

NEWS



January / February- 2018

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From August 26 to September 2, 2018
in Abidjan - Côte d'Ivoire

West - Central Africa Division

Division - wide
Children's Ministries
Convention
2018



CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES



WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION
PATHFINDER CAMPOREE



August 13 - 18, 2018 in Abidjan - Côte d'Ivoire

PENTECOST 2018:

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IN EASTERN NIGERIA.

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WAD

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MY SON'S LIFE WAS THE SERMON

CAMEROON

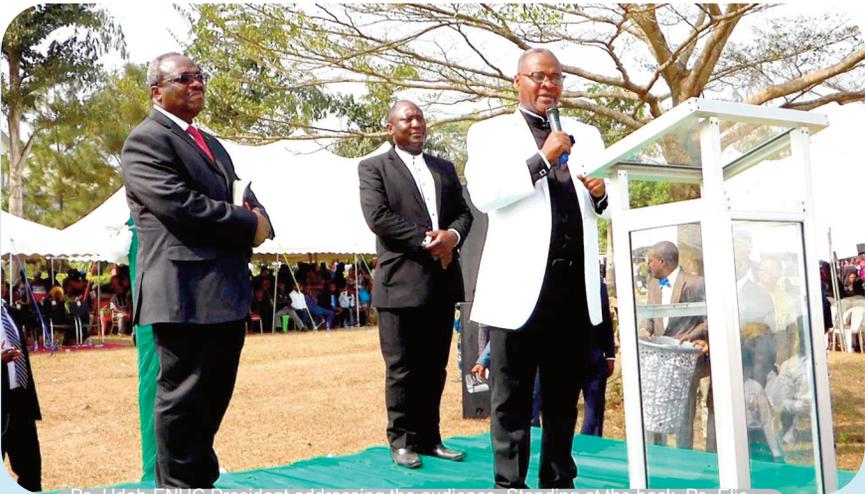
THE EVALUATION THAT NURTURES
THE SECRETARIAT





**PENTECOST 2018:
EVANGELISM FORMERLY LAUNCHED IN EASTERN NIGERIA.**

Dr Okezie Ikpeazu, Executive Governor of Abia State was among over 15,000 Seventh-day Adventists that gathered for the official launch of the Pentecost 2018 evangelism initiative in Eastern Nigeria. The program was launched at the annual prayer and leadership conference of the Eastern Nigeria Union Conference, January 14, 2018.



Ps. Udoh-ENUC President, addressing the audience. Standing at the back, Ps. Elie Weick-Dido and Ps. Same, respectively President and Evangelism Coordinator - WAD.

Speaking at the events which held on the open grounds of the ENUC Headquarters, Aba, President of the West-Central Africa Division, Pastor Elie Weick-Dido stressed the urgency of disseminating the good news of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ and warning the world of the coming judgment. *“We need to spread the good news of Jesus Christ; He has the solution to this world. Members should learn how to plead with God to use them powerfully to finish the work so that we can go home and be with the LORD,”* he urged at the one-day leadership prayer, fasting and evangelism summit.

Pastor Same Vincent, the Evangelism Coordinator of the West-Central Africa Division said *“the mission of the Adventist Church is to shine for God. It is good for all members to shine for the LORD wherever they find themselves. The reason for them to shine is that people need to know God, be redeemed, restored and be ready for eternity.”*

Governor Okezie Ikpeazu of Abia State while speaking at the summit expressed happiness for being part of the fasting and prayer programme. *“We have come to commune with each other so that I can see the faces of those that I will join in same flight to Heaven when Jesus comes again. Although being a governor is good but going to Heaven is more important to me than anything else in my life,”*

the governor said. He reminded the participants who they are: *“Seventh-day Adventists—chosen people of God, people of hope who are waiting for the Second Coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”*—so no matter what happens and the challenges they face, their focus

must remain on our Redeemer. The evangelism book that was used to train the members for effective, intentional evangelism Mission Possible was unveiled and dedicated by Pastor Elie Weick-Dido supported by the Governor, Union Officers and Conference Presidents.

