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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ADVENT PRESS

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The Advent Press, earlier known as the Nigerian Advent Press and the West African Union Press, began when W.T.B. Hyde, principal of the Ibadan Training School, West Nigeria, purchased a small hand press and began producing vernacular tracts in Ibadan. In 1935 a cylinder press, purchased with the help of the Stanborough Press in England, was erected in a converted garage, where full-time printing operations were begun by the Nigerian Advent Press (after 1937 called the Advent Press). Production included Sabbath School lessons in the Yoruba language, tracts, training booklets, and a Yoruba hymnal. In 1951 the press was moved from Nigeria to Accra, Gold Coast (now Ghana). Its new building was officially opened January 3, 1954, by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, who later became president of the Republic of Ghana.

Under the management of H.S. Pearce (1948-57) and C.G. Meredith (1957-66) Voice of Prophecy lessons, the West African Messenger, tracts and small booklets were published. With the subsequent leadership of C.G. Meredith (manager and then editor), and A.C. Berger (superintendent and then manager), the Advent Press continued to develop during the years 1957-67. New equipment was added and the first subscription book, "Your Bible and You", was completed in 1966.

E.A. Warren became editor in 1966 following the return to England of C.G. Meredith. A health journal, "Health and Happiness", was introduced in 1968 and was well received.

The years 1968-71 have been years of change, change from emphasis on commercial work to book publication, and change from letterpress equipment to litho equipment. Now the Advent Press is ready to expand its book production in an effort to satisfy the tremendous thirst for books in West Africa.

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