

THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

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A CALL TO UNIVERSAL ACTION

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"Let the gospel message ring through our churches, summoning them to universal action."—"Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 15. This is not primarily a call to universal study, to universal worship, to universal praise, not even to universal prayer; but it is