Pastor Weick-Dido offered a heartwarming prayer to bless the members, asking God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on members in order for them to do evangelism. He also prayed that God would help those who are hurting and heal the sick.

President of the Eastern Nigeria Union Conference, Pastor Bassey Udoh expressed delight at the renewed zeal for evangelism and soul-winning. He urged that pocked of crisis in the church are part of Satan’s onslaught against the gospel and part of the signs of the close of earth’s history. *“The grace you have received must be extended to others. Less of stones and more of grace,”* he entreated.



Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu Abia State Governor





Also speaking at the event, Associate Director for Urban Evangelism in ENUC, Elder Paul Ogaga highlighted the need to employ effective tools for city and urban ministry. He urged that every Seventh-day Adventist should be engaged in one form of literature ministry or the other. He and his wife Esther have brought in and distributed over 900 thousand pieces of literature in Nigeria. *“I am a product of literature ministry and I want to thank the Lord for all the literature evangelists whom the Holy Spirit has used to penetrate places where no human instrument can reach,”* Ogaga urged.



Church members assembled for the campaign launching

Pastor Uzoma Nwosi,
Communication Director
Eastern Nigeria Union Conference Aba Nigeria
And
Pastor Chigozi Eti,
Associate Communication Director
Eastern Nigeria Union Conference Aba Nigeria

**WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION.
MILLENNIUM GUEST HOUSE DEDICATION IN LIBERIA**

The Guest house dedication ceremony was on December 20, 2017 at exactly 10am. We enjoyed the presence of the then President of the Republic of Liberia in the person of Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. She cut the ribbon and then delivered the Keynote Address. Also in attendance were Senators, Representatives from the government, the Clergy, other government



A view of the MILLENNIUM Guest House

functionaries and church members. The Guest house is conspicuously located on the Tubman Boulevard in Congo Town, Montserrado County, Monrovia, Liberia. The Guest house has forty standard rooms, and ten suites with a spacious restaurant, hall for conferences, meetings, reception and other activities. Well, this edifice has been the talk of the city with almost everyone wants to work with the Guest house and be a part of the success story.





Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Ex-President of Liberia Cutting the ribbon with from both sides Ps. Elie Weick (left) and Ps. Golay James (right)



Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Ps. Golay James (WAUM President)



Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf signing the Golden Book



Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf receiving WAD gift from Ps. Elie Weick (WAD President)



Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf addressing WAD and WAUM officials



Ealder Manu, WAD treasurer, standing by Ps. Elie Weick's side during the ceremony



Participants to the dedication ceremony

Thanks to the Division and WAUM Administrations for raising the banner of Adventism by erecting this centre of influence. TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

Koroma, Michael
WAUM





**UNION MISSION DE L'OUEST DU SHAEEL:
THE VOICE OF HOPE IN GUINEA-BISSAU (NOVO TEMPO).**



Part of Novo Tempo Team (from Brazil)

Guinea-Bissau is a country located in West Africa with a main island and 88 others

whose access is very difficult. According to the last census, the country has more than 1,900, 000 inhabitants, but less than one percent professes the Adventist faith. For all this population, the Guinea-Bissau Mission has only five Pastors including the President. For this year, the Mission received a lot of support with the arrival of the radio "Novo Tempo".

At the end of the 90s, Pastor Ricardo Orsucci, the former President of the Mission, nurtured the idea of having an Adventist Radio Station in Guinea-Bissau. In December 2001, Pastor Davi Pereira Tavares, his successor got from the government the authorization of a Radio Frequency, but unfortunately, the transmitter was stolen. Then came a great disappointment. Twelve years later, when Pastor Gaspar Gomes became President of the Mission, he negotiated with the government and a new authorization was granted.



Novo Tempo first transmission (Guinea-Bissau)

To God be the glory, in June 2015, the Ministry of Social Communication

granted the license and the National Regulatory Authority assigned the frequency of 92.5 FM. On January 18th, 2018, through the help of Brazilian missionaries who provided for the equipment, the Radio was installed and the next day, the first transmission was made. It was an historical moment full of emotions for the Seventh-day Adventists Church members of Guinea-Bissau who have been waiting for this moment for two decades.

