has the Lord brought the Church in Ghana," Pastor Larmie exclaims with joy.

The remarkable thing about how Adventism came to Ghana is that while other churches were introduced through missionary activities, the message came to Ghana through literature. In 1888, an Ghanaian, Francis Dolphijn, picked up a tract along the coast of Apam in the Central region, read it and embraced the Adventism. Six years later in 1894, the first missionaries, Edward L. Sanford and Karl G. Rudolph, arrived in Apam and in 1895; the Church in America sent a group of missionaries led by Pastor Dudley U. Hale to Cape Coast, the then official headquarters of the Church in West Africa.

As part of its anniversary landmarks, the Ghana Union Conference has also started the foundation for a second college of education and initiated steps to divide the country into two Unions. The General Conference has since given approval and launch of the two Unions will climax the activities of the year.



Ghana's First Adventist Army Commander, Maj.Gen Richard Opoku-Adusei

Major General Richard Opoku-Adusei,
Ghana army's Commander.

Major General Richard Opoku-Adusei, a Seventh-day Adventist, is the new Army Commander for the Ghana Armed Forces. He was appointed by the President of Ghana to the high office of Chief of the Army Staff in March 2013.

He is the first Adventist military person to be appointed to that high office in the 125 years of Adventism in Ghana. Prior to that, he had served as the General Officer Commanding the Northern Command of the Ghana Army since July 2011. At a thanksgiving service held on July 14, 2013 at the Garrison Adventist Military Chapel, the Ghana Union Conference President, Pastor Samuel Adama Larmie, challenged him to lead the Ghana army through God's help as Moses led Israel.

"As Moses, your life experiences, training and reliance on God has prepared you for this task, so go forth in that strength and know that the Lord God is with you and will give you counsel as long as you call on him in times of need," Pastor Larmie said in a sermon.

Maj.General Opoku-Adusei in a remark thanked the church for the honour done him and called for constant prayers on his behalf.

"My family and I are privileged for such an honour done us by the church. I am also grateful to God for everything; many has been the challenges, yet by the grace of God, I have come this far, May His name be praised," he said.

Major General Richard Opoku-Adusei was born on 24 November 1954 at Bekwai in the Ashanti Region. He attended Techiman Secondary School where he obtained Ordinary Level Certificate in 1974 and the Advance Level Certificate the Seventh-Day Adventist Secondary School Bekwai in 1976.

Maj. Gen. Opoku-Adusei enlisted into the Ghana Military Academy and was commissioned on 28 August 1978. He holds Master Degrees in Strategic Studies awarded by the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, another Master of Arts in International Affairs and Diplomacy degree course at the Legon

Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy, University of Ghana, Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and a Graduate Diploma in Management Studies from the Institute of Commercial Management in Bournemouth, UK.

Professionally, he is certified in Basic Parachutist and Winter Warfare Public and Non-Public Funds and Standard Training Module 3. Maj. Gen. Opoku-Adusei, during the course of his career has held various Command and Staff appointments.

On International Peace Support Operations, Maj. Gen. Opoku-Adusei has wide experience having served as Company Second-in-Command and Company Commander on a number of occasions in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, ECO-WAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group in Liberia (ECOMOG) and Military Observer in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR).

Maj. Gen. Opoku-Adusei also served as Commanding Officer of Ghana Battalions 1 and 5, both in the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and also Staff Officer in the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT).

He is happily married and blessed with children. He enjoys playing football, badminton and table tennis.

Asafo Solace
Communication Union Federation of Ghana Director



Adventist business owners and professionals have resolved to partner the church to implement projects in the area of education, health and job creation as means of accelerating the gospel work in Ghana.

A committee of church leaders and business/professionals is therefore in place to make recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee of the Ghana Union Conference.

This resolution is the outcome of the 1st Adventist Business Summit, a meeting of Adventist business owners, managers, professionals and church leaders, held at Swedru from June 19-22, 2013. It was on the theme "My Business, His Business."

Opening the Summit, the Union President, Pastor Samuel Adama Larmie, said the meeting created the right forum for church leaders to dialogue with its business people and professionals on how their professional and financial resources could be used to promote the gospel commission in Ghana.

