

West-Central Africa Division

ADVENTIST REVIEW

December 2020

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I Will Go

*Dr., Pastor Elie Weick Dido
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In the TV show that presents Korea during the 1950's war, Mac, a helicopter pilot did go to get wounded soldiers and return them to a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) in Vietnam.

What if those doctors and nurses had decided they would not go out to the battlefield? What if they had decided that it would be safer and more comfortable for them to remain in their own cleaner, more sterile hospitals? And what if Mac and hundreds of other helicopter pilots had said, "I'm not flying into the danger zone?"

What happens to the Church of Jesus Christ in these last days when it stops operating like a MASH unit in the field and becomes more like a country club where doctors play golf?

What happens to us who stop being Helicopter pilots who consider it their mission to rescue wounded people and instead stay in the coffee room talking about "flights they've made in the past?"

Wounded people are dying.

Jesus' Great Commission really is the mission for His Church. It is given authoritatively from our Supreme Commander, and it's to be the driving force for our existence. *"Go and make disciples of all people."* How do I know that this is the exact same commission as "Go rescue wounded people?"

I know because of the One who gave me the order; the One who gave you this order, modeled our mission before He gave His commission. Luke 19:10 says, "Jesus, the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."

It is important that those who claim to be His disciples have to consider the following points:

I. THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW CHRIST ARE LOST.

We live in a world that continually stresses on, "Don't claim your way is the only way, don't impose your beliefs on those who disagree." The world hates the truth and those who are seeking to rescue spiritually wounded people. Jesus said to His disciples, "I'm going back to my Father to prepare a way for you to get there as well. There's plenty of room for all of you there. If it weren't the truth, I'd have told you. You can't go there now. But I'll come back for you so I can bring you there myself...and we can be together...you know the way to get there! (John 14:1-6)

However, Thomas, one of those disciples had his doubts, "Lord we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus' response leaves no doubt...about how Thomas and every person in the world gets there... "Jesus told him, I am the Way, I am the truth...I am the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

He is the only way to heaven and the only way of salvation. We who claim to be His disciples need to urgently seek and rescue people morally and spiritually wounded in our battlefield earth.

II. EXCUSES SMOTHER OUR CONVICTION

We offer five excuses:

A. It is not my spiritual gift.

We think we are not spiritually gifted for evangelism and we decide to leave that responsibility to others. If we have to think about the logical inconsistency of



that objection, we will certainly conclude that those who do not have the gift of mercy should never show mercy. Do we also think that a person who does not have the gift of giving should never give? Everyone is called to be obedient to the Great Commission.

B. The pastor and church staff are paid for that.

This excuse is more of an attitude than a specifically articulated issue. When I started doing church consultation, I heard it several times. I challenged one church member to show me in Scripture where evangelism was limited to the pastor. His response, "That's common sense. Everyone knows that's why you pay a pastor."

C. I do not have time.

If we do not have time to share the love of Christ, it's really not a priority in our lives. It is a simple question: Is there anything more important than someone having a relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior? If nothing is more important, how can we not have time to do it?

D. I do not want to impose my beliefs on others.

This one is bothersome. Can you imagine the apostle Paul standing before a crowd saying, "I really have some good news for you, but I don't want to impose my beliefs on you. I will just keep my beliefs to myself. After all, religion is really a private matter"? Of course not! The gospel is to be shared boldly and joyfully.

E. I am an introvert.

Introversion is not a valid excuse. Here is the truth: we do what we want to do or what is important to us. How do we reach a place where we say, "I will go"? We become real disciples of Jesus when we obey His commission.

III. WE MOVE FROM THEORY TO ACTION

If we really believe that Christ is the only way to salvation, and that the only way someone can come to Him is by hearing the gospel then we'd better stop practicing Christianity as a theory and put it into action.

Jesus said this very, very plainly, "If anyone is ashamed of Me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." (Mark 8:38)

So how do we move from theory to action?

1. PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES

We do not have opportunities for two big reasons: we do not ask, or we are too busy with our own pursuits to see them. Pray for opportunities.

2. INVITE PEOPLE TO CHURCH

When we invite someone to Church they have an opportunity to hear God speak to them. God miraculously sees the hearts of people and still calls and still transforms.

Thom Rainer's research group did a study that showed 8 out of 10 people who do not attend Church would come if they were invited by a friend.

3. INTENTIONALLY LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES

1 Peter 3:15 says, "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

We need to settle the issue of Jesus' Lordship first. Life has a reason for living. There are opportunities when lost people ask questions.

4. BE PREPARED TO SPEAK WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY COMES

It is often a testimony about how God called you, saved you and is still working to transform you. How the love of Christ makes all the difference. Something powerful happens when you prayerfully prepare and take the time to honor God with your story. Ask other mature believers to help you be prepared. Ask questions in your small group share the opportunities and have others be praying for you! The opportunities are for you to have Holy Spirit led words. Yes, you will be afraid, yes it's outside of your comfort zone, but that's where faith is and "it's impossible to please God without faith." (Hebrews 11:6)

It's time! Satan loves it when we remain silent. It's time for His people, His redeemed...to be unashamed of our Redeemer...to say... "I WILL GO."

EDITORIAL

Covid - 19 And The Use of Social Media

*Pr. Irineo Koch
Communication Director, WAD.*

Never in history has the Internet been so fundamental to the use of social networks and meeting by applications. With distancing, city bans, meetings are held via Internet, and many of them are by Zoom. Likewise, the resumption of religious activities was also posted on social networks.

The Zoom app, which a year before was almost unknown, has today such an expressive market value that is more than five airlines combined. If you join: Delta, American Airlines, United, Air France and Lufthansa, all together are not worth 2/3 of the Zoom app today. This online meeting app records approximately 300 million calls per day! More than half of companies think of continuing to work remotely without having to go to a workplace every day.

With the frantic use of this, here I present some suggestions on how to use Zoom and social media.

1) When using Zoom, to avoid interfering with people on the call, turning off the microphone is mandatory, but the camera is optional. Whoever speaks, likes to see his face and his reactions. However, there are times

when it is understandable when the camera isn't on.

2) Express your reactions in a meeting with the app available at the bottom of the screen, they could disappear in five seconds. This could be of a very good effect for the person speaking and for the other people participating in the meeting.

3) You can record the meeting if you want. In Settings, you will find the option to «Record the meeting.»

4) Be careful when your camera is on. Everything you do in front of the camera could be seen or even be recorded. Focus on the meeting, and choose a format that you can see and will remind you that your camera is on. You can set up your photo or an illustration to display when your camera goes off. To achieve this, follow the link on YouTube.

5) During a Zoom meeting, encourage everyone to participate in one way or the other with a wink, a smile, an amen. But never invite everyone to sing at the same time online, it will be embarrassing, because there are delays, and the voices will not be heard at the same time, some well behind, leading to confusion.



6) Use the zoom meeting for Bible studies, sermons, children's stories, interviews, testimonies. There are many initiatives, like this one, that I particularly like: a well-prepared person, a pastor, a doctor or a professional, answering questions from an interviewer and participants asking questions online. At the end of the program, the activity should remain available on YouTube for those who would like to watch later.

7) Identify the characteristics of each type of media:

a) Facebook is a place to promote events. Videos of 2 or 3 minutes are accepted. WhatsApp groups also fit in there.

b) The Zoom application is intended for conferences, seminars, lectures, training, worship, studies, debates and scheduled exchanges with a starting and ending time well defined.

c) Youtube is a good place to share videos more than 3 minutes.

d) Life streams can be made on Facebook, Youtube or even Zoom. However, programs once recorded are more expected on Youtube.

8) The biggest social media challenge today is not new technology or sophisticated equipment. The

biggest challenge today is how to get people's attention. When conceiving a program, spend more time in planning and present the program in the most engaging, interesting form, with new and interactive content. Also, do advertise on all pre-event media.

9) Be mindful with copyright. Some days ago, I was watching a sermon online and all of a sudden, the sermon was cut because the preacher showed a Youtube video without permission. The video was very interesting, it showed an athlete, a swimmer, who was rescued from drugs and suicide. But, because the video was not authorized, the broadcast was cut, leaving hundreds of people without knowing the end of the story.

10) Have a high ideal. Some use the media for profit, political ends, or personal exaltation and promotion. Others unfortunately use the media for scams, forgery, etc. We must remember that whatever is at our disposal is entrusted to us to serve and love others. Preaching the Gospel is to reveal the love of Jesus and His Word. If we use the media in this regard, self will be hidden and Jesus will shine bestowing wonderful blessings upon everyone.

