



GENERAL CONFERENCE
SECRETARIAT

When Media Prepared the Way for Missionaries

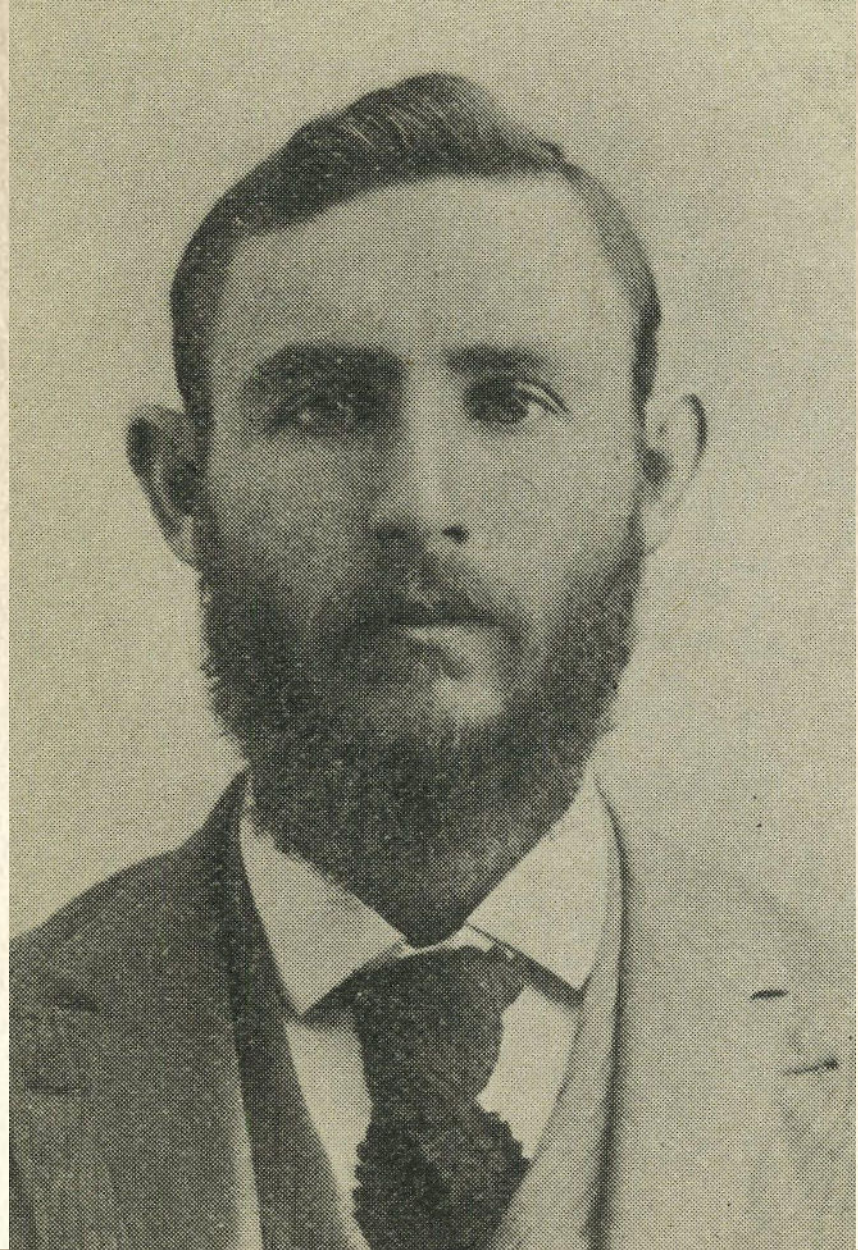
David Trim, Ph.D.
LEAD Conference 2024



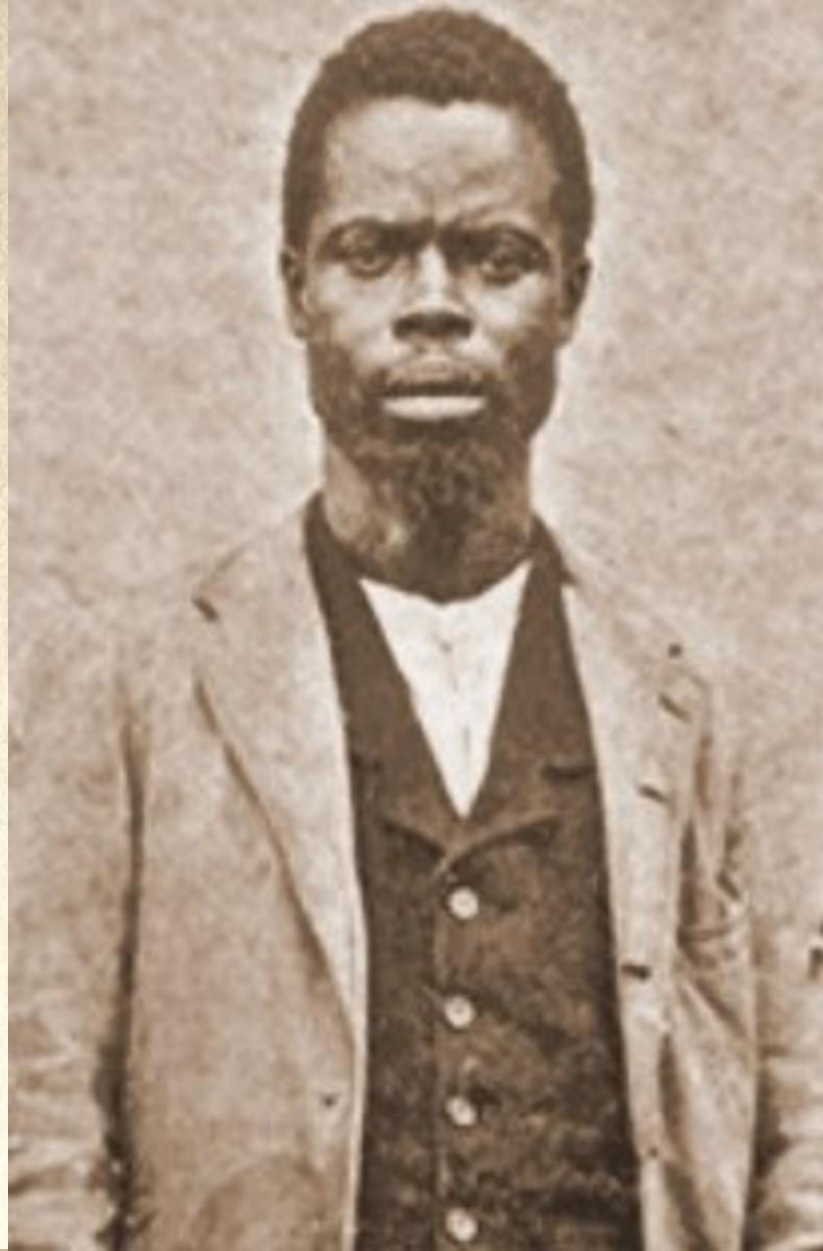
Cape-Coast-Castle, Gold-Coast, W.-C.-Africa.



Dudley U. Hale



Francis I. U.
Dolphijn



GENERAL CONFERENCE
SECRETARIAT

Francis Dolphijn

- Lived in the port-town of Apam
- A trader dealing in rubber, palm products, gold, cotton goods, and hardware
- Interested in religious literature
- In 1888, received a tract on the seventh-day Sabbath

Francis Dolphijn

- From 1890, Francis regularly corresponded with International Tract Society representatives
- In 1892, Pastor Lawrence Chadwick, ITS president, visited Dolphijn & his small group of believers



George and Eva
Kerr, left

Francis Dolphijn,
standing, center

Dudley Hale
seated right

(photo courtesy of
Center for Adventist
Research)

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR ADVENTIST RESEARCH

Today's Membership in Ghana

- Northern Ghana Union Conference = 218,133
- Southern Ghana Union Conference = 201,831

Total (as of June 30, 2024) = **419,964**

Francis Dolphijn

- Converted by reading a tract given to a sea captain in America by an Adventist who asked the captain to share Adventist literature at the ports he called at
- Print was the cutting edge medium of communication of its day



In Ghana, media prepared
the way for missionaries

Literature and the West Indies

- In 1883, William Boynton, a leader of the New England Tract & Missionary Society, living in New York City, persuaded a sea captain sailing for the Caribbean and the Guianas, to take a package of Adventist literature on his next voyage.