"After 125 years we need to harness all its talents within the institutional church and in the lay community to build a church which is a vibrant witness to the teaching and faith of Jesus Christ," Pastor Larmie said.

According to Mr. Richard Abban, an Adventist business owner the event provided opportunity for the clergy and laity to discuss ways of partnering for mission in a consistent and coherent manner. The Summit is part of activities marking the 125 anniversary celebration of the Church in Ghana. It brought together over 100 Adventist business owners, high profile public officers, professionals and church leaders from across the country. historic meeting sought among others to:

Foster unity among church leaderships and its professionals in strategic positions in the country;

Create a dialogue platform for the discussion of how church leaders and laity can collaborate for mission in a coherent, consistent manner for optimal results;

Provide an avenue for professional networking and partnerships among Adventist professionals/businesses; and

Identify and develop a core group of professionals who will mentor young Adventist professionals.

Addressing delegates at the Business Summit, the

Associate Director for Trust Services at the General Conference, Pastor Wilfredo Sumagaysay, said, the earthly treasures we have, all come from God who has entrusted them to us and we are expected to be faithful in growing and securing these treasures. "Jesus commands us to store, for ourselves, these treasures in heaven and Scriptures tell us HOW to do this: giving to the poor; being generous; and by giving to God's cause. This act of storing echoes in eternity" Pastor Sumagaysay said.

Other facilitators included the Stewardship/Trust Services Director of the West Central Africa Division, Pastor J.K Badu, Reuben Nwubiko, Marketing Manager of GlaxoSmithKline Africa, Dan Sackey, Vida Graham and Richard Abban, all Ghanaian Business managers and owners. Ghana's Minister for Trade and Industry, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu was in attendance to share investment opportunities with business people.

Facilitators strongly emphasized our use of money and possessions is a decisive statement of our eternal values since what we do with our money loudly affirms which kingdom we belong to.

The toast of the Summit was the incisive devotional messages delivered by Pastor Jacob. J. Nortey. He told delegates that God was interested in having individuals give their lives to him as the ultimate sacrifice, and not just their money or possession. "We can only give our wealth and money to God if we belong to him. Self sacrifice and surrender comes first," he said.

"My ministry will never be the same after this Summit," a church leader remarked at the end of the Summit.

The event was organized by the Communication Department of the GUC and sponsored by Adventist Businesses and Professional.

Solace Asafo Hlordzi
Directeur de la communication

CHURCH LEADERS CALL ON GHANA'S PRESIDENT



Pastor Larmie in a handshake with the President of Ghana as the Union Treasurer, ADRA Director and Valley View Vice Chancellor look on.

Seventh-day Church leaders in Ghana recently called on the President of Ghana, H. E John Dramani Mahama to congratulate him on his election victory and inform him of the 125years anniversary celebrations of the Church in Ghana.

The President of the Ghana Union Conference, Pastor Samuel A. Larmie told President Mahama of the social impact of the Church in the areas of education, health, community development, among others.

"The Adventist church has six hundred (600) basic schools, twelve (12) Senior High Schools, three (3) levels of Nursing Training Schools, 25 hospitals and clinics, and a University in the country; and we commit to doing more beyond 2013," Pastor Larmie assured the President as he told him of the support from Maranatha International to build

additional schools buildings in Ghana.

On his part, President Mahama praised the Church for partnering the government in the provision of quality healthcare and education. "The provision of education and quality health care are critical areas that need attention. Even though it is government's responsibility to provide these it is important for the church to partner the state," he said.

He appealed to the Church to support the government by investing in the training of quality pre-school teachers and vocational and technical education.

Pastor Larmie then took the opportunity to invite the H.E John Dramani Mahama to attend the anniversary thanksgiving service scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2013.

The President accepted the invitation and assured the delegation he will attend the service.



President of Ghana (middle) with Adventist Delegation at the seat of government, the Flagstaff House led by Pastor Larmie, the Ghana Union Conference President.