Promoting The Online Encyclopedia of Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Onaolapo Ajibade.

Assistant Editor, Encyclopedia of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Did you know that the first person to sow the seeds of the three angels' messages in West Africa was not a Seventh-day Adventist? Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Chad and Central Africa Republic have Seventh-day Adventist Church today. How did the church begin in these countries? How did Babcock University and Valley View University begin, and what miracles has God performed along the way? Long before the first official missionary came

to Cote d'Ivoire, there were some people keeping the seventh day holy. How did this happen? What role has literature played in establishing the church in Ghana? Pastor David C. Babcock came to West Africa with his third wife. He came to Nigeria in 1914, why did he leave Nigeria abruptly?

Why is the church's highest institution in Eastern Nigeria named, "Clifford University?" After some frustration, how did J.J. Hyde finally succeed in establishing the church in Northern Nigeria? Females are more



ESDA
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The Marvelous African Church History



encyclopedia.adventist.org

than males in WAD. The females are organized into a body called "Adventist Women's Ministries." How did it start, and from which country in WAD? What name was first given to West-Central Africa Division when it was organized by the General Conference? The Advent Press is the only press owned by the Division; in which country was it first located? Today, the Benin Mission is reporting a membership of more than five thousand. How did God use two Ibo brothers from Nigeria who went to the country as traders to start the church there? Who was the first Adventist convert in Niger? Who brought the Adventist message to Burkina Faso? Cape Verde, Senegal, Mali, Guinea Bissau and Gambia have Adventist presence today. How was the church established in these countries? Who were some of the indigenous pioneers that embraced Adventism in the various countries of WAD? Have you ever heard of a charter being given before and institution for which the charter is meant being given before the institution

came into existence? Read the history of Adventist University of West Africa in Liberia.

These and many questions are answered by the first ever online Encyclopedia of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that will be launched at the General Conference headquarters on July 1, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. EST. Our stories in the previous Encyclopedias of the church were written by authors not from our Division; but in this one we have been given the opportunity to write our own stories.

If we do not understand our past, we cannot appreciate our present situation, and we cannot have an effective plan for our tomorrow. This is why reading the online Encyclopedia is a must for every administrator of the church and indeed every church member.

The web address is Encyclopedia.Adventist.org The launch program will be broadcast on the Seventh-day Adventist YouTube Channel. God bless you as you get yourself well informed about our past.

Attractive And Expansive Forces in Mission



Kassoule Zakari Adventist Mission WAD

As Laad, a great missiologist explains, 'In Christian context, Mission is an organized effort to spread the message of Christ, by sharing personal testimonies or sending individual or group across the world to preach the Christian faith' However, it must be clear, he pursues that the first purpose of mission today is to help people to know God's Kingdom and His redemptive plan for the whole humanity, to help to recognize Jesus as the only savior. (Laad: 2004: 65). It is essential for Christians to understand the model of mission given by God to Israel in Old Testament and the model given by Jesus in the New Testament to witness among the nations. The two models will be our focus in that very short reflection.

Attractive model given by God to the Israelites

On their way to the Promised Land, God, through Moses, made a covenant with Israel. They were to be set apart not only in their lives but also in their service." The role Israel was to perform was that of being "a kingdom of priests, a holy nation" Exodus 19:6. (Kaiser 2004:14). Bavinck, points out that, through

a genuine connection with God, and other services like the temple, festivals, religious ceremonies and practices, Israelites have to show to other nations the great glorious Kingdom of God and the blessing that follow the members of that Kingdom. Finally, the nations will say "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you." (Za 8:23). (Bavinck (1977:19)

Lewis (2004:60) names this model: 'the attractive force evangelism.' He points out that the duty of Israel through God's directives is to attract other nations to the knowledge of the Almighty. He stated that, Rahab, Ruth the Moabite, Naaman the Syrian and many other unknown people belonging to other nations whom God reached through the witness of some of Israelites (Lewis 2004:60).

Kaiser adds another vital ingredient to understand more that model by considering Abraham's call as an example to other nations: In Gen 12:1-3, God said to Abraham: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. "I will bless those who bless you and him who curse you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall be bless," He continues reporting that; no doubt the key word here is blessings. He declares that through Abraham God wants to reach the nations around him. "I will bless those who bless

you”, “those who curse you, I will curse” he points out that whoever follows Abraham will receive the same promise, and the curse for those who are looking for a name through ways other than God’s genuine plan. (Kaiser 2004:12). Piper, after sharing similar concern, argues that if Abraham is blessed; the peoples around him will see it and come to God to receive the same blessings. This is God’s ultimate intention for all nations on earth. (Piper 2004:115).

The central fact to observe is that, God is, today, calling his people above all else to practice the attractive model of mission, to approach people by showing them kindness in their lifestyle, relations and beauty of worship.

Expansive model given by the Lord Jesus -Christ

One cannot fail to notice that when Jesus gave the great commission he asked his people to go and share the good news: “So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” (John 20:21) The focus of mission in the New Testament is to go and make disciples by meeting people where they are. Bosh (2004:60) call it expansive mission, we can keep in mind that the Old Testament mainly focus on attractive mission, the New Testament on expansive one. The expansive model argues Peter is also demonstrated by God Himself when He came in the Garden without the invitation of Adam and Eve, brought salvation to them by solving their problem. (Genesis 3:15), Jesus also descended from heaven, visited human being on the earth to bring them the garment of righteousness. (Peter 1972:64).

In the light of the above biblical facts, these reflections prepare to conclude the way to say that, to fulfill the mission today one have to combine the two models given by God, attractive and expansive, to help our neighbors to know the redemptive plan. It should be noted as Piper observes that as people of God, Christians need to make efforts to find hidden nations in the forests of their beliefs. Through their lifestyle, the Disciples of Christ can release unbelievers from the curse and fear. Piper (2004:115). We must practice biblical Christianity, individually and in our community to help others to see Jesus in us. As mission is a privilege in which the church is involved, gospel workers need the power of the Holy

Spirit and knowledge of God’s command, to live by faith and a spirit of selfless evangelism considering the salvation of others more important than anything in the world. It is worthy to note that there is no room for pride in the Christianity or place of honor except for Jesus.

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Animism And Its Challenges to Christianity



INTRODUCTION

Animism has come to be known as one of the most widely practiced religions in the world today. It is one of the four foundational worldviews, (MARKET FAITH MINISTRIES). The word Animism is derived from Latin anima, meaning “breath” or “spirit” or “life”, it is said to be the world’s oldest religion that predates any form of organized religion in the world and it contains the oldest spiritual and supernatural perspective in the world.¹

Some professionals estimate that close to half of the world’s population is involved in one type of animism or another. It’s widespread is such that a person practicing a form of animism could also be a member of another religion. Most professed Christians (Seventh-day Adventists inclusive) practice a form of animism.

The practice of animism is widespread because it has no formal theology as other religions do, no training schools, no founders and no geographical point of origin.² To properly understand animism, I will consider its various definitions and basic beliefs.

1 Wikipedia.org (2018) Animism.

Retrieved 8 August 2018 from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animism>

2 World Map (2018) Animism Contrasted with Christianity.

Retrieved 8 August 2018 from <https://world-map.com/en/acts.online-chapters/animism-contrasted-with-christianity/>

DEFINITIONS

Animism is defined as “the religious belief that objects, places and creatures all possess a distinct spiritual essence.”³ Theoretically, animism holds that all things - be it animals, plants, rocks, rivers, weather systems, human handiwork and even spoken words are animated and alive.

It is also said to be the belief that there are many gods in the universe and that they interact with humanity in a symbiotic relationship.⁴ According to this understanding, gods are expressed in the natural world- some in material objects, some in heavenly objects, some in animals while others are the spirits of departed human ancestors.

According to Probe.org, 2018,⁵ Animism (or folk religion) is a religion that sees a spirit or spiritual force behind every event, and that many objects of the physical world carry some spiritual significance. World Map (2018)⁶ points out that all forms of animism include three basic beliefs and they are:

3 Wikipedia.org (2018)

4 MARKET MINISTRIES (2018). Animism in today’s world.

Retrieved 8 August 2018 from <https://www.marketfaith.org/animism-in-todays-world-2/>

5 Probe.org, 2018

6 World Map (2018)

The belief in some type of Supreme Being (who is represented as far off and unconcerned with man's daily needs and challenges).