Very soon, the Message of the Third Angel will go across the whole country and even in the little corners. In addition of the message of the Voice of Hope through the radio, we have also the privilege of getting the book *The Great Hope of Sister White* translated in Creole, a native language. It is the first book of Ellen White translated in this language. To God be the glory!

Ps. Gaspard Gomes
Guinea-Bissau Mission





**WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION.
SOUTHERN GHANA UNION CONFERENCE LOOSES TREASURER**



Difficult separation, the late Odonkor's body on the way to the cemetery

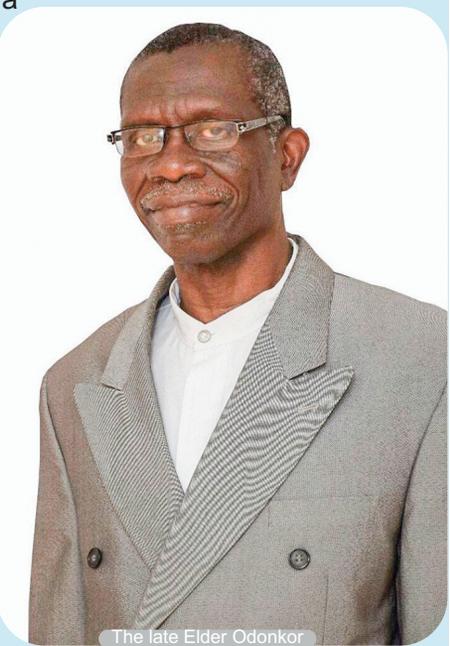
The Southern Ghana Union Conference has lost its Treasurer, Elder Ebenezer

Amase Odonkor. He died on December 31, 2017 after a short illness. He was 65.

"It is such a great loss, the whole office is still in shock. The Union and Church leaders in the Southern Ghana and Northern Unions received the heartbreaking news on December 31st. No one expected that his brief sickness will end like this. He served the Church as diligently as he could and we will miss him greatly," the President of the Southern Ghana Union Conference, Pastor Thomas Techie Ocran, said.

The late Elder Odonkor was appointed the Union Treasurer in 2015 after serving as an Associate Treasurer for the then Ghana Union Conference and later the Southern Ghana Union Conference from 2000-2014 when the Ghana field was divided into two Unions.

He had worked as a denominational worker for 40 years having being appointed as an Accountant in June 1977 for the then South Ghana Mission. He rose through the ranks to become the Treasurer of the South Ghana Conference in 1994



The late Elder Odonkor

He rose through the ranks to become the Treasurer of the South Ghana Con-

ference in 1994. *"He believed in practicing what he understood to be the truth. So we found him firm and strong in the decisions and actions he took so long as it was in the interest of the work. He was meticulous and always ensued due diligence to his satisfaction, this we perceived to be delaying of processes,"* Pastor Solomon O.T Hammond shared memories of him.

The former Treasurer of the SGUC, Elder Isaac Owusu Amponsem, under whom he worked for 15years upon hearing the news lamented *"we have lost a dedicated and a very hard working colleague."*

The Treasury staff paid glowing tributes in memory Elder Odonkor in these words:

"Elder Odonkor loved his job. Our Boss, colleague and friend was a very firm, principled, hardworking and in good times a very lively and jovial man. One major act of his that will linger in our minds was his usual morning ritual of knocking on and greeting occupants of every single office on the Treasury block to greet and check on us. We will miss that."

Pastor Adama Larmie, who worked with him for over 30years both at the South Ghana Conference and later the Ghana Union Conference/Southern Ghana Union Conference had this to say about him.

"He was my brother, friend, and co-worker at both South Ghana Conference and the Union (GUC and SGUC). A man who is serious with GOD and loves the Church. Very meticulous in taking care of GOD's money "From a distance, he may look too serious to smile, but when one gets closer to him, one will experiences his brand of warmness and humour and smiles. But I know, by the promise of our FATHER, that I shall see him



again on the resurrection morning.”