Solace Asafo-Hlordzi
Communication
Director
UFG

La Famille Adventiste s'est Agrandie à Bondoukou



Ps N'Drin Charles with the new baptised

The city of Bondoukou is located in the eastern part of Côte d'Ivoire, and is the head city of the administrative region of Gountougo, near the frontier with the neighboring Ghana, and 420 kilometers from Abidjan the main business city of Côte d'Ivoire. Bondoukou is in the center of the Zanzan land, with a population of 78,000 inhabitants. It is known as the city with many mosques, thus right called the city of "thousands of mosques". We can also find there the relics of an Islamic past: The mosque of the famous historical Mandingo conqueror, Samory Touré who came from Guinea during the last decade of the 1800s. More than religious items, mosques are very important touristic interest like the mosque of late Imam Koudouss. Many others sites are of touristic importance, there are the house of Samory, the first hut to be built in Bondoukou, the house of Mister Louis Gustave Binger, the first governor of the colony of Côte d'Ivoire, and the sacred monkeys from Soko.

Although Christians has been present in the city for ages, Islam is the main religion. Other beliefs do exist in the city: animism, Buddhism, spiritualism, etc.

The seventh day Adventist church has been in the city for some time with a membership of about ten persons. The place is a real challenge that prevents the church from growing normally. Despite the evangelistic efforts the baptistry has not been used since 2009. The department of the Adventist mission in collaboration with department of health of the west central Africa Division organized a two-week evangelistic campaign with the contribution of pastor N'drin Charles and Daly Kipre from Cote d'Ivoire conference.

From 5th to 19th October 2013, messages of hope were preached in the city. Even the people who did not go the venue heard the good news about Jesus Christ and the plan of redemption through the loudspeakers.

Messages on health were presented before the sermon every evening. Doctor NDAA gave free medical consultation, thus giving hope to the sick visitors who could not afford medical fees. One sick person we shall remember for long is a woman who came to see doctor NDAA with a pain in one arm. She has been that way for ages. She was healed when she was prescribed to use the charcoal from the fire she would make herself. She felt relieved and could sleep well again. Many people gave testimony about the benefit they had with the pieces of advices Dr NDAA gave them.

In add to the physical healing, there was also spiritual healing. Three souls gave their life by being baptized on Saturday 9th 2013, the closing of the campaign. Many of the participants will be nurtured before they make the decision in the days to come. There is still a lot to do because God has many children the Zanzan land.

A follow up program will be organized so that what has just been done will not be in vain, but that the souls who gave their lives to Christ and many others be able to experience the power of the gospel and preach to others.



Ps Kassoulé and Dr N'Daa with the new baptised

Blessings & Curses

The most important lists of covenant blessings and curses are found in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Blessings and curses are directly associated with the covenant God made with the people of Israel, so they should be interpreted within that context.

1. Covenant Blessings: A covenant is a mutual commitment made between two or more persons or groups. In the case of Israel, God took the initiative, and Israel responded with an oath of loyalty. The covenant is a common biblical metaphor used to describe God's relationship with His people. This type of relationship is based on promises and mutual trust, and includes obligations and responsibilities.

The covenant was rooted in God's loving-kindness manifested in His deliverance of Israel from the enslaving power of Egypt (Ex. 20:2). Israel's covenantal relationship with God, their commitment to exclusive faithfulness

to Him, was their loving answer to God's previous goodness toward them. The blessings (e.g., fertility of the Israelites, the land, and the animals; victory over their enemies; prosperity) were God's promises to them as His covenant partners (Deut. 28:1-14). All covenant blessings flowed out of the initial blessing of redemption from Egypt; therefore, they were embedded in the daily experience of the people. This covenant was grounded in a divine, fundamental promise: "I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people"

(Lev. 26:12). The Israelites committed themselves to Him as their only and exclusive covenant God, and to the preservation of the religious and social order established by Him through the covenant law. They would live within the sphere of His divine blessing.

2. Covenant Curses: Since the covenant assumes a willingness to enter into a relationship, the possibility of weakening or simply breaking the relationship always exists. By listing the covenant curses (e.g., infertility, defeat by enemies, diseases, loss of the land, exile), God was acknowledging that humans could bring the covenant to an end. The fact that the results of such an action are called curses indi-

How should we interpret the lists of blessings and curses in the Bible? They give the impression that we should serve God out of fear.

cate that God does not ignore what we do as His covenant partners. He cares for us enough to respond or react with an equivalent reaction (verse 21). He takes us seriously!