The belief in a spirit world that is filled with the spirits of the dead, with devils and with other spiritual beings (which are subject to the "supreme being").

The belief in mystical powers (witchcraft, sorcery, voodoo, divination, etc.)

AN OVERVIEW OF ANIMISTIC WORLDVIEW

From all the above definitions and explanations, one major point is clear, and that is the presupposition of Animistic Worldview that the seen is related to the unseen. Hence, there is no sharp distinction between the two realities, what happens in one affects the other.

There is an existing interaction between the divine and the human, the sacred and the profane, the spiritual and the secular. It continues to exert that the influences of God, gods, spirits and ancestors affect the living. Humans are thought to be controlled by spiritual forces, whether they are ancestors or ghosts, gods or spirits, witchcraft or sorcery and curses or the evil eye.⁷ Because of this interaction, human now seek to appease the powers through sacrifices and libations so as to access the powers to cope with evil through rituals, and to protect themselves through charms and amulets.

In this Worldview, the earth plays a prominent part because it is perceived as a living entity and is often worshiped as Mother Earth. Nature itself is also believed to be alive - the hills, caves, valleys, etc. are often revered as sacred places and things. Animals are often seen in most cases as embodiments of spirits, hence many are worshiped as sacred, such animals include cows, special species of snakes, monkeys, elephants. Plants and trees can also contain spirits and some are worshiped in Europe. Forests are seen as places where the spirits dwell. In many parts of the world, there exists numerous subhuman beings that are supposed to live in lakes, forests, and caves. For example, in Europe they include mythical beings like trolls, gnomes, and fairies. (Probe.org, 2018).

In this Worldview, part of the unseen world is the Supreme God. Following the supreme God are a host of lesser gods who dwell in particular regions. Following these gods are the spirits, who often dwell in nature and are confined to specific areas. Then comes the spirits of the ancestors who continue to play roles in the affairs of the living, either to protect or to punish. In existence include unseen supernatural powers like fate, cosmic moral order, the evil eye and magic. Also in existence are interpersonal energy forces in objects that give the objects power. These objects are believed to give a person power to do good or evil. (Bible.org). Animism is expressed more deliberately through divination, witchcraft, sorcery, idol worship in many forms, and ancestor worship.

SOME THEMES IN ANIMISM WHICH STANDS AS DANGERS TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH:

Community-centered life: According to this theme, an individual has meaning only in the context of a community. One believes and does only that which is acceptable by the community and does not exist or survive outside his or her community. As a result, the ancestors, the living, and the unborn are the center of existence.

The role of the spirit world: In this world, supernatural beings and forces surround human beings and most of them are hostile. As a result, people spend time seeking ways to appease the gods, the spirits, and the ancestors with offerings or bribes, so as to maintain the harmony between the two worlds.

The focus on the present: The main concern is with here and now and not the future. By this theme of animism, people seek to deal with success and failure, power and knowledge needed to control life here now and not hereafter.

The focus on power: By this, the goal of a person is to obtain power to control the world around him or her. This is because people perceive themselves as constantly struggling against spirits, other humans, and supernatural forces.

Pragmatism: The Animist is not interested in academic understanding of spiritual and scientific truths. His or her main interest is in securing good, meaningful life and protection from evil. That is why the test of a folk religionist is, "does it work?", if it works, then he will believe and obey. In pursuance of the

⁷ Global Christian Center (2018). "Defining an Animistic Worldview"

Retrieved 8 August 2018 from <https://alobalchristiancenter.com/bible-and-theology/academic-research/24379-defining-an-animistic-worldview>

goal of meaningful life and protection, people turn to several things that may be contradictory, in the hope that one will work.

Particularism: By this, members of a community are tied to their lands. Each community has its own peculiar god which is believed to have given the people their land, and that is where the ancestors reside.

The fear factor: Fear plays a major role in animism. In this world that is believed to be full of spirits, omens and spells, life is hardly secure. Many see this world as hostile, dangerous and antagonistic to people because of evil forces therein. Therefore, people turn to their ancestors, gods, and spirits for protection and safety. (Bible.org, 2018)

ANALYSIS OF SOME OF THE THEMES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE

Just as it is with all false religions, animism has partial truth. Each of these themes of animism poses a danger to the Christian faith, however, when examined with the lens of the Christian faith as found in the Bible, none of them can stand the test of time. The scriptures teach that there is a supreme being and the being is God Almighty, the creator of the universe and he is our sovereign Lord. The Bible also reveals the existence of Satan and the origin of evil in Genesis chapter 3. From the Bible, we understand that our world does have a “spiritual realm”, and that there are spiritual beings both obedient to God (angels) and rebellious against God (demons) who exists in this realms and in the world with us - Rev 12:7-12, Luke 10:18.

We also know from the Bible that there are demon forces at work to deceive, steal from, and destroy human beings as found in some chapters and verses as in - John 10:10; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 6:12; 1 John 4:1-6.

While animism presents humanity at the mercy of these demons, and rituals and sacrifices required to appease them so that they can provide and protect

humanity, the Bible presents the existence and sustenance of humanity at the mercy of God. Almighty God, the creator of all things is the only one worthy of worship, only him provides. God the Creator, not the created nature as a whole or any part of nature, animate or inanimate things is not to be worshiped, whether perceived alive or dead.

Animism takes such clearly revealed truths in the Bible and blends them with all kinds of superstitions, myths, omens and demonic practices, thereby creating a humanly enticing, philosophically attractive and emotionally satisfying “false religion”. Animism brings syncretism into focus and dual allegiance into practice. Those who participate in animism are led away from Godly, biblical spirituality and into demonic activities of falsehood and blasphemy.

Because of the strong appeal of animism, many Christian believers, Adventist believers inclusive, practice it while expressing faith in Christ. Most Christians today, even those who are well educated or who live in a technologically advanced society may practice animistic beliefs.

For instance, many athletes all over the world have certain “rituals” they follow before they participate in sporting events. Sometimes, they put on items of clothing in a certain order, or wear a piece of equipment or jewelry they consider to be “luck charms” to give them good fortune or a better performance in the athletic competition. This of course is animistic.

While community solidarity is good, an individual does not survive or exist by following his community to believe and do wrong. The idea that one cannot survive without his own clan is clearly refuted in the Scripture. To prove this, God told Abraham to leave his people in Gen 12. God does not need Abraham’s background to make him what he needs him to be. To this theme of animism, the Lord clearly states in Exodus 23:2 “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil”. Animism promotes quest for power for personal use and self-interest above the interest of others. Contrary to this, the Bible presents power as something that is God given for services that will

bring people to Christ for the salvation of their souls, Acts 1:8. Self-sacrifice against self-interest is what the scripture teaches, and it was exemplified by Christ's sacrificial life and death on the cross of Calvary.

The Psalm of David, 24 verses 1 and 2 starts with the presentation of God as the creator and owner of the universe. "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters" Against the claims of animism, it is God who owns the earth, not the territorial demons. It is also God who gives victory not the gods of the land. While animism promotes fear, God has clearly stated that he has not given us the spirit of fear, no matter the condition and situation (2 Timothy 1:7).

CONCLUSION

The emphasis of the Christian life, in contrast to the theology of animism is relationship that exists between the believer and God. God's relationship with mankind is based on love - John 3:16 and Eph 2: 8. Since God is gracious, He does not need to be constantly appeased by believers, neither does he require libations and sacrifice of blood. His laws are clearly revealed to us in the Bible and it is obedience

to his words and faith in him that makes him happy.

When we disobey, we may suffer the consequences of our sin or experience his discipline, which is always motivated by his love and intention to bring us to a right relationship with him. In times of difficulty, we do not fear his wrath but he invites us to draw even closer to him (1 John 4:16-18).

"God is love". Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear..." Although believers encounter tragedy and suffering, we do not live in fear but in faith, trusting in the character of God. Animism is deceptive and dangerous to every Christian.

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Choices That we Make



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In the beginning, God made man in His image and breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and man became a living soul (Gen 2:7). God did not make man a robot, but gave man the freedom to decide what is good and what is bad. In Micah 6:8, the Bible says, "He has shown thee, O man, what is good, and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (ASV). God gave man the gift of freewill after birth, and it matures with time. The Lord requires man to choose what is good and kind and to walk humbly with his Maker. This admonishing presupposes that there are also bad choices that man should avoid.

Life is full of choices. The exception is when one is born or dies, for no one has an option to determine whether he or she wants to be born or not, or, be black or white. One cannot decide whether to be Asian or American. Besides, one cannot choose when to die, except one chooses to commit suicide. Birth and death are the sole prerogatives of the Creator!