Literature and the West Indies

- George Enoch later recalled, the captain simply dopped the package on a wharf in Georgetown, British Guiana (Guyana)
- An old man retrieved a copy of *Signs of the Times* from the bundle
- He shared it with a woman called Alberta Alleyne who was convicted of the seventh-day Sabbath

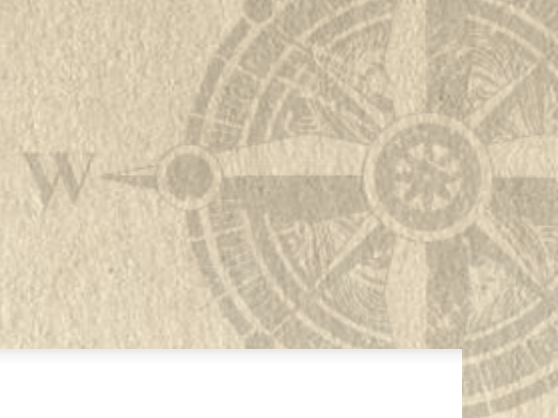
Literature and the West Indies

- Alberta shared her faith with others and won them to the Sabbath
- In November 1885, at the annual meeting of the International Tract Society, a letter was read from R. L. Jeffrey, in British Guiana, who appealed for help for more than 20 people keeping Sabbath
- 1892: Lawrence Chadwick of the ITS visits Georgetown and baptizes several people

Literature and the West Indies

- Alberta Alleyne sent copies of Adventist literature to her sister, Ana Alleyne, who lived in the parish of St. Philip, Barbados
- She won a group of seventh-day Sabbath-keepers, who began corresponding with ITS leaders in the United States





THE HOME
MISSIONARY
Jennie Thayer, Fr.
HE THAT REAPETH RECEIVETH WAGES AND GATHERETH FRUIT TO LIFE ETERNAL.— John 4:36.

VOL. II.

BATTLE CREEK, MICH., NOVEMBER, 1890.

No. 11.