The curses also function as a deterrent. God emphasizes the evil results of breaking the covenant in order to discourage us from breaking it. Our quality of life is radically damaged when the covenant relationship is broken. From a positive perspective, we could say that the emphasis on curses motivates humans to covenant faithfulness.

Finally, the curses are described as God's disciplinary activity against disobedience (verses 14, 18, 27). God does not give us up easily.

« Theologically speaking, the curses affirm that outside a covenant relationship with the Savior we would experience only inner disruption, chaos, and the constant irruption of death through defeat and suffering.»

3. Covenant Blessings and Curses: The juxtaposition of blessings and curses in the covenant relationship presupposes a cosmic order. The biblical world, as ours, was formed by spheres of blessings and curses. The first are experienced within the sphere of the covenant, and the second in the sphere of sin outside the covenant relationship. Shalom and rest are available only in the covenant Lord, in the world order He established. Theologically speaking, the curses affirm that outside a covenant relationship with the Savior we would experience only inner disruption, chaos, and the constant irruption of death through

suffering. God's call to seek His blessings and avoid the curses is a dramatic way of speaking about choosing life over death (Deut. 30:19).

The conflict between blessings and curses will come to an end. God promised Israel that even if they were to break the covenant, He would be faithful to it and to His promises of salvation. Forgiveness is always available to covenant breakers (Lev. 26:40-45). God in Christ took the curse upon Himself and freed us from it (Gal. 3:13). We can look forward to when "there shall be no more curse" (Rev. 22:3).

Angel Manuel Rodríguez

was director of the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference prior to his retirement.

A temple in stead of pigsty

The first Adventist community located between the city of Yaounde and Mbalmano just opened after a series Bible lectures led by literature evangelists.

In an article published in the Southern Watchman on November 20th 1902, Ellen White wrote: We need literature evangelists who would take up the duty of sharing the messages discreetly, literature evangelists who feel themselves accountable for souls and who proclaim the relevant words to those who long for the light." The literature evangelist club from Yaounde just accomplished honorably this exciting mission. Saturday, August 31st 2013 is going to remain memorable as the date when a company was organized in the city of Koumou, 22 kilometers from Yaounde on the road to Mbalmayo, which is about fifty kilometers from the capital city of the country. Since the inception of the Adventism in Cameroon, this is the first time a company is being set in this place which used to be a bastion of the Roman Catholic Church.

That Sabbath in October was the closing of a series of Bible lectures led by the association of literature evangelists of Yaounde and Pastor Stephan Eta – The publishing director of the Central Africa Union mission was the speaker. The theme was : the countdown. About 130 people attended the divine service, and 8 among them were baptized. The literature evangelists also gave the Adventist districts of Mfou, a drawing of a 200-seat temple.

It will be built on a piece of land where Elder Mbarga Ngoumou had planned to build a pigsty when he was still a Roman Catholic believer. His destiny took another orientation while in prison from 1990 to 1995, at the central detention center of Kondengui in Yaoundé. While there, he read the books "Qui dominera le



monde" by Pierre Lanarès, and "the Great Controversy" by Ellen White that he received from a literature evangelist that he decided to become a seventh day Adventist Christian. He made the choice by refusing the book entitled Rosicrucian Digest and Mastery of Life that a Rosicrucian had offered him. It is worth mentioning that it was in 2011 that the literature association organized a retreat, then an evangelistic series in 2012, with the baptism of 9 people.

Paul Williams OBOUN



the pigsty became temple



A Fetish Priest Baptized

Afua Stella, a Fetish Priest at Menji, a Muslim community in the Tain District, Brong Ahafo Region baptizes into Adventism after ten years in pagan worship on June 21, 2012. Stella is highly esteemed in the whole Muslim community for her performance of wanders and revelation of people's destiny. This makes people trooped into her house every day to inquire of their future.

Stella at the tender age used to hear a voice talking to her without seeing any body around or following her. Sometimes, she smells some burning incense around. As a result of these experiences, Stella stopped schooling at the age of twelve (12).

She has been observing the little group of Seventh-day Adventists, led by Elder Samuel Effa, a Global Mission Pioneer, who has been passing before her house to church always.

At one of the church's all night prayer meetings, Stella unnoticeably entered the church building and requested for permission to join them in that prayer programme.