How can one be sure of choosing what is right?

In the book of Micah, God has shown man what is good and expects man to walk humbly with Him. Proverbs 9:10 says, "the fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom; And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. It is in God that we find wisdom because man is a creature of God. It is God alone who knows everything about man. Proverbs 20:27 says, "The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart" (NKJV). If man humbles himself before his Maker, man can be sure of choosing rightly at all times. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13). In John 15:5-6, the Lord has made it clear that man can do nothing without Him. He is the vine, and we are the branches, the branches have to remain in the vine to bear fruits. The only sure way to choose right is to abide in the Lord.

The freewill that God gave to man, if properly used,

will lead to eternal life. Only God can offer life eternal to man. However, alternatives are always associated with man's freewill. The other options give man the ability to weigh things well and to settle on the best one. A wrong decision can sometimes be bitter or occasionally fatal. There is always life and death laid before man, but the counsel has always been that man chooses life. Moses told the Israelites, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before your life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19). It is when the Spirit of God lives in you that one can choose life.

Choices that are not reversible

Man must bring God in all decisions, especially the decisions, when once made, cannot be reversed. When a person decides to commit suicide or cause abortion, is final. Life comes from the Creator of life. Once a person chooses to relinquish the gift of life, it is over. To avoid this kind of mistake, one has to invite God before making a final decision in anything. It is by this invitation alone that a person can avoid such a fatal decision.

The decision that was made in the Garden of Eden In Genesis 2:16-17, God issued a command to man, "Of every tree of the garden thou may freely eat, But the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shall not eat of it, for the day thou shall eat thereof, thou shall surely die." It was a simple and clear command for man to stay away from that tree. If man had inquired of God in the matter and had obeyed Him, he would have lived, but by ignoring God, death has passed on to us all. It is essential for us today to always bring God into the picture before one can conclude on any action to take. There will always be a time when man will have to choose between alternatives, and a man must remember to bring God into the picture before taking the final decision.

The Law of God

The Creator God has given man ten clear commandments to obey to live. The alternative to disobey will always come from the enemy. As Satan tested Jesus, so will he test the disciples of today. It is when a man can bring God into the picture that man can save his life. The alternatives often offer paths so

beautifully and tempting that man forgets to bring God into the picture, but in the end, the decision is bitter and killing. Exodus 20:8-12 says, Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy, six days shall thou do your work, but the seventh day is the Lord's, you should not do any work. The alternative comes with sweet promises that make the command challenging to follow. Working on the seventh day seemingly offers lots of good things, better than doing nothing on the seventh day as commanded. The only way to save oneself from this fatal consequence is to bring God in the picture and be willing to obey His commands.

Lessons from Cain and Abel

In Genesis 4:1-16, the Bible talks about two brothers who went to offer sacrifices to God. God did not hide what to do when offering sacrifices at the time. Yet, Cain chose to follow his conscience without bringing God in the decision. The result was fatal by killing his brother, and killing has continued to this day. If Cain had brought God in the decision, he would have saved his brother and himself from the curse.

Lessons from Jacob and Esau

Esau came back from a farm very hungry as recorded in Genesis 25:34-39, and saw his brother Jacob preparing food that appeared palatable. It was so appealing that he thought there was nothing more important than the food. Esau negotiated with his brother for a meal, but the brother could offer him the food only in exchange for his birthright. Esau was so hungry that he could not think of any better trade. If Esau has brought God in the decision process, he would have saved himself from the distress that he went through due to his poor decision. If Esau had inquired of God despite the hunger, he would not have cried (Hebrews 12:14-17) when he wanted to get his inheritance. Decision rashly taken without consulting with God will always cause panic and pain.

Lessons from Ananias and Sapphira

Ananias and his wife Sapphira decided with the disciples to dispose off their possessions for the interest of the Church. However, when the sale took place, the enemy weighed the heart of the couple and provided an alternative plan that pushed the couple to review

their commitment to the Church. At that moment of trial, the best thing the couple could have done was to invite the Lord into the conversation that would have changed the direction for their life. Instead, they decided to focus on the gains they will make if they keep part of the money. A lie begets another lie and the situation led the couple to their untimely death.

Choose your Attitude

Brenda Walsh devotion of July 20, 2020 had this to say, "Attitude is a choice—you can either choose to allow God to shine through you in every situation, or you can choose to have a sour attitude when things don't go your way. No one can "make" you angry, mad or even sarcastic—because it is "you" who has the power over your emotions". Allow God to take control of the mind and you will never regret. When a problem raises its ugly head, do not forget that you are in charge of your life. Simply ask yourself, do I have power to do something in this matter? What will the Lord do, if He were confronted with it? If you do this, you will save your head from many troubles. I have witnessed certain times when people have gone wild because they did not get what they wanted. They forget to realize that the loss of the power, money, fame, spouse, etc. could have been something else if they had gotten it at that time. Such individuals lose temper because they forget God during those situations. If God were to be invited the situation would have been simple.

Areas of Life that needs much attention

Below are some of the areas of life that if not careful, one can make hasty in the decisions and ignore God:

1. When a person is provoked or put to shame
2. When the matter is about money
3. When one's position is threatened
4. When a person has an unlimited power
5. When personal interest is at stake
6. When one is attacked physically
7. When one is falsely accused
8. When one faces peer pressures
9. When it is about sex
10. When it is about food

Questions that should help prevent an individual from making hasty decisions

1. Does it concern me?
2. Can I do something about it?
3. What other options are available?
4. What benefit will it provide to me or others if I take this action?
5. Where is Christ in the matter?

Some Practical Examples

1. I make a point at a committee meeting, and a colleague cuts my speech and makes a provocative statement against me. What do I do?
 - a. I can get mad and leave the meeting, and later exchange hot words with the person, which can destroy our relationships forever
 - b. I can reply the colleague and say something that can destroy and bring the meeting to a close
 - c. I can keep quiet and say nothing, but that may or may not solve the problem
 - d. I can affirm the statement and/or indicate the area that I think differently
2. I had a spouse whom I spent my time and money to groom and that one eventually abandons me for another person. What do I do?
3. I have been jobless for years and I eventually gets one which requires me to work on Sabbath days. What do I do?
4. I have been sick for years without much help and a friend introduces me to a "Prayer Camp" where he believes will help me solve my problem. What should I do?

In situations such as above, I suggest by applying the five questions above will help reduce the tension so the choice or the decision that I make will not be bitter in the long run.

Conclusion

Life is about choices, but the fear of the Lord overrules everything. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10). If a person chooses to stay healthy in the Lord, nothing can shake him from making good choices. The Apostle Paul clarifies in Romans 8: 35-39 that nothing can separate us from



Source: www.lalumiere dumonde.fr/2018/10/les-animaux-dans-la-bible.html

the love of Christ, not poverty, riches, sickness, death, or anything worldly. Rom. 8: 34-39. It is important to remember to ask the above questions in order to deliver oneself from problems that may even lead to death. Besides, the decision man makes has effect either positive or negative not only on himself but others as well, for no one lives for himself (Romans 14:7). Always remember to sing a song when times are rough and tough. You will never make a mistake as you sing a song like SDAH 593,

In times like these, you need a Savior

In times like these, you need an anchor

Be very sure, be very sure

Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He is the One

This Rock is Jesus, The Only One

Be very sure, be very sure

Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

Sing all the three stanzas, and believe in what you sing, and apply the words therein to your daily life, and you can be sure that the choices that you make will be sweet and not bitter in the end. Remember that the choices we make today always have future consequences. Be careful young man, and do not fool yourself with the pleasures of this life as if you own the world (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10). Remember fearing God and keeping His commandments conclude everything about life (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Good luck and go through the motions of life with good chances of solid choices.

CAMEROON

Rescued From The Covid-19: A Pastor Testifies

In the midst of the Covid-19 health crisis, there are tears that flow. Tears of sadness and anguish over the loss of a loved one for some and for others, tears of joy at the recovery. Recovering from the coronavirus is surviving fear and cold sweat. It is above all turning into a symbol and a sign of hope. While some were tested, many others required treatment because all of the symptoms were present. This is the case of Pastor Njock David Vivian, president of the West Cameroon Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church. In his late forties, the man is married and the father of three wonderful children. As a survivor, he agreed to share his experience with us.