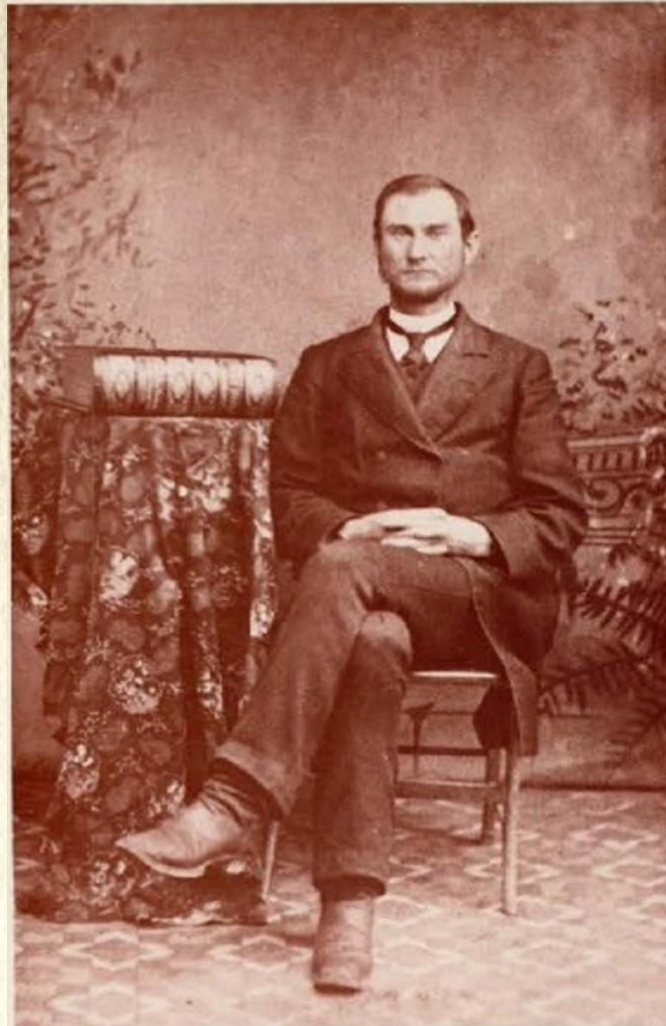
Literature in Barbados

- Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of Barbados:
- "I have to thank your society very much for forwarding to our association a package of your publications, which were much app-eci-ated. We shall be very much pleased indeed to receive further supplies."

Literature in Barbados

- Another letter, from a pastor of another denomination:
- “I embrace this hurried opportunity of thanking you for the very interesting literature sent me from time to time, and must acknowledge that not only myself but others have been benefited by it. I find that new light has been communicated to me.”^{NE}

Dexter A. Ball, pioneer missionary to Barbados



Dexter A. Ball, with his wife Martha, daughter Myrtle
and Dexter's brother and his wife



William Arnold

- A colporteur who accompanied the Balls to Barbados
- His abilities as a colporteur led to a rapid growth in the distribution of Adventist literature first in Barbados and then throughout the eastern Caribbean.
- Ball and Arnold visited contacts whose names and addresses had been provided by the International Tract Society.

S. D. A. Church, Bridgetown, Barbados,



Colporteurs from Barbados

- Among the early converts Ball and Arnold trained, were W. F. Cozier, R. N. Batson, T. Crichlow, and J. Lewis
- All became missionaries to other islands of the eastern Caribbean, which they toured, selling Adventist books and tracts, and conducting Bible studies.

Literature laid the foundations
of one of the strongholds of the
Inter-American Division: the
Caribbean Union Conference,
which today has 225,000
church members

The Present Truth
July 1849

THE PRESENT TRUTH.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY—BY JAMES WHITE.

Vol.1.

MIDDLETOWN, CONN, JULY, 1849.

No. 1.

“The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.”—Ps. xxv. 14.

“WHEREFORE, I will not be negligent of this time. What is done to spread the truth must be done quickly. The four to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the PRESENT TRUTH.” Angels are holding the angry nations in check but a few days, until the saints are sealed; then the nations will rush, like the
2 Pet. i: 12.

The Advent Review

August 1850

THE ADVENT REVIEW

VOL. I.]

AUBURN, (N. Y.) AUGUST, 1850.

[No. 1.

"CALL TO REMEMBRANCE THE FORMER DAYS."

HIRAM EDSON,
DAVID ARNOLD,
GEO. W. HOLT
SAMUEL W. RHODES, and
JAMES WHITE,

} Publishing
Committee.

TERMS—*Gratis*, except the reader desires to give something toward its publication.

✉ All communications, orders and remittances for the "Review" should be directed to James White,

struction and comfort, who had faithfully given the warning to the world, and were disappointed, when we passed the point of time, to which we so confidently looked for the Lord.

In reviewing the past, we shall quote largely from the writings of the leaders in the advent cause, and show that they once boldly advocated, and published to the world, the same position, relative to the fulfilment of prophecy in the great leading advent movement.

Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald

Page 7 of November 1850 Issue

THE REVIEW AND HERALD.

“Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.”

PARIS, NOVEMBER, 1850.

TO OUR READERS.—The REVIEW and HERALD is designed to be strictly confined to those important truths that belong to the present time. We hope to be able to send you this enlarged size of the paper quite often, containing a simple and clear exposition of those great and sanctifying truths embraced in the message of the third angel, viz: the “commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” It is truly lamentable to see Second Advent papers, that once advocated the pure, naked

The Signs of the Times.

"Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." REV. XXII: 12

VOLUME 1.

OAKLAND, CAL., FIFTH-DAY, JUNE 4, 1874.

