

Basel Mission Archives

"Müller's Report for the Year 1868"

Title: "Müller's Report for the Year 1868"

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Description: During 1868 the station staff changed in that - Brother Krauss died - Brother Schönhuth arrived, and was joined by his wife - The Ramseyer's arrived. A new catechist was also appointed to Anum after Obuobisa had failed to find a way of returning and they had been without from 1st July 1867 to 30th April 1868 — the new catechist was Chr. Asiedu. Little has changed in the outward appearance of the station and its land. In the work of the station, Schönhuth took over the trading side, and was able to restore it to regular operations in spite of the blockades. Chr. Asiedu gets a good report, especially in his performance when the missionaries get into palavers. He has little zeal for preaching to the heathen, however, and has to be supervised in his three hours per day school work. His translation work is good (Müller is still having to be translated when he preaches even into Twi: & Chr. Asiedu had only begun to learn Kyerepong when he arrived in Anum). Müller has been teaching him Greek and Hebrew. The Christian community increased through 6 people who moved to Anum from other congregations, and two new baptisms. One is Johane Ahima, a 22 year-old Anum man - he works on the station, living in the mission community. The other is Lydia Mamle, born in Ada, niece of an assistant on the trading side who lives with him as his cock. He thinks it had a real meaning for their hearts when they were baptised. One previous member of the Christian community had returned to his home near Late. Of the total Christian community of 14, 9 live in Anum, 5 in Awudome. The 9 communicants among them are mostly in the 15-30 age group, and need careful pastoral care. The non-communicants are a promising 12 year old boy, a young woman, a 6-year old girl, and 2 children of Christian parents. Most of the Christians resident in Anum live on the station. They have 8 youths on the station who act as their servants and at the same time attend school - only one is baptised. Although Müller has sometimes held his school in the streets of the town and tried to persuade more parents to send their children, he has not been-successful, though he thinks it is only a matter of time, and a fuller understanding of the advantages of education before people do begin to respond. When they are able to conduct street preaching, there is usually a group of 20-30 listeners in Anum itself, not so much patience elsewhere. Müller mentions villages 4-5 hours to the north where the people are of Kyerepong origins, but where he thinks they are changing over to the use of Ewe, and only the older people speak Kyerepong. There is one catechumen from Anum - he is really affected by the worry about eternal punishment. The Bremen missionaries have once more played a most important part in the survival of the station, giving a great deal of help to travelling missionaries, and ensuring a regular supply of foodstuffs, and regular postal arrangements. In a Subscript Schrenk reports the arrival of Müller in Osu. He has become a little eccentric in his isolation.

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