Interview conducted by WAD Editors

Hello Pastor Njock David Vivian! In carrying out your duties, you have fought a frontline battle in managing the Covid-19 crisis. How did you organize the Church?

Thank you. Hi! We first sensitized our members to respect the barrier measures as indicated by the Government of Cameroon. Then, we followed the instructions of the Church regarding the organization of worship services by closing chapels, especially in the affected towns. Finally, we organized ourselves for a close pastoral care to follow up our members. We also minister to members through social networks with meditations and online Bible studies, with some sporadic visits and assistance in case of serious illnesses and deaths. Fortunately, most of the members are organized in families and small groups where all the weekly church programs are held (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) with regular attendance. Currently we have initiated the «I am my brother's keeper» project, which aims at providing food kits to the most disadvantaged. To date, 483 people have benefited from it. This is the opportunity to thank the donors who have contributed.

On a Thursday night, May 7, 2020, you were confined in a hospital in the city of Douala. Did you suspect you caught the virus? Tell us how you found yourself in the hospital milieu.

Yes indeed. In fact, I had already spent almost two weeks in bed. I was taking anti-malarial drugs prescribed to me by some friendly doctors. Afterwards, I felt

bad with serious heartache and was advised to have an urgent CT scan, the results of which steered the suspicions towards Covid-19. This is the only result that I have in my possession so far. Nevertheless, on this basis and in view of the physical symptoms that I was presenting, I was admitted to the COVID-19 care center. And I was taken care of immediately. At that moment I knew that my life was now in the hands of God in view of the suffering that I saw around me. Fortunately, three days later, I felt much better though tired.

What do you know about the circumstances in which you contracted the new coronavirus?

I really can't know. We are exposed and our homes are in the church compound where many people come in and out. Our wives go to the market. Our children go to the shops and we ourselves have continued to provide services in our headquarters. I don't know how it all happened. We were, however, in the midst of a pandemic.

Around you patients were dying and others of course survived. You certainly had moments of discussion with patients or the medical team. What impressed you the most?

I saw suffering, pain, despair and death in the hospital center. I had the grace to pray for the nurses who cared for us and rescued two sick people who needed some help ...

What fascinated me was the dedication of some nurses and doctors who spent whole hours resuscitating a patient or who were obliged to accompany a few to restrooms and even who washed them outright. Alongside all these efforts, the distress made some sick people violent and disrespectful of these men and women who despite the fear of being infected gave themselves to save lives. This is an opportunity to pay tribute to all the medical staff who supported us during these difficult times.

How did you and your family experience these moments?

God sustained us and we are grateful to Him. My family was afraid of losing me. The children were crying and wished to see me come home as soon as possible. The nights were particularly difficult for them. They had to be reassured every evening with long phone calls and prayers with them. It was difficult and stressful! I want to thank them all for the affection they have shown to me.



As social networks ignited the news that you caught Covid-19, how did you feel? Did you find help in that crisis?

Although undisciplined, the social networks have been a little favorable to us because all our acquaintances who have heard the news have supported us in prayer and even financially. My phone was full of messages even from strangers; I realized that I was in a big family. For the superstitious, they have told me to be careful with the enemies around me. Therefore I still urge everyone to be careful with people's privacy we can kill them prematurely without realizing it.

The day you left the hospital must have been remarkable. Did you hug your wife and children or respect the barrier measures? Tell us also about that memorable day.

I was released from the hospital on Tuesday May 12; it really surprised the medical staff and even the other patients that were admitted before me. I am grateful to the Lord who has once again shown that He is in control of our destiny. I have not deprived

my family of my presence to this day. I also took advantage of the beautiful African pharmacopoeia which makes us feel good. And we are doing relatively well anyway and we are less afraid of Covid-19 while remaining cautious.

A few days after your discharge from the hospital, how do you now conduct your pastoral ministry?

For the moment I am confined between my office; my family and sport. I encourage members through sermons via social media. I think they are happy to listen to me! We also have members calling to request our advice and prayers. Finally, I have become an advisor for anyone who suspects they have COVID-19.



The Adventist World Church's response to this Covid-19 crisis and its guidelines have certainly inspired you. Ultimately, what is the impact of this pandemic in your field of West Cameroon?

I believe that the Adventist Church contributes the best it can, especially in raising awareness among its members and keeping pastors up to speed through social media. We also thank the communications department of the Cameroon Union Mission for the many programs made available to us.

The West Cameroon Conference has seen its members mobilized into small groups and families. Apart from

the difficulties of personal evangelism, of deploying themselves in the field and the various programs of the departments, the members remained fairly disciplined. We have recorded a dozen of the suspected cases which to date are doing very well after taking the drugs prescribed by the doctors, without neglecting the African pharmacopoeia which works well here. Financially, we thank the Lord for the members who have remained faithful to God; we are far from our goals but God watches and takes care of his work.

Thank you for accepting our call to testify of the power of God manifested in your healing.

*Pastor Njock David
and his family*



Hope Amidst Covid-19 LE Rally

Abraham D. Obaya
Publishing Director
WAD



It all happened like a dream! The global economy tottered, tilted, and staggered like a drunkard. From March 2020, the nations of the world started shutting down like a dying man whose vital organs were failing one after the other. National borders closed. Flights canceled. Cities, towns, and villages locked down. All these happened due to a small but most dreaded coronavirus codenamed COVID-19. In West-Central Africa Division (WAD), lives of many people have not been the same from March 2020 until the time of this writing. This development took its toll on Literature Evangelists (LEs). LEs are self-supporting and self-sacrificing itinerant gospel workers whose ministry have become greatly hampered by COVID-19 pandemic. WAD organized a rally for these dedicated workers to boost their morale and assist them move out from lockdown to an active life of service.

On July 5, 2020, WAD Publishing Ministries organized a rally for her LEs. The General Conference and WAD Administration lent their support to making this program a success. The Division President, Pastor Elie Weick-Dido gave an inspiring message. He challenged our LEs saying, “Turn your fears into fire to carry the gospel to all human beings like a wildfire. You should move from the valley of lockdown to the mountain of hope, faith, and revival through prayers. With God victory is assured.” He encouraged the LEs with many such powerful words. The Division Secretary, Pastor Kingsley Anonaba prayed a special dedicatory prayer for the LEs immediately after the president’s message. The Division Treasurer, Pastor Emmanuel Manu presented an unforgettable “GSGS” message to the LEs; an acronym where G stands for God first

in everything LEs do; S is for strategy – LEs need to re-strategies in times like these; G for go into action – LEs should not wait but swing into action after strategizing; and S for service – LEs should always remember that they are saved to serve.

The General Conference PMD, Elder Almir Marroni exposed the LEs to opportunities that can be available to them amidst COVID-19 pandemic. Elder Stephen Apola, the GC Assoc. PMD promoted the Global Celebration of Literature Evangelists to be held on July 26, 2020. Most of the publishing houses serving WAD territory gave their greetings and made presentations. These included brilliant presentations from Advent Press, Editorial Safeliz, and Stanborough Press. They emphasized that in spite of COVID-19 pandemic, LEs can still canvass by devising strategies to bring hope to the dying world.

The theme of the program was “Hope Amidst COVID-19” drew participants across the globe. 426 LEs happily participated in the program while they were supported by the attendance of 94 church leaders making a total of 520 participants. The organizers of the program, WAD PMD, Pastor Abraham Obaya with the support of the Union PMDs believed that the goal of organizing the program was accomplished. The LEs were happy for the awareness that they are very significant in the ministry. Their hope was revived. Many of them rendered beautiful and inspiring songs and prayed earnestly that God may soon bring an end to the global pandemic in order for them to fully resume the ministry they love. We appreciate all those who contributed to making the program a success. By God’s grace, we will continue to bring hope to everyone.

Survival Kits For Families During The Covid-19 Pandemic



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As many of us have already known, the COVID-19 public health crisis has become an emotional and spiritual challenge for countless individuals as well as Marriage and Family relationships around the World. This situation has provoked anxiety, stress, grief and even spiritual uncertainty. We recognize this unexpected upheaval has been very traumatic for many individuals and families. Perhaps God is giving us an opportunity to slow down and reconnect with our spouse and family, to take our relationship with Him more seriously, so we can have the kind of family relationship that brings glory and honor to His name. The Holy Scripture Says:

“And those who know your name will put their trust in you; for you, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You,” (Psalms 9:10 NKJV)

One of the disturbing phenomenon observed during the Lock down is the abuse in the families. In April one pastor reported a 700% increase in visits to its website, and 120% increase in direct calls for information and advice. Beloved, the stories are endless what is happening in our homes, sometimes; the victims don't have enough courage to speak out. But sure, there are potentially thousands of people in our churches, families and communities that are seriously at risk of abuse at this time. As a Church, we can be of help to these vulnerable members.

