



NEWS

FROM WATERLOO LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

WATERLOO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE — WATERLOO LUTHERAN SEMINARY

75 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA

TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 519, 744-8141

097-1963

Murray Davidson
August 12/63

Release at once

SEMINARY GRADUATE NAMED PRESIDENT

OF LIBERIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Roland J. Payne, a member of the 1963 graduating class of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, has been elected president of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, it was announced today by Dr. J. Ray Houser, seminary president.

The son of a tribal chief, Pastor Payne came under the influence of Lutheran missionaries in Zorzor, and became active in church affairs, eventually becoming secretary of the Liberian Church. Qualifying for further education, he was sent by the Lutheran Church to Midland College, Nebraska, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree, and to Kansas University where he studied medicine and earned his Bachelor of Science degree. Mr. Payne returned to his homeland and served in the local hospital as an X-Ray technician when he received the call to serve a full-time career in the Christian ministry.

In the fall of 1960 Mr. and Mrs. Payne were sent to Waterloo Lutheran University where he received his theological training at the Seminary and she joined the nursing staff of the K-W Hospital.

Pastor Payne returned to Liberia in June of this year following graduation, was ordained by Dr. Rudolph C. Burke, Secretary for Africa of the LCA Board of World Missions, and now serves as parish pastor in addition to his duties in the church presidency. Prior to his departure, Dr. Houser prophesied that some day Roland Payne would become president of the Lutheran Church in Liberia.

- more -

In his thesis for the Bachelor of Divinity degree on "The Problems Facing the Church in Africa", Pastor Payne said, "The faith for which African leaders will die is not to be found in Animism or in Islam, not in Communism or in Nationalism, and not in Western Materialism. That faith is found only in genuine Christianity ... The African people, as a people must say for themselves, 'I will arise and go unto my Father'. As Africans we cannot fail to make that decision -- we dare not fail . . . The way of the Cross is truly the way for Africa."