



Type: Magazine Article

---

## The 100th Anniversary of Moroni's Visit Celebrated in Africa

Author(s): J. Wyley Sessions

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 27, No. 4 (February 1924)

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Page(s): 336–337

---

**Abstract:** In this article, the South African Mission celebrates the anniversary of Moroni's visit by organizing a campaign to sell and distribute copies of the Book of Mormon.

## MESSAGES FROM THE MISSIONS

*"Arise therefore, and be doing, and the Lord be with thee. Be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed."*—1 Chron. 22.

### Best Conference Since the War in Aarhus

Elder D. U. Wright, reports that "in the past few years Denmark has suffered considerably from lack of missionaries so that we have a vast field for improvement. In this conference we have four regular missionaries, one local elder being our conference secretary. Two of these missionaries have yet to learn the Danish language. Our fall conference was the best since the war. We will shortly sustain a loss by releasing two of our missionaries. We wish our dear folks at home to know that we enjoy doing missionary work. We need their encouragement and desire to impress on their minds that more missionaries are greatly needed in Denmark. The mission field is the place for young men to get the spirit of the gospel. During our fall conference we held seven meetings with an average attendance of 153, filling our hall to capacity. The *Improvement Era* is one of our greatest sources of help to keep in touch with the outside world and with loved ones at home."



Elders, top, left to right: D. U. Wright, Murray; A. C. Poulsen, Levan; B. S. Peterson, Salt Lake. Bottom: C. S. Larson, local conference secretary; President J. S. Hanson of the Danish mission; P. L. Gragerson, conference president Pocatello.

### The 100th Anniversary of Moroni's Visit Celebrated in Africa

The 100th anniversary of the visit of the Angel Moroni to the Prophet Joseph Smith was observed in the South African mission by an organized campaign for the selling and distribution of Books of Mormon. The plans, sent out from "Cumorah," the mission president's office, were as follows: The campaign was to be competitive among the branches of the entire

mission; it was to begin Sept. 21 and close Oct. 6. Each branch of the mission was supplied with Books of Mormon sufficient to carry them "over the top," and a number of extra copies for additional sales. "Over the top" meant that every family or member representing a family, should sell at least one book, each man holding the Priesthood should sell at least one, and every elder at least two. No books were to be sold or collected for before the opening date, Sept. 21. However, this did not limit the work of advance agents. A prize of a library edition was to be given to the branch first "over the top," and for one selling the greatest number per capita, and also one to the individual with the greatest number of sales to his credit. Each branch began in earnest and set out to win. In three days the entire supply was exhausted. Several individuals sold as many as ten books and stopped because of the limited supply. The highest individual record was twenty, made by Brother George E. W. Smith, of Durban. The Durban branch also received the award for first "over the top," though it took only four days for every branch to "go over." The results are very pleasing, the greatest satisfaction comes from the keen interest aroused in the Book of Mormon, several hundred people, mostly non-"Mormons," have purchased books, and many are reading them. Some are waiting for the next consignment so they can have their copy delivered. Programs were held in public meetings throughout the mission during the campaign, which treated the Book of Mormon subjects, these meetings were well attended. The results were surprising; every family of Saints, every man holding the Priesthood in South Africa sold at least one Book of Mormon and every elder sold at least two, and this within the five days that the supply lasted. Without a single exception the sales of each branch were limited by the lack of books. The supply on hand at the beginning was considered ample to satisfy any demand the campaign might call forth.



The accompanying picture shows the winners from the Durban branch of the Natal conference, reading from left to right, back row: Paul T. Harris, Gladys Baker, Geo. E. W. Smith, Gladys Mansfield. Seated: Anna Wade, Conference President Golden W. Harris, Katherine Smith, Elder Clinton M. Black, Lizzie Moore, and Baby Joy Smith.—*J. Wyley Sessions*, Mission President, "Cumorah," Main Rd., Mowbray, C. P., South Africa.