In the course of the programme, Stella requested for special prayers for deliverance from the powers of darkness which have been tormenting her. So the little group surrounded her and in the course of prayers she fell on the floor. In utter surprise a spirit started speaking through her (Stella), saying: "You want to win Stella to your side, it is impossible. She is ours".

The spirit from time to time continues to torment Stella but the little group (church) did not relent praying for her until she was free from the spirit that night.

Stella has now lost all her worldly glories and because she was the bread winner of the family, the relatives have turned against her with all kinds of harassment. They have disowned her for joining the Adventist church. She has now lost her source of livelihood since she denounced her former faith. At present Stella needs to be rehabilitated into making a meaningful life.

Pasteur O. P. Nsiah



THE PROJECT « Sowing the seed of truth » in the hearts of 5 million children throughout the West Central Africa Division (2011-2015)

The launching of the special project « sowing the seed of truth in the heart of 5 million children » was launched in the 6 unions of the West Central Africa Division. Many children from our local churches, involved in the training of children preachers and which took part in the launching of the project, were very enthusiastic to spend their school holidays working for the salvation of their friends in their neighborhoods. Henceforth, no more room for idleness and boredom during the holidays.

What does the project consist in? Why such a project now? How to carry it out? What are the target groups? Those are some of the questions this article is going to provide answers to.

Background

The closer we get to the end of the world story, the more the cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan gets tougher.

Satan especially longs to conquer children's hearts in order to prepare them to reject Christ's offer of salvation, and also plans to use them to perpetrate his devilish scheming.

The tender hearts of children are captured by the Devil through the bad habits of parents and older people, and the negative influences of their peers at schools, immoral television programs, internet and dirty movies.

Today children (from 1 to 14) are those that within 10 and 15 years will be full of juvenile ardor to be either the champions of the truth or active agents of the devil to oppose the truth. The devil is aware of that. So he has developed a strategy which consists in sowing the seed of error in the hearts of children to harvest in the future.

The counterattack of the West Central Africa Children Ministries department.

As partners of Christ in preparing children for his coming, we take up our responsibility by being proactive and connect the soft and fertile soil - children's hearts - to their loving Father and Savior.

The project « sow the seed of truth » is our response to sow tenderly and patiently the seed of truth about the salvation of children.

What does the « sow the seed of truth » pro-

ject consist in?

- It is a project to lead 5 million children during this five-year term.
- Create a friendly atmosphere in the relationships where the questions children ask about salvation will be answered to, and where Bible stories will be taught in a very simple language, adapted to their age.
- Live an exemplary life in order to be a model of faith and minister to children.

Methods

The most elementary method in carrying out this project consists in sensitizing parents, pastors and church members to engage in a systematic teaching of the Word of God to children by the use their talents. The project can be carried out through the following ways: Evangelistic campaigns by children to children, children small groups weekly meetings, vacation Bible classes, postal Bible classes, etc. The « Truth4Youth » DVD: A key material for the project

A special DVD called « Truth4Youth » has been produced to help fulfill the project along with other important materials. « Truth4Youth » is an evangelistic Christ centered material to touch the hearts of children with the Gospel. It can be used easily also! Either you use the DVD, or the powerpoint files, the program includes materials and necessary visual aids to present your adapted version of the program to children.

Integrated CDs

- 26 high quality abundantly illustrated programs and photographs, multicultural illustrations to be adapted and high quality video clips. You can install the integrated computer software. To present a program you just have to record your voice, have a DVD player, a TV set and a slide projector.

- Illustration songs: The integrated song booklet contains all the songs of the program to be used during the service or anytime you need songs.

- Do-it-yourself (DIY) materials: children like Truth4Youth do-it-yourself. Much better, each DIY consolidates the Bible truth taught in the corresponding program.

- The user's manual: This invaluable resource abounds in information and ideas

to help you better use your time and your resources. Organize yourself including checklists to help you. Allusions and ideas for the preparation of the « Truth4Yout », suggestions for prizes and encouragement are integrated.

Why has it been developed?

The project has especially developed for children aged 5 years and beyond.

Getting motivated for the project

We find our motivations and encouragements for the success of the project through the examples of faith contained in the Scriptures about the impact of the seed of truth sown in the heart from the childhood.

