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early 40's. He seemed very interested in the Church and was guest of honor at the Hotel Utah during the noon hour to the first Hippo Steak Dinner served in America.

Friday, January 11, 1963

This morning at approximately 9:00 A.M. I met with President David O. McKay, President Mark E. Petersen, and former <sup>pastor</sup> N. Eldon Tanner of the West European Mission in President McKay's Office to discuss matters pertaining to the Nigerian Mission. President Petersen is leaving for London next Monday morning, January 14, 1963, at 7:50 A.M. As soon as my visa is approved, I am to depart from New York with the two couples assigned to Nigeria, Brother and Sister Forrest O. Goodrich and Brother and Sister Urban Gail Bench, for London and will spend two or three days with President Petersen in discussing the organization of the Church in Nigeria. President McKay stated that my position was to be "Presiding Elder of Nigeria" since there has not been a mission established in that area.

It was decided that the letter "C" be placed on the membership card of each baptized member to designate them as colored. This is to be universal throughout the Church.

It was suggested that Aba be at least the temporary headquarters of the Church in Nigeria. President Tanner also indicated that the area be divided up into districts to be presided over by an Elder who would be called the District President, and that local heads (leaders) of groups will be recognized by us and we will probably call them District Group Leaders and Branch Group Leaders or Branch Leaders. It was discussed and approved by President David O. McKay

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that the Group Leaders and other officiating persons be set apart by the laying on of hands and that this would not be misconstrued with the ordination of the Priesthood. The Sacrament is to be administered to by the Elders and certain male members of the congregation not holding the Priesthood are to be permitted to pass the Sacrament to the congregation as though they were Deacons. President Tanner recommended that as soon as children are baptized members into the Church they are to be thoroughly trained in the principles of the Church and also made to realize why they cannot hold the Priesthood (the male members), when they reach the age of 12 even though white members of the Church in their area are permitted to be ordained as boys into the Aaronic Priesthood. Intermarriage of races is to be discouraged and the members specifically taught that they should refrain from marrying out of their race to insure their happiness.

We will not baptize large numbers to begin with but will follow a program of careful instruction and only baptize those who show a willingness to be substantial faithful members of the Church.

I am to go to the person in charge of acquisition of property for religious purposes, get a copy of their rules and regulations regarding the ownership of land and mail a copy to Brother Vernon Snyder and Robert M. Dyer of the Church Legal Department, 115 East South Temple, for them to examine and prepare legal papers for us to present to the Nigerian Officials for our protection in land ownership by the Church.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Brother George Scott of the Deseret News met with President McKay, Brother Petersen, and Brother Tanner, and it was decided to make a short public announcement through the newspaper relative to the missionary work in Nigeria, This will be the first public announcement to be

DESERET NEWS Jan 11-63

## Church To Open Missionary Work In Nigeria

New territory for missionary work in the world-wide program of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was announced Friday by President David O. McKay.

Missionaries will be sent to Nigeria in West-Central Africa in response to requests from people in that country to learn more about Church doctrine.

President McKay said a group of missionaries will be sent as soon as visas are available. They will be under the direction of the West European Mission, headed by Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Council of the Twelve, who is scheduled to leave with Mrs. Petersen for mission headquarters at Leatherhead, London, England, on Jan. 14.

Elder Petersen succeeds Elder Nathan Eldon Tanner of the Council of the Twelve, who visited Nigeria before returning to Salt Lake City following his release.

First missionaries called to labor in Nigeria include Elder LaMar S. Williams of the 28th Ward, Riverside Stake, who will act as presiding elder; Elder and Mrs. Urban Gail Bench of Valley View Second Ward, and Elder and Mrs. Forrest O. Goodrich of Tridell, Uintah County.

Elder Williams' wife, Mrs. Nyal Bower Williams, and their seven children may leave for Nigeria at a later date.

The Church has had missionaries in South Africa for many years, with headquarters at Johannesburg, Transvaal. There are now 19 branches in the South African Mission.

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made concerning proselyting among the colored people.

President McKay told me to submit the names of two more couples to serve as missionaries in Nigeria.

At the conclusion of our meeting, President McKay assured us that it was the will of the Lord that this work be done among the colored people. He said "Brethren, this is the will of the Lord that this work be done".

January 17, 1963

President David O. McKay approved the call of Elder Walter Edward Atwood and his wife Nellie Ione Snow Atwood of Fresno, California, to be called to the West European Mission and to serve in Nigeria. He suggested their call be held up until another couple is found to go with them. This morning as I was coming into the Church Office Building, Brother Grant Graff was at the front door. He congratulated me on my assignment and stated that he wished he was going with me. I said, "Do you really mean it?" He said, "Why, certainly!" At 2:00 P.M. this afternoon I interviewed Brother Grant Graff and his wife Amie. They will be seeing their bishop this evening for an interview and have agreed to have their papers ready if all goes well by Tuesday of next week. This is the fourth couple (suggested by President McKay to be sent to Nigeria to begin the work of organizing the Church among the natives in and around Aba.