Here are some suggestions of how we can become lifeline to reach out:

-Understand some of the different ways in which

people can be abused: physically, sexually, emotionally, spiritually and financially. They can be deprived or neglected or have their movements limited.

-Members should be educated to look out for the signs that their friends, relatives and neighbors might be at risk. These could be aggressive shouting, children or adults crying, things being thrown or broken, or some are being hurt or hit. Sometimes people might even be locked out without shoes or adequate clothing, with no phone or money.

-Make it a priority to find out what help is available for victims or domestic abuse in your locality or country.

-List all available local and national helplines and services for domestic abuse on the front page of Church bulletins and Websites.

-Share helpful information and new stories through your personal social media pages to alert victims to sources of help.

-Pray for each member and contact in your list.

-When a victim of abuse tells you what is happening, listen carefully and believe them.

-Never speak to the abuser what you have been told about the victim.

-Where possible, the victim should contact the police or the appropriate services if they feel unsafe, and need to leave their home. Helping the victim to escape an abusive relationship is a skilled task.

-Choose safe and untraceable ways to communicate with someone at risk. Let them know they can call you at anytime they are free and safe to talk.

-Once the victim is safe, ask how you can help them with their practical and spiritual needs.

This is the time to trust God to do the impossible by enabling us to have His mind so we can be patient and kind with each other as He is with us. Let us pray and determine to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit each day in our marriage and family relationships, so we can find peace and healing through the power of God and experience super abundant blessings during and after this pandemic.



Presentation of a medical equipment



The partnership agreement as evidence of good collaboration between ADRA and the State of Cote d'Ivoire

ADRA IN ACTION IN ABOISSO, COTE D'IVOIRE.

Donation of Medical Materials to the Regional Hospital

As part of its support and assistance activities for disaster-stricken population and needy people, the leaders of the West-Central Africa Division and the ADRA Director of this same entity, donated medical and laboratory equipment, this Thursday, July 30, 2020, later in the afternoon, at the CHR of Aboisso. This donation is estimated at nearly 92 million CFA.

WAD

After the welcome address of Mrs. Kadja Nzoré Emilienne, third deputy mayor of the city of Aboisso, who took the opportunity to thank the Seventh-day Adventist Church, its authorities and the head of ADRA, Pastor Elie Weick, President of the Division took the floor to address the administrative authorities who came for the ceremony, explaining the importance of the action of his ecclesiastical entity. According to Pastor Weick, this donation is part of a humanitarian action that goes along with the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "Our Gospel



Pastor Elie Weick-Dido symbolically handing the donation

takes into account man in all of his existence. It's a holistic message." Pastor Elie Weick, also Chairman of the Board of Directors of ADRA Division, on behalf of ADRA West-Central Africa office and ADRA International, signed a partnership agreement between the State of Côte d'Ivoire represented by the representative of the Minister of Health and Public Hygiene, Professor Soro Kountélé, Deputy Director of Cabinet of that Ministry. This action is meant to strengthen cooperation between ADRA International, the Adventist Church and the State of Côte d'Ivoire.

Pastor Amegnito Emmanuel, head of ADRA Division, taking the floor, presented the priorities of his department and explained why Aboisso was chosen for this other donation. "Our presence here again demonstrates the importance we attach to this region and especially to the city of Aboisso. For us, it is not enough just to preach the Gospel; it must be accompanied by actions. We therefore want, by this gesture, to relieve vulnerable people." He also indicated that his department was not at its first humanitarian action in Aboisso and in the country. Concerning the city of Aboisso, food and non-food items were distributed to the population of this locality in 2018 during the floods, which caused great damage. In 2017, a donation with an estimated value of over one billion F Cfa, consisting of medical equipment was handed over to the foreign affairs' ministry. To this must be added the donation of benches for pupils worth nine million F Cfa in the municipality of Abobo. Receiving this medical equipment on July 30, 2020,



the deputy director of the cabinet of the Minister of Health and Public Hygiene, Professor Soro Kountélé thanked the Seventh-day Adventist Church and ADRA for their donation which will surely relieve the CHR of Aboisso in these difficult times that our country is going through with the Covid-19 pandemic. He also underlined that this donation will significantly contribute to reinforcing the capacity of supervision of the health techniques of the hospital and welcomed this «highly civic gesture which goes in line with the vision of the government which is to strengthen patient care capacities."

Let's note that ADRA is involved in its activities in more than 135 countries around the world and as a Relief and Development Agency, ADRA sits on the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The donation on that day consisted of hospital beds, mattresses, delivery tables, cesarean section operating kits and complete dental surgery kits.



The representative of the Minister of Higher Education



A student receives his parchment



Pastor Assemble Valère, Pro-chancellor of the University sharing the Word of God

UNIVERSITÉ ADVENTISTE COSENDI- CAMEROON

The Graduation Ceremony Took Place

Despite the Covid-19, the 22nd promotion delivered its cuvée of a hundred Bachelor laureates. The ceremony was chaired by the representative of the Minister of Higher Education on Friday, August 21, 2020.

WAD Editors



Mekuate Kapchie Ghislaine, Nursing laureate and the overall best student of the 22nd promotion, received her award

The graduation ceremony was not that of all previous years. Instead of three days of celebration, the 2020 edition bears the scars of Covid-19. Just a few hours. The idea of not taking this graduation even crossed minds, but in the end it had to be done and without inviting the parents. Big surprise, a large crowd gathered at Nanga-Eboko, on the new campus site. Instead of fear, it is more of joy. The Mekuate Kapchie Ghislaine Nursing Laureate looks great. Her sparkling eyes can't hide her satisfaction at having been the top student with an average of over 17 out of 20. She received an award from Cosendai Adventist University (UAC).



Nightingale oath taking ceremony by the nursing graduates



Family picture of the laureates



A view of the graduating students



Prof. Kasia Jean Marie, Managing Director of the Hospital Center for Research in Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproduction (CHRACERH) addressing the laureates

The 22nd class of theology, management, computer science, educational science, health science students chose «Tentmakers» as their baptismal name. And as sponsor, they chose Prof. Kasia Jean Marie, Managing Director of the Hospital Center for Research in Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproduction (CHRACERH). The latter responded and strongly encouraged these young students to excellence during his address after graduation. For half an hour, he followed in the same wake as Professor Penlap Véronique, author of an exit speech calling for copying the example of the apostle Paul, the tentmaker.

At the end of this ceremony, the representative of the Minister of Higher Education, Chancellor Pr Fouda Ndjodo, Academic Inspector General No. 1 spoke. He was accompanied by Prof. Mofor Temgoua, Academic

Inspector General number 2. He encouraged the students to return to Adventist Cosendai University for the Master programs which will open as soon as the next academic year as part of the doctoral school. . After the family photo with the winners, the authorities proceeded to the inauguration of the mother and child center «Hilde Maternal Care Center», the result of a project of the UAC and the WHO to reduce the mortality of mother and child.

Cosendai Adventist University was authorized in 1996 and in 2002 it received authorization from the Cameroonian government to «prepare candidates for examinations leading to the issuance of national diplomas.» She also has her 10th accreditation certificate obtained from the Accreditation Commission of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

FAR NORTH CAMEROON - MAROUA

The Adventist Church Reaches The Despair of The Repentant of Boko Haram.

More than twenty tons of food were delivered to the Regional Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (NCDDR) of the Extreme North of Cameroon in Maroua on February 28, 2020. The beneficiaries were the ex-combatants of the Boko Haram sect.

WAD Editors



Omar Bichair (left) receives the donation from Governor Bakari

The Extreme North Region Governor Midjiyawa Bakari and the President of the Adventist Church in West-Central Africa Division (WAD), Pastor Elie Weick-Dido and the Head of Evangelism of the Division, Pastor Same Vincent Roger were the special guests of this ceremony. The TMI concept (total member involvement) brings hope to the ex-combatants of the Boko Haram sect who repented from evil.

Over a thousand church members, administrative and military officials, the curious and the media were present at the esplanade des services of the region's governor. After the national anthem of Cameroon, Pastor Issa Babba, Executive Secretary

of the North Cameroon Conference (NCC) said the opening prayer followed by the welcome address of the President of the Conference, Pastor Hendjena Richard. Accompanied by the treasurer of the NCC, Tchamaya David, organizer of these donations, Same Vincent Roger, WAD Director of Evangelism presented the content of the donations.