Moses, the first leader of Israel

The grains of seeds of truth sown in the heart of Moses during the first 12 of his life yielded such fruits that 28 years of seduction and pagan education failed to outdo. He identified himself with the true God putting his life at risk. Ex 2, Act 7 : 21-23, Patriarchs and Prophets PP 244-246.

Samuel, the great prophet in Israel

Samuel, God's special gift to Anna, was weaned and taken to the temple to be forever committed to the service of God. Although young and living among the ungodly children of Elija, Samuel was not influenced and diverted from the truth early sown in his heart. 1 Samuel 1 : 1-2 ; Patriarchs and Prophets PP 572-574.

Jesus sowed the seed of truth in the heart of children.

In Matthew 19:13-16, mothers took their children to Jesus so that he would bless them. Although the disciples thought Jesus was so busy to care about these small children, and that the Gospel was so difficult except for adults, Jesus stopped all his activities to bless and teach the children.

« He knew that these children would listen to him and accept him as their redeemer far more readily than would grown up people, many of whom were the worldly wise and hardhearted. In his teaching he came down to their level. He, the majesty of heaven, did not disdain to answer their question, and simplify His important lessons to meet their childish understanding. He planted in their minds the seeds of truth, which in after years would spring up, and bear fruit unto eternal life. » The Desire of Ages, p. 515.

The Great Truth

« ... Children are the most susceptible to the teachings of the Gospel; their hearts are open to divine influences and strong to retain the lessons received. The little children may be the Christians, having an experience in the according with their age. The Desire of Ages, p. 515.

Come with us to sow the seed of truth in the

heart of those 5 million children throughout the West Central Africa Division during the coming holidays starting from June to September 2013.



STEWARDSHIP



The first ever stewardship summit held in Nigeria (Eastern Nigeria Union Mission in West Central African region of Seventh-day Adventist church) was held between March 20th - 24th, 2013. After four days of exploring what was described under the theme "Investing for Eternity," by digging deep into biblical stewardship principles, the church in Nigeria is on fire for Christ. The two Unions in Nigeria were represented by over 1300 delegates to the summit, one of the biggest gatherings in West Central Africa Division since this five year term.

In the welcome address and opening ceremony, Pastor B.E.O. Udoh, President of Eastern Nigeria Union Mission stated; "Your presence to this summit is a prove of your commitment to the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ. Having come with high hopes and expectations, Pastor Puni and his team will imbue in you utmost ideas, techniques and practicability and you will become opportune, favoured and fortified to be not only God stewards, but also stewardship disciples of the highest amplitude and results". Pastor Oyeleke Owolabi, the President of the North-West Nigeria Union Mission and Pastor Udoh declared the summit open.

"Stewardship is all of me in response to all of God," said Dr Puni, Stewardship Director for the World Church and one of the presenters at the meeting. Dr. Ben Schrun the Vice President of the General Conference preached on the Sabbath on the topic "Stewardship is a life style" while Elder Mario Nino the Associate Stewardship Director of the World Church spoke on combined offering plan. Barrister L.T. C. Eruba did the exposition of the theme while Elder Chibuike Anonaba (SAN) spoke on the legal aspects of investing for eternity. Elder Herbert Sibianda from Adventist Risk Management lectured on the importance of insuring our properties against risks while Mr. Reuben Onwubuiko, Africa Marketing Director of Glaxosmith Klime lectured on liberating and empowerment of Pastors and membership. The Vice Chancellor of Babcock University, Prof.

J.A.K. Makinde spoke on the importance of faithfulness in the opening devotion while Pastor (Dr.) James Badu the Director of Stewardship ministries spoke about the spirituality of offering in the WAD.

Pastor (Dr.) K. C. Anonaba coordinated the pulpit and declared the meeting closed. All church Administrators and Pastors in the Nigerian Unions were in attendance. Each participant drew their strategy to communicate stewardship principles to their immediate areas of influence. They made commitment for spiritual revival and growth in Nigeria Unions approximately 300,000 Adventist church members. "This Division is on combined offering plan" said Pastor J. K. Badu and that is what we are implementing.