According to the Communication Director of the Southern Ghana Union Conference, Ms. Solace Asafo, the late Treasurer was also a great supporter of the Department and very instrumental in our quest to start an Adventist TV Station in Ghana.

“It is unfortunate he cannot share in the joy of knowing that the Church has been given authorization from the State to start a satellite TV station. But he will be remembered when the history of the station is written for his fund raising advice and finding money during the trying times of 2017 to get us licensed,” the Communication Director said.

BURIAL CEREMONY

The remains of the late Elder Ebenezer Amase Odonkor, 65, has been laid to rest in his hometown at Ada in the Greater Accra region of Ghana on February 1, 2018 after a funeral service in Accra.

Thousands of Church workers, friends and family members thronged the forecourt of the Southern Ghana Union Conference to pay their last respects to the late Treasurer whose work with the Adventist Church spanned a period of 40



Mrs. Jessie Odonkor and children



The late Odonkor's family members and friends

years.

Mourners came from all over the country, the West-central Africa Division lead by the President, Pastor Ellie Weick Dido, and leadership of the Sahel Union based



Ps. Ellie Weick on the burial ceremony ground

in Togo. Retired Ministers including Pastors Mathew Bediako, Jacob J. Nortey, Samuel Adama Larmie prayed for the family and officiated at the funeral service.

The President of the West Central Africa Division, Pastor Ellie Weick Dido, delivering the sermon emphasized that death was inevitable and a painful separation yet called on family members to place their hope in God

who was the best comforter.

The late Elder Odonkor was baptized in 1972, and appointed by the then Southern Ghana Mission as an accountant in 1977. He rose through the ranks to become the Treasurer of the Southern Ghana Union in 2015, a position he held until his death on December 31st 2017 after a short illness. He was survived by a wife, Jessie Odonkor and three children, Joseph, Elsie and Michael and three grandchildren.

By
Solace Yawa Asafo
Communication Director
Southern Ghana Union Conference - Accra



ADVENTIST PAN-AFRICAN
CONFERENCE ON

Dynamic FAMILY RELATIONS



When:
Thursday 1st to
Sabbath 3rd, March 2018

Where:
Adventist University of Africa,
Advent Hill, Kenya

Who:
For African Divisions: Union Presidents and
Union Directors of Family Ministries

HOW TO REGISTER:

Registration will take place through your Division Department of Family Ministries

ECD



East-Central Africa Division
Dr. Musa Mitekaro
mitekaro@ecd.adventist.org

SID



Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division
Dr. Kagelo Rakwena
rakwenak@sid.adventist.org

WAD



West-Central Africa Division
Pastor Stephen Bindas
Bindas8@yahoo.com

NOTE:
Please check to make sure
you know the requirements
to enter Kenya.



PLEASE KEEP THIS CONFERENCE IN YOUR PRAYERS FOR GOD TO BLESS THE FAMILIES OF AFRICA IN A SPECIAL WAY



East-Central Africa Division
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division
West-Central Africa Division



MY SON'S LIFE WAS THE SERMON



Mr. Ansong baptized by Ps. Nii Lante Thompson

Led by a dream and the exemplary life of a young Adventist, a Ghanaian resident in Holland

sought out an Adventist Minister in Ghana and asked to be baptised against all odds. Mr. Daniel Kwame Ansong, 52, told the pastor, *"I want to be baptised before I leave Ghana"*.

And so on a cloudy Thursday morning, last year, he was baptized by the Ministerial Secretary of the Southern Ghana Union Conference, Pastor Nii Lante Thompson, at one of the city's popular beaches in Accra.

Mr. Ansong, who lives in Holland traced his journey to the day of baptism, saying he had always had a desire to know and experience God in very personal ways. As he searched the scriptures and prayed, he had dream one day and was told in the dream to look for Pastor Andrews Ewoo and attend his church. The second motivation and influence that drove him to the decision to become a Seventh-day Adventist was the life of a young man he calls his 'son'. He narrated how the young man, an Adventist, became fatally ill and yet against all odds and pressure from people and friends refused to seek assistance from various spiritualists.