The donations were made up of corn flour, cooking oil, rice, millet and salt worth than five million francs CFA. In his remarks, Governor Midjiyawa Bakari thanked the Adventist Church «for their responses to the requests made by the Head of State. On March 19, 2016, the Church brought a donation worth than 21 million FCFA to the victims of Boko Haram and to our valiant defense and security forces. The



Family picture after the donation



AY helping

Government of the Republic has not forgotten this salutary gesture in history that will serve as a model for future generations. «

Addressing Pastor Elie Weick-Dido who came to perform this act of love, the governor said, «This gesture of magnanimity, of impulse of heart, sufficiently reflects the importance that the Seventh-day Adventist Church attaches to the final return and to the consolidation of peace in the Far North of Cameroon as well as to the well-being of its population». Symbolic donations were given to the Governor who passed them on to the regional coordinator of the NCDDR, Oumar Bi-chair. The latter only just said «Thank you». A word repeated several times in a tone of deep satisfaction

from a gesture that he wishes to see as regularly as possible to meet the needs of nearly a thousand repentants of the Boko Haram sect.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the prayer for Cameroon. Indeed, Pastor Elie Weick-Dido prayed for the Cameroonian authorities and people. But before that, he exhorted Cameroonians «to peace, forgiveness, reconciliation and love while participating effectively in national construction. Because it is not by pressing on a button that one can develop a nation. Each country needs the contribution of its children. Those who have gone astray can try the prodigal son's experience. «

A solemn worship service ended the pastoral visit of the president of the Division with nearly 5,000 people assembled in the premises of the Adventist College in Maroua. «The tragedy of missed opportunities» was the title of the sermon which called on the people of God not to despise the time of the visitation, the time of grace, the time of probation and the time of blessing. We must therefore remain vigilant. It was a real refreshing time for a whole people satisfied with the visit of their shepherd. Pastor Elie Weick and his entourage made up of Pastor Same Vincent and brother Serge Thiombiano left Maroua Saturday night on February 29, 2020.

BABCOCK UNIVERSITY

A Historic Graduation

The Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria formally inducted 46 of newly qualified Nursing graduates of Babcock University in Nigeria's Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State into the professional body during a virtual ceremony held Thursday, July 16, 2020.

President/Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ademola S. Tayo described the University's 13th induction ceremony as "historic and first of its kind." Though not more than a quarter of the inductees were physically present in compliance with government's protocol on social distancing following the Covid-19 pandemic, it proffered opportunity for the graduates to move on with their lives.

Professor Tayo and other officers charged the graduates to be real change agents and reflect positive values in the discharge of their duties. "You must be good ambassadors of Babcock," said

Prof. Tayo, "Nursing is selflessness and love. You owe it to society to turn your knowledge into nurture and care." He equally implored them to build their future on integrity, a compassionate lifestyle and professional ethics signified by the lighted candles.

In her paper, "Surviving the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Role of the Nurse, guest speaker, Prof. Omolola Irinoye, of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, called on the inductees to constantly seek knowledge, manage emotional drainage and glean lessons from previous epidemics as well as conceptualize programmes in coping with Covid-19.

The Council's Secretary-General/Registrar Alhaji



Gbenga Elijah receives his award for brilliant academic performance



Inductees ready to take their oath

Faruk Abubakar, represented by one of the NNM's Directors, Mrs. Stella Godswill encouraged the inductees to raise the bar of professional standards and uphold the moral values imbibed in their training.

Similarly, the Dean of the School of Nursing, Prof. Ezekiel Ajao, encouraged the new inductees to honour the professional code of conduct. "I charge you to be temperate at all times," he said. "Be considerate, patient and Christ-like. Be assertive in an intelligent way. Be a team-player and go into the world to be an angel of light."

Echoing similar counsel, Associate Vice President Institutional Effectiveness, Prof Constance Nwosu

said, "You must work as Christ did and go beyond the call of duty to give your patients all round care." "Be a source of hope and cause people to give the glory to God. Even if they die, they will die knowing someone cared," she added.

Beyond counsel, Senior Vice President Academics, Prof. Iheanyichukwu Okoro presented plaques to the best three graduating students: Chinweuche Ajaegbu, Gbenga Elijah and Kafayat Lawal. "Babcock helped me realize my dreams of acquiring my Bachelor in Nursing Sciences," said Elijah who is already a registered Nurse. "Thank God for crowning my efforts with success."

SANITARY ACTION

Church Donates Toilets to Schools in Abobo

As part of their humanitarian and social actions, the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) of Seventh-day Adventists handed over on Thursday August 6, 2020, the keys to the toilets that they have rehabilitated and built in the schools of the Inspectorate of Preschool and Primary Education of Abobo Avocatier in the municipality of Abobo in Abidjan.

By Yobouet Andre

The President of the West-Central Africa Division, Pastor Elie Weick, accompanied by the WAD Director of Education Pasteur Balisasa Juvenal and WAD Director of Communication Pasteur Koch Irineo, went to Abobo, more precisely in the schools of Agnikro, Mponon, EPP Palmeraie and the Gendarmerie Group.

Mr. Allagba representing the Regional Director of Education, Mrs. Gouali Lucie, Inspector of Preschool and Primary Education of Abobo Avocatier and Mr. Koffi, president of the National Platform of Management Committees of Public Schools (COGES) of Côte d'Ivoire welcomed

the team of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In her welcome address, Mrs. Gouali Lucie underlined the fact that the lack of toilets or their bad condition made the work of students and especially teachers' difficult. So she thanked the Seventh-day Adventists and prayed to God to bless them. She asked users to take care of them and keep them in good condition. She appealed to Adventists for support in establishing a library for students and teachers.

In his address, Pastor Elie Weick said that selfishness holds back development in Africa. He urged those who have a little more resource to give, to invest for development. He said "in 2017 Adventists donated



Family picture after the ceremony



Unveiling the memorial plate



Pastor Elie Weick interviewed by the media



Handing over the keys



A view of the newly built toilets

drugs worth one billion two million CFA francs to the Ivorian government. Give so that you will be blessed, the more you give, the more you will be blessed” he insisted.

Pastor Weick revealed that Adventists care for man in all his dimensions, physical, mental, spiritual. He said he was moved during a visit to a school, by the dilapidated state of the toilets which made students and teachers uncomfortable. At the end of his speech, he handed over the keys of the toilets to Mr. Allangba. The latter forwarded them to the Inspector, who in turn gave them to the President of the COGES platform in Côte d’Ivoire.

Mr. Allangba thanked the Adventists and recalled their past actions namely the donation of benches to the EPP North School Group and the deworming of students in 2019. The President of the COGES platform, Mr. Koffi in turn thanked the Adventists for their action in favor of the Ivorian school. According to him, «the rehabilitation and construction of toilets contributes to the improvement of school results». The meeting ended with a visit of the toilets. Visibly happy, Ms. Gouali said she now knows, after Pastor Elie Weick’s explanation, why Adventists keep the Saturday Sabbath. She accepted Pastor Koch’s invitation to visit Adventists to get to know them better.



Family photo with the President of Ghana in the middle

MISSION

The First Black Conference in Africa is 50 Years

The First Black Conference in Africa, Central Ghana Conference, celebrated the 50th Anniversary on 1st February this year in Kumasi. This brought together over 50,000 worshippers, lay leaders, ministers, government and traditional rulers.

*By Kwame Boakye Kwanin, President of NGUM
Ocran Thomas, President of SGUC*

This was preceded the day before by warm courtesy call of the world leader, Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson, on the H.E. President of the Republic of Ghana. The meeting of the two leaders flanked by their respective associates painted a beautiful picture of what the wholesome collaboration and cooperation of National and Church leadership can produce for their mutual benefit and the well-being of their followers.