According to Elder Boadi Mensa, Associate Treasurer of WAD and one of the presenters said; "I left the ground convinced by the Holy Spirit that my relationship with Jesus is paramount; this summit was spiritual". Elisha Anozie, a church member, commented "the summit erased my misconception that stewardship is only about money, it is about my relationship with God." Present were Elders E. G. Manilla, Treasurer ENUM and his associate Elder Kelechi Nwankwo, Elder M. Dangana, Treasurer and Stewardship Director NWNUM. In the closing, the host Director of Stewardship Ministries in ENUM, Pastor lyke Ekpendu said, "This summit is a calculated attempt; embarked in the theme, Investing for Eternity," to bring about change. To reorder our priorities, reform our vision and inculcate in us the spirit of total surrender to our creator.



Ps James Badu





Making a HEALTHY DIFFERENCE in Our COMMUNITIES

We are hearing much about health evangelism, but how can my church—set in a city community—make a difference?

Health ministry is a very effective tool for outreach in our church communities.

Sadly, many church buildings are used almost exclusively on weekends. They also could, however, effectively be used during the week in reaching out to the needs of the community.

Jesus is our example. Ellen White's classic book on health ministry, *The Ministry of Healing*, opens with these compelling words: "Our Lord Jesus Christ came to this world as the unwearied servant of man's necessity. He 'took our infirmities, and bare our sickness,' that He might minister to every need of humanity. . . . The burden of disease and wretchedness and sin He came to remove. It was His mission to bring to men complete restoration; He came to give them health and peace and perfection of character."

She writes a little further down the page: "None who came to Him went away unhelped."¹

On page 143 of the same book we find the method that works in this special ministry: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them 'Follow me.'"

We have the example, the method, and the churches! For the past seven years the vision of the General Conference Health Ministries Department has been that every church should be a community health center. That can happen only when we actively strive to serve the needs of the community where we are—city or rural, large or small—and mingle with the people.

Churches can help ensure the cleanliness and security of water sources in a village, or run smoking-cessation initiatives in a city center. We can help to combat the current pandemic of obesity and type 2 diabetes that is plaguing both the developed and emerging economies by running screening programs and health expos to identify those who have diabetes and high blood pressure, encouraging them to seek professional help. We can host nutrition classes and provide instruction on how to prepare healthful, nutritious, plant-based foods, which can be so helpful in combatting obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and

other lifestyle diseases, including coronary artery disease and even cancer.

Our churches could be hubs for exercise clubs, providing fellowship and motivation to many. As friends are made, the ministry of the local church can extend to operating addiction-awareness and recovery programs, as well as programs on mental and emotional health, well-being, and depression recovery. There's no shortage of credible and evidence-based programs; our church members need to be informed and trained in sharing these.

Based on the instruction of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, the church has placed renewed emphasis on all church ministries—women's, children's, youth, education, and health—to engage in what is now termed "Comprehensive Health Ministry (CHM)." The intention is to break down our silos of solo performance and together engage in Christ's method of outreach, which will successfully minister to the needs of all. Health ministry then becomes the conduit of a grace-filled message to a needy and broken world. Every church becomes a community health center (in its broadest and most practical sense), and every member a "medical missionary" (health minister, health promoter).

"We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. The world is a lazar house filled with victims of both physical and spiritual disease."² What a need; what a commission! We have the buildings, the tools, and, most important, the people. Let us move forward and make every church a community health center for the glory and honor of God's name and the salvation of many souls.

1 Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1905), p. 17.

2 Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 7, p. 62.

Allan R. Handysides, a board-certified gynecologist, recently retired as director of the General Conference Health Ministries department.

Peter N. Landless, a board-certified nuclear cardiologist, is the new director of the General Conference Health Ministries department.

Lagos For Christ

As a matter of choice the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) selected Lagos Nigeria as her big city to reach and as part of her strategy on how to reach Lagos for Christ, she decided to use a family approach. There are two Conferences in Lagos namely Lagos Atlantic Conference and Lagos Mainland Conference. These two working under the leadership of the then North-Western Nigeria Union Mission now (North-Central Nigeria Union conference) together worked in Lagos using the small group initiative but with family ministries materials and focus.