NUMBER 1.

The Signs of the Times

IN ISSUED WEEKLY AT

OAKLAND, : : : : CALIFORNIA.

Elder JAMES WHITE, Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS: TWO DOLLARS a year to those who choose to pay a subscription price, and free to all others as far as the paper is sustained by the donations of the liberal friends of the cause.

Address: SIGNS OF THE TIMES, Oakland, Cal.

almost be persuaded that the ministers and the churches are as holy and as zealous as they well can be; that the world is mending every day through the influence of religious example, and that we may shortly expect the triumph of the gospel, the fulfillment of the promise that the whole earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. Now, without stopping to inquire what influence such statements as these, or such opinions, however modified, of the church and of the world, are likely to produce upon either, let us see how

comfort, the love of ease, and of a present resting place. To guard against this besetment, he chalked out a course for his followers, and for his church; and, let me tell you, it is the only one that can be safely followed; and what is this course? He became a pilgrim and sojourner in a strange land, and would not have so much of this world as even a place where to lay his head; he took no thought for the morrow, he made no such inquiries as these: What shall I drink, or wherewithall shall I be clothed: and in pray-

Satan's method of damning souls is by giving them much that has the appearance of good—that he will go the length of making a three-parts Christian to keep the inquirer in peace, that he may thus not only make his damnation more sure, but also bring deeper reproach upon Christ and his cause. Is the witness of the Spirit a thing inquired after? The sinner shall have it, but it will be counterfeit. Is peace, is joy, is a praying or preaching gift wanted? They shall be given, but remember they are blessings and gifts too

Advent Tidende

- in 1872 the denomination launched its first foreign-language periodical, *Advent Tidende*.
- This was published in Danish and literally meant “Advent Journal”.



Advent Tidende

The editor was John G. Matteson, later a pioneer missionary in Scandinavia.



Advent Tidende

- The self-stated purpose of the new journal Matteson edited was:
- “To encourage to practical Christian religion, explain the prophecies, and defend God’s commandments and the faith of Jesus.”
- The price was one dollar a year, but it was distributed free to poor people.

Advent Tidende

- In January 1872, the first issue was published as a 24-page monthly; then expanded to 32 pages
- **The denomination's first medium for foreign mission outreach!**
- Danish- and Norwegian-American Adventists sent it home to their relatives in Scandinavia!

Advent Tidende

- *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*:
- In the “Letters to the editor ... one could follow how *Advent Tidende* was also received in Denmark and Norway having been sent ‘home’ by family in America.”
- While the primary target group was the Danish-Norwegian-speaking population in America, the new publication opened the way for the Advent message in the Nordic countries.
- “Copies were shared and requests for the paper to be sent direct were received by the editor.”

Literature paves the way in Scandinavia

- The Denmark Conference was organized in 1880; the Swedish Conference in 1882; the Norway Conference in 1887
- All within ten years of Matteson's arrival
- **Early growth in Scandinavia reflected the influence of *Advent Tidende***
- **Media had prepared the way for the missionary**

Photo taken in 1872

Ellen G. White
issues a
Testimony in
December 1871



The prophetic voice speaks

“There has been but little of the missionary spirit among Sabbathkeeping Adventists. . . . Young men should be qualifying themselves by becoming familiar with other languages, that God may use them as mediums to communicate His saving truth to those of other nations.”


The prophetic voice speaks


“Young women . . . should devote themselves to God [fitting] themselves for usefulness by studying & becoming familiar with other languages”, so that they “could devote themselves to . . . translating.”

The prophetic voice speaks

“Much can be done through the medium of the press, but still **more can be accomplished if the influence of the labors of the living preacher goes with our publications. Missionaries are needed to go to other nations** to preach the truth in a guarded, careful manner.”

Testimonies, 3: 202, 204

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- Since the earliest days of our movement, media has prepared, and it will continue to prepare the way, for the missionary
 - Media has made and will make explosive growth possible once the missionary is in field, leveraging the influence of the living preacher
 - So we need to put greater resources into media



However, we still need actual
missionaries as well as digital
missionaries