"He resolutely told us that if his God could not heal him then no one could. Miraculously he was healed. His life, good character and his firm convictions had such an impact on me. I wish all Adventists will portray such good attitude because you can never tell who is watching you," Daniel said.

Michael Kofi Poku Acheampong is the Adventist whose life influenced the newly baptised Daniel and he was beside himself

with joy. He shared his joy for having been the instrument through which God has called his father.

"I am happy because we have different faiths in our home but my father chose to follow me to church, I wish him God's blessings that he will never turn back". Michael worships with the All Nation Adventist Church at Adenta, a suburb of Accra.

Mr. Ansong looks forward to joining the Adventist family in Holland when he returns.

"We need to be careful in everything we do knowing that people watch us, and are reading us as their sermon daily," Pastor Nii Lante Thompson said in an interview after the baptism.

Mr. Ansong was accompanied by his aunty and brother-in-law for the baptism.

Solace Yawa Asafo
Communication Director
Southern Ghana Union Conference - Accra

CAMEROON

THE EVALUATION THAT NURTURES THE SECRETARIAT



CMUM Secretariat Evaluation - GC and WAD Team members

The team from the General Conference (GC) and the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) examined the copy of the Cameroon Union Mission on February 5 and 6, 2018 in Yaounde. That was the very first experience.

The atmosphere is apprehensive because it is the first time for many participants. The secretariat evaluation and nurture started well in the morning of February 5, 2018. Twenty people met for the session.

On the first side, the team members were composed of the two associate secretaries of the GC, John Thomas and Hensley Mooroooven; the WAD secretary, Kingsley Anonaba with the two assistant secretaries, Stella Love Drah and Selom Sessou; and four other members. Then on the other side, the interviewees included the president and the treasurer of the Cameroon Union Mission (CMUM) as well as some departmental and institution directors. And besides, four observers were invited. From the beginning, John Thomas, Associate Secretary at the General Conference clarified the purpose of such an exercise in the life of the organization. Reports of poor documentation management and challenging access to the Church information around the world have fueled

this initiative. It is not going to be about attacking someone's position, but rather building the structural and functional capacity of the secretariat by reviewing the practices. And then some recommendations will be made for more effective and efficient service.

The first day of the interviews provided an insight into the functioning of the secretariat, of its weaknesses and strengths. Using two questionnaires, the Executive Secretary and his department were fully evaluated. From spiritual qualities and professional skills to the interpersonal and administrative skills, a triple evaluation was conducted. The first evaluation was submitted before the session: the Executive Secretary online self-assessment. The second evaluation before the session was submitted online by the interviewees. And the third evaluation was collective.

The second day made it possible to touch the secretariat service environment. The visit of the offices and the new documentation center revealed that CMUM is a good student. Indeed, in December 2017, the two assistant secretaries of the WAD, Selom Sessou and Stella Love Drah trained the secretariat team and coached the implementation of the reforms. A state-of-the-art fire-proof equipment has been purchased and all



CMUM Secretariat Evaluation Family picture

archives are tidy and safe from paper-damaging factors such as moisture and light. The CMUM secretary, Yenge Yenge Isaac could express his appreciation:

"our administration is integrated and is now tied to the professionalism drive."

As a result of this assessment, the WAD Secretary, Anonaba Kingsley said,

"it was a wonderful exercise. Today we can see the Division personnel and the Secretariat are results-oriented, well focused and Cameroon has taken a stand to claim professionalism."

The head of this evaluation mission, the GC Associate Secretary, John Thomas expressed his satisfaction:

"We have had an enjoyable time here at the Cameroon Union Mission. And through God's grace, we have found that things are in order and are moving ahead to a higher level of professionalism for which we are very grateful".