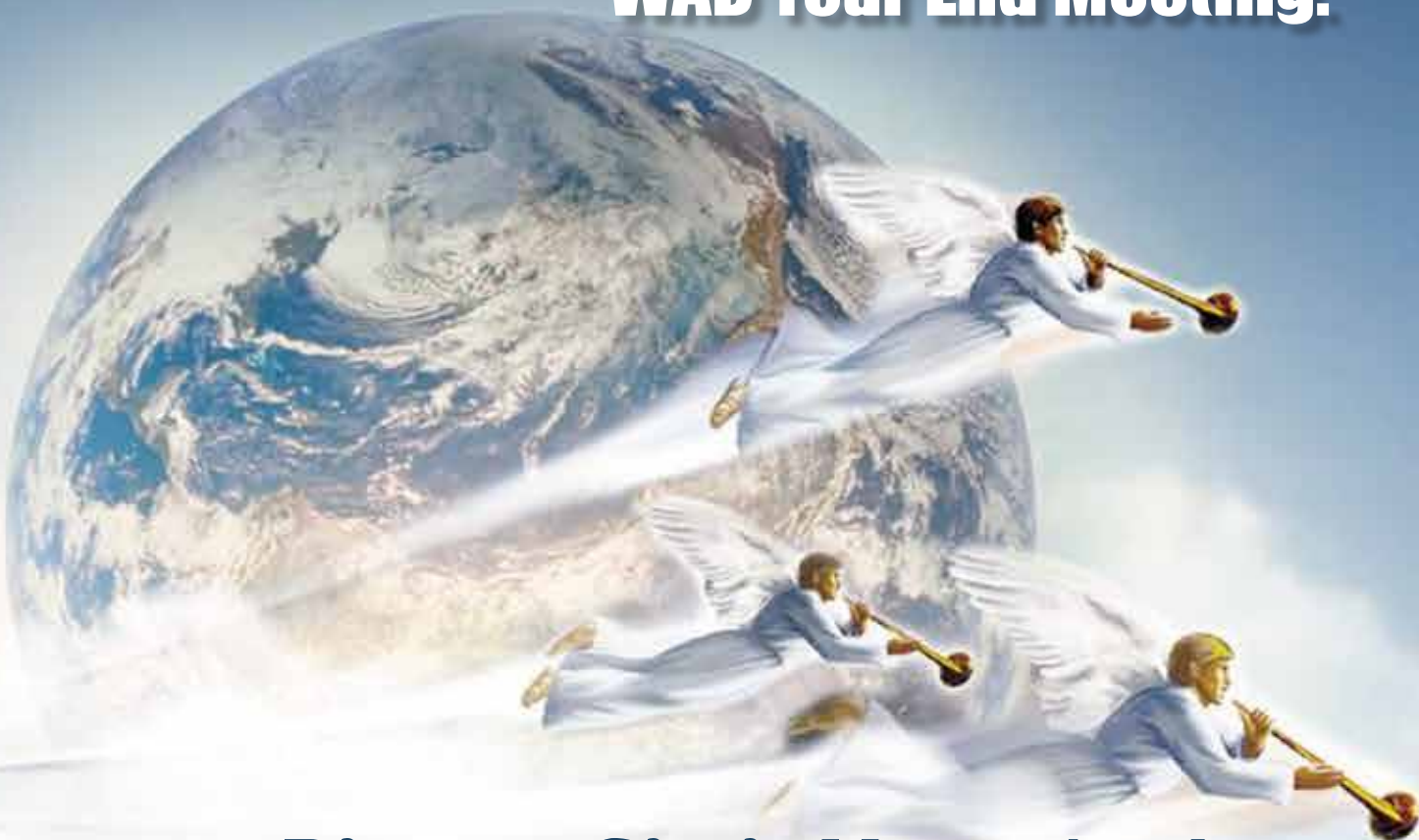
These leaders agreed on good governance, religious freedom, justice and the rule of law. Pastor Ted Wilson's request to pray for the national president was warmly welcomed, and he asked for God's blessings, His peace and peaceful elections and event prosperity of the nation and the people of Ghana. Hon. Kennedy Agyepong, parliament member was honored during the celebration on the Sabbath day for opening the doors of his radio Stations for the preaching of Adventist messages for over a decade, which he described as unique and truly biblical. The support of the government for the World leader's visit was admirable. God's presence was felt throughout the program and we are very thankful to Him.

Again, on Friday, God worked it out for us to have a nice meeting with the President of the Republic of Ghana. The GC President lifted God in a more remarkable way by laying emphasis on Micah 6:8. This is the direction God wants all leaders to go. His prayer for the nation was spirit-filled. The time was worthwhile and the goal was attained. The meeting with Pastors and Shepherdess in Kumasi city with the GC President and his wife was another exciting moment and we all had vesper service with him and his team.

The mammoth Sabbath was also eventful. Members from all over Ghana, especially former church leaders, congregating in Prempeh College Park, Kumasi. It was quite amazing and around 20 thousand people gathered for the celebration. The presence of Government Officials and the representative of the King of Ashanti was beautiful and their speeches were fascinating. On top of it all, the GC President preached a powerful sermon, focussing on God and His work. Many people gave themselves for baptism and more than 200 hundred were baptized to the glory of God. The Kumasi Adventist Health center and a monument in the spirit of pioneers were also inaugurated. God has been present with us in this 50th anniversary celebration. Love, unity, evangelistic spirit and encouragement permeated among the huge congregation. To God be the Glory.

WAD Year End Meeting

**You can have access to
the news, worship, good
video reports from the
WAD Year End Meeting.**



**Please Click Here And
Watch Good Messages,
News And Video Reports**



**[https://wad.adventist.
org/2020-year-end-council](https://wad.adventist.org/2020-year-end-council)**

Special Emphasis Days And Events - 2021

JANUARY

JANUARY 2
Day of Prayer and
Fasting

JANUARY 9
Health Ministries

JANUARY 6-16
Ten Days of Prayer

JANUARY 16
Religious Liberty
Day

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 6
Reach the World: Personal Outreach

FEBRUARY 13-20
Christian Home and Marriage Week

MARCH

MARCH 6
Women's Day of
Prayer

MARCH 20-27
Youth Week of
Prayer

MARCH 20
Global Children's
Day

MARCH 13
Adventist World
Radio

MARCH 20
Global Youth Day

MARCH 27
Christian
Education

APRIL

APRIL 3
Day of Fasting
and Prayer

APRIL 10
Friends of Hope
Day [Visitor's Day]

APRIL 17-23
Literature
Evangelism Rally
Week

APRIL 3
Youth Spiritual
Commitment
Celebration [Northern
Hemisphere] -

APRIL 10
Hope Channel

APRIL 17
World Impact
[Distribution]

APRIL 24
Possibility Ministries
Awareness Day

MAY

MAY 1-29
Drug Awareness
Month

MAY 8
Reach the World:
In the Community,
Disaster/Famine
Relief

MAY 1
Reach the
World: Using
Communication
Channels

MAY 22
World Day of Prayer
for Children at Risk

JUNE

JUNE 5
Reach the World
- Bible Study:
Sabbath School and
Correspondence
Courses

JUNE 19
Adventist Church
World Refugee
Sabbath

JUNE 12
Women's Ministries
Emphasis Day

JUNE 19
Reach the World
- Reach Across:
Nurture and
Reclaiming



JULY

JULY 3
Day of Prayer
and Fasting

JULY 17
Reach the World:
Media Ministry

JULY 10
Mission Promotion

JULY 24
Children's Sabbath

AUGUST

AUGUST 7
Global Mission
Evangelism

AUGUST 21
Education Day

AUGUST 28
Lay Evangelism

AUGUST 14
Reach the World:
Church Planting

AUGUST 28
enditnow Day

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 4
Youth Spiritual
Commitment
Celebration
[Southern
Hemisphere]

SEPTEMBER 18
Pathfinder Day

SEPTEMBER 5-11
Family Togetherness
Week

SEPTEMBER 11
Mission Promotion

SEPTEMBER 25
Sabbath School
Guest Day

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 2
Day of Prayer and
Fasting

OCTOBER 2
Adventist Review
has launched a
series 'The Church
I Want to Belong to
Is...' Subscribe today
to be a part of the
discussion.

OCTOBER 9
Pastor
Appreciation Day

OCTOBER 16
Spirit of Prophecy
and Adventist
Heritage

OCTOBER 23
Creation Sabbath

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 6-13
Week of Prayer

NOVEMBER 13
Annual Sacrifice
Offering

NOVEMBER 27
HIV/AIDS
Awareness

NOVEMBER 13-19
e-Week of Prayer
for Youth and Young
Adults

NOVEMBER 20
World Orphans/
Vulnerable Children's
Day

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 4
Stewardship

DECEMBER 11
Health Emphasis



The exhibit hall features room for over 1,800 booths

INDIANAPOLIS 2020

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2020



May 20 – 25, 2021

**Indiana Convention Center & Lucas Oil Stadium
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA**

**The 61st General Conference Session
of the Seventh-day Adventist Church**