Une séance de formation pratique

TRAINING

As is often stated, "He, who fails to plan, plans to fail." This was not to be the fate of Pastor Dr. DMin. Owolabi, Oyeleke president of the North-Central Nigeria Union Conference and his team who took time to conduct training for selected speakers of groups or zones. This training took place on the 9th and 16th of February 2013. In spite of this training on March 13, 2013 the conferences directors also followed up with further training using the Sabbath school and evangelism departments to deliver the goods.

MATERIALS USED

Thanks to pastor Gordon Marbourough who developed the Happy Family Bible Seminar International series for granting us permission to use the materials and adopt it to our own local situation. Sixteen thousand sets were printed and used for the initiative. There were other materials used to complement the later such as the Great hope, Invitation cards were also printed, portals and home fellowship banners were at the same time printed and distributed to various centers. Gift items like The Signs of Hope, Steps to Christ and Bibles were also distributed.

Method Used

For two weeks in six hundred and twenty two centers there was a sustained house fellowship. Each day a topic was treated by the 622 speakers trained by the union and conference. Before this time an invitation card was issued to the various groups mobilizing families to attend. Special prayers were officer daily at each center for members of various families attending. This initiative is continuing until all prospects finally make a decision to give their lives to Christ. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue using this initiative to have all Adventists families be involved in witnessing to other

families.

Results, 264 baptized and 5 families

Compilation faite par Pasteur Jallah Karba et Mme Directeur de la vie familiale de la Division de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et Du Centre.

A Vision for Big Cities

HOW IS FAMILY MINISTRIES A USEFUL TOOL ?

There is no argument that our focus as a family of God seeking to save the lost has radically shifted to first doing some in reach before outreach. This we realize has been the theme of the leadership of our dear president Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson and I cannot agree less with this submission that revival and reformation is our greatest need. It is from this backdrop that the intention to evangelize the big cities was born. Families as we know are the worst hate in our society today. It begins with marriages experiencing series of challenges ranging from quarrel, misunderstanding, to fighting, then separation, and sometimes even divorce. And we all are aware that once that unit is disrupted it has rippling consequences like a title wave.

That is why it make a lot of sense to consider that "The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home ...The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend on home influences." – The Ministry of Healing, p 349.

So why not applaud the North-Central Nigeria Union Conference for starting their big city effort with the use of family ministries materials to accomplish their goals and effect that needed change that is needed to help correct some of the avalanches of societal maladies that we are constantly grappling with as a church and as a people.

Ps Umoro Jacob, Lagos Atlantic Federation President /
Ps Adeniyi Emmanuel, Lagos Mainland Federation President

Meditation

BLESSED... FORTIFIED..., AND PROTECTED!

As a child of God, there is a hedge of protection over your life; it's placed there by God. Sadly, many breach that hedge without realizing it, through perverse or unwholesome communication. Proverbs 15:4 says, "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit." 1 Peter 3:10 says, "... if you want to enjoy life and wish to see good times, you must keep from speaking evil and stop telling lies." Speaking evil means saying things that contradict God's Word. The cardinal lie is the contradiction of the Word of God.

There is a lesson in the story of Job in the Old Testament. Job, through his negative talking, gave Satan the inroad to his life, to wallop him. Job was a righteous man, who feared the Lord, and did what was right in God's sight, and God blessed, fortified and protected him on every side. The devil could not afflict Job, despite trying several times. In Job 1:10, Satan admitted this much: "...hast thou not made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land."

Yet, with all the spiritual walls of protection built around Job, he overthrew himself through the perverseness of his lips. He dug holes in the hedge God had built around him through his confessions of fear,

Psalm 91 : 1-7

discouragement and danger. In Job 3:25, 26:, we read "for the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came." This was completely at variance with the reality of his life, and what God did for him, that even Satan acknowledged in Job 1:10.

Proverbs 18:21 tells us that; "Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Do not speak words of fear, or admit that you are not in safety, irrespective of the perceived danger. Rather, affirm always that no evil shall befall you, because your life is 'hid in Christ', in God. Colossians 3:1). Declare that God's angels are watching over you everywhere you go, to keep you in all your ways.

Let us then, affirm and claim it daily that we dwell in the secret place of the most high, and abide in His holy presence; therefore, no evil will befall us, neither shall any plague come near our dwelling.

Stella Love

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