what the Bible says about it. Dr. Leslie Hardinge, retired but recently president of the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary (Far East), drew upon the rich blood symbolism of the atonement in the sanctuary services.

On Friday evening Elder J. Robert Spangler, editor of Ministry magazine, appealed earnestly for the speedy fulfillment of the mission assigned the Adventist church. His hearers responded with testimonies, prayers, and renewed consecration.

Sabbath School the next morning was superintended by Elder D. A. DeHaan, president of Adventist Retired Workers. Elder R. G. Reck, president of the Rwanda Union Mission, presented a well-illustrated mission report. Dr. Gordon Hyde, editor of Adventist Perspectives at Southern College, led out in the lesson study. During the worship service the speaker, Elder Joel Tompkins, expressed his concerns regarding the responsibility of educational boards, administrators, and teachers for the parents and youth of the church and for trends that are undermining faith today.

Dr. C. Mervyn Maxwell, of the Seminary Church History faculty, discoursed in the afternoon upon the problem of identity within the Adventist church, stirring considerable appreciative discussion.

The agape supper that closed the Sabbath was chaired by Dr. Jack Blanco, chairman of the Religion Department at Southern College and president of ATS. Elder Cyril Miller, president of the Southwestern Union, then presented a candid analysis of trends that he has observed in the church.

The weekend closed with a Sunday morning business session. For the special benefit of overseas members and visitors, it was decided that the 1990 General Meeting would be coordinated with the General Conference Session in Indianapolis.

Many who attended the weekend in Lincoln commented on the spirit of united fellowship and spiritual concern that was fostered by the ministries of Dr. Raymond Holmes, director of Student Life at the Seminary, and by Dr. Derek Morris, religion teacher at Southern College. Singing, morning prayer seasons, and personal testimonies made the gathering a spiritual feast. As one college administrator said, "It was just like camp meeting."

Why I'm Glad for the ATS

By Jacob J. Nortey, President
Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Not long ago I had a taste of good "old-time religion."

In response to an invitation from a friend, I attended the first General Meeting of the Adventist Theological Society. I found a group made up of Seventh-day Adventists from all walks of life. They spent many hours, from Thursday night to Sunday morning, September 7-10, 1989, attending sessions in the chapel of the Mids- America Union headquarters. I heard hearty singing, the study of God's Word, discussions, prayer, and earnest testimonies.

The presentations, studies, and sermons directed attention to the Word of God and the assurance of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. The atmosphere was pleasant and Spirit-filled. It reminded me of the time I had first attended a Seventh-day Adventist meeting, thirty years before.

The Baden-Powell Memorial Hall in Ghana, that night thirty years before, was packed. Every seat was taken and all the standing room was jammed. The choir sang beautifully. The smiling ushers were dressed in white.

Then as Evangelist Earl Cleveland presented his subject, "A Day When Money Will Be Thrown in the Streets of Accra and No One Will Care to Pick It Up," the crowded hall was hushed. We heard that God's prophecies had been fulfilled to the letter. We saw the evangelist, holding his open Bible in his left hand, point to it with his right hand and declare, "Brothers and Sisters, this is the Word of the living God. It is the Bible. The basis of Christian faith and doctrine is the Bible, the Bible alone."

That presentation thirty years ago was an answer to my prayers and search. It led me to study further and to become a member of this "Thus saith the Lord" denomination.
In harmony with that experience, this recent ATS weekend in Lincoln brought me new confidence in the Word of God and a new assurance in the salvation made possible through the blood of Jesus.

My joy in Lincoln was intensified by the fact that these days it's not uncommon to meet so-called Christians who measure their scholarship by the depth of their doubts about the plain teachings of the Bible. Many of our young people leave Africa to take "higher studies" in the West, only to return with their faith diminished. Some return doubting even if there is a heaven.

But I was pleasantly surprised in Lincoln to find top scholars and teachers from several Adventist institutions of higher learning expressing confidence in the Word of God and in the blood of Christ. I was delighted, too, to see the wide spectrum of people present, from North America and overseas. Although different nationalities and races were present, there was an impressive spirit of unity and love.

I was glad that in its quest to encourage sound conservative Bible scholarship and interpretation, the ATS does not limit membership to scholars. Too often, scholars isolate themselves as though they alone had the answers. What we need rather is harmonious interaction and involvement of every talent in order to carry out the global mission God has assigned this church.

We "older Adventists" sometimes miss the refreshing spirit of earlier years. In West Africa our people constantly remind us that this or that "is not what happened during the time of Gibson, Clemonds, or Hyde." In North America I have learned that some of our older brethren shed tears of joy after hearing a plain-truth message.

The "old-time religion," with its trust in the Bible as the Word of God and in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, is what God's people most need today. Let's have more of it.

God bless the ATS.

**THE POWER OF THE WORD**

The Keynote Message
By Francis Wernick
Former Vice President of the General Conference

"There is nothing so powerful as an idea whose time has come."

I believe that this Adventist Theological Society is an idea whose time has come. If guided aright, it may become a powerful force and voice for good as it upholds our leaders and the great truths of Scripture that were instrumental in bringing this Seventh-day Adventist movement into being.

We have formed this society to support, to uphold, and to proclaim the truths of Scripture that are so essential to the world at this time in its history. The mission and message of the Seventh-day Adventist church are outlined in Revelation 14, and our reason for existence is based on the same prophetic passage.

More than 48 years ago, I heard Elder W. A. Spicer speak in the Union College chapel. He began his sermon this way: "It's true, it's true! This Adventist movement was born out of the prophecy of Revelation 14." Elder Spicer went on to describe how God had called Adventists to go into all the world with a special message to prepare a people for the soon appearing of Christ. His sermon had a profound effect upon us then, and this truth-filled message still moves God's people today. It is the foundation of our beliefs. And what we believe is critically important.

No organization can long exist or make an impact on the world unless it knows what it believes and is passionately committed to its beliefs. In a recent telecast, a specialist in philosophy was asked