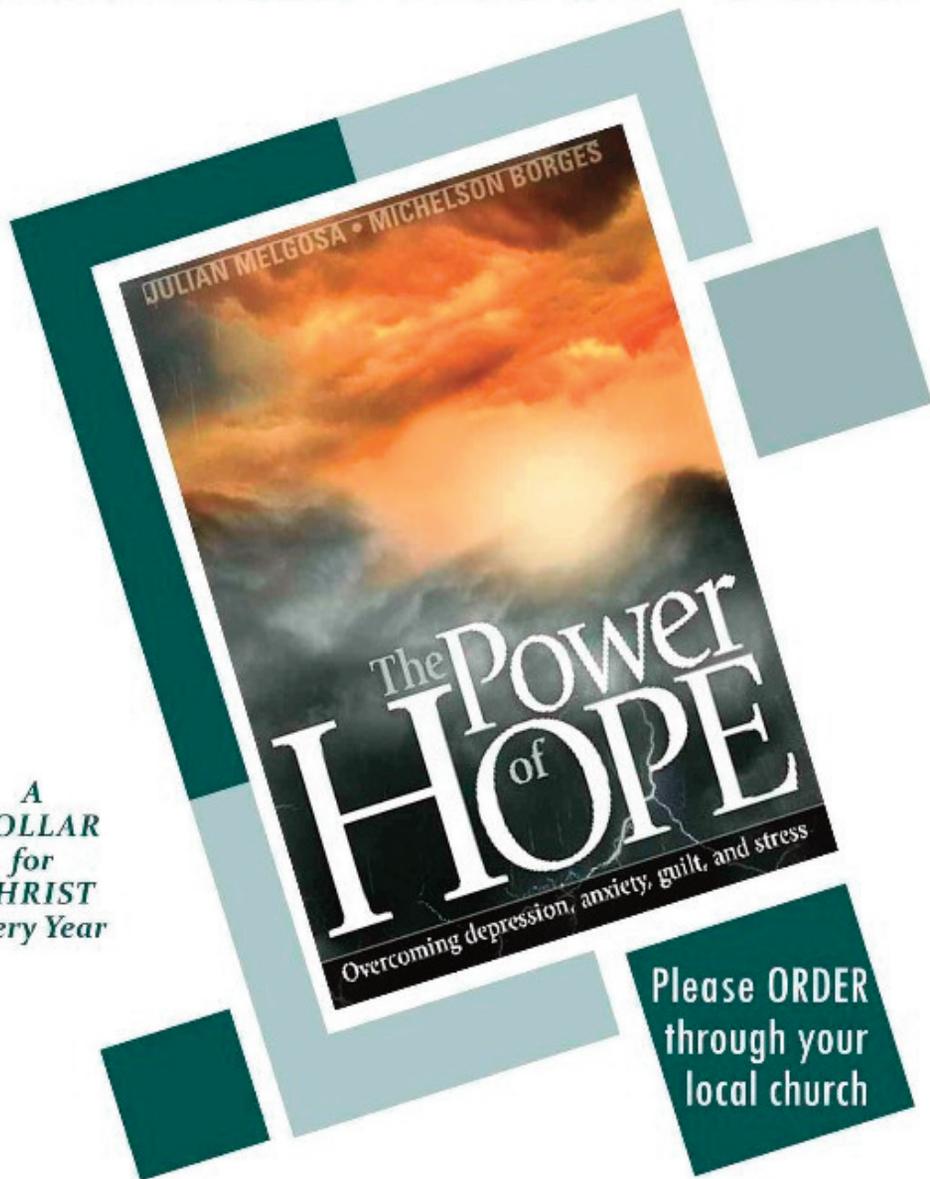
The mission of preaching the Gospel was at the rendezvous. After the rough hours of the day, Hensley Mooroven, Selom Sessou and Stella Love Drah regained the various sites where they had to share the Word of God in the context of Pentecost 2018. The heart of the Secretariat in Cameroon can normally beat.

By
Abraham BAKARI
CMUM Communication



Seventh-day Adventist Church

APRIL 21, 2018
WORLD MASS
DISTRIBUTION DAY



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DOLLAR
for
CHRIST
Every Year*

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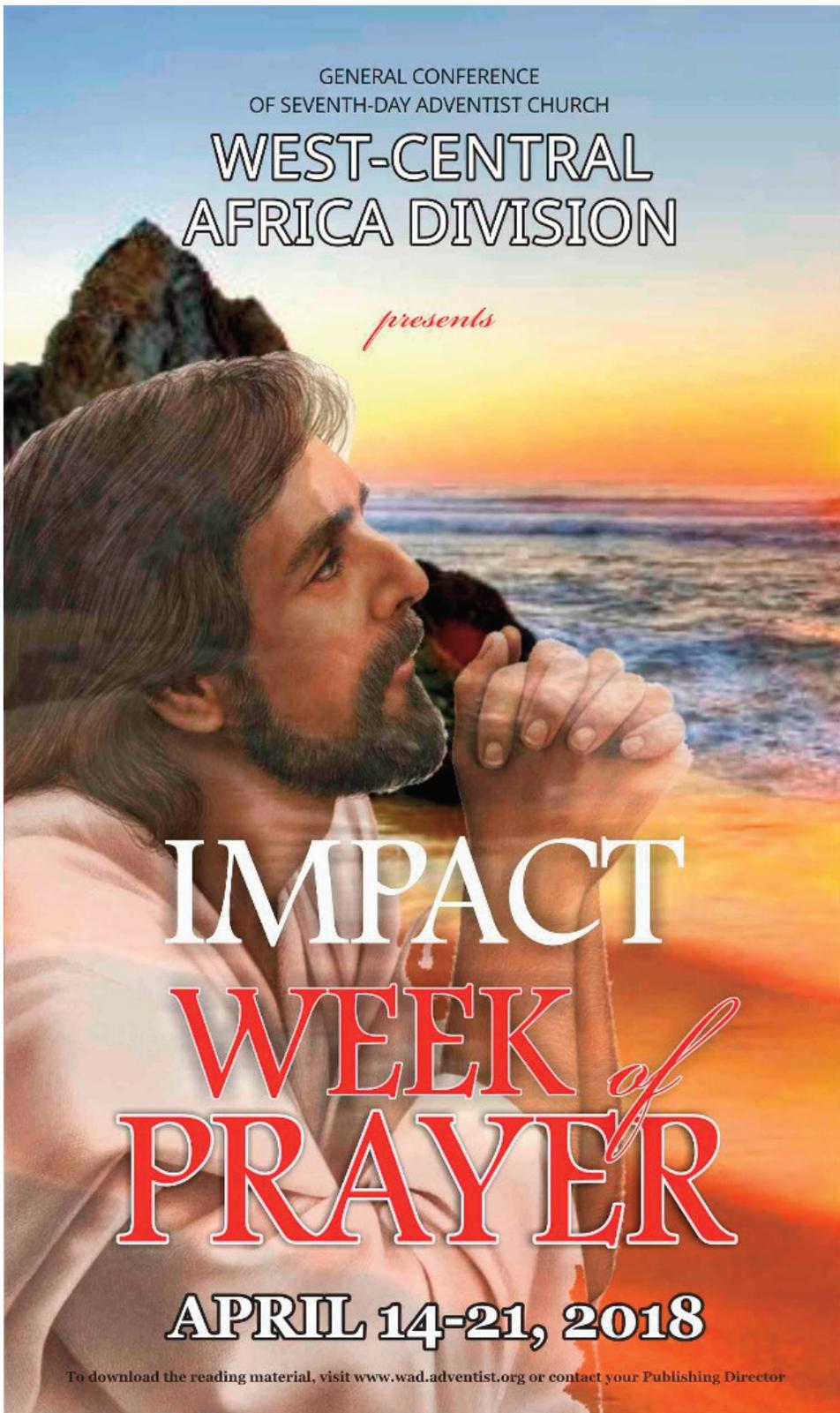




GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

presents



IMPACT WEEK *of* PRAYER

APRIL 14-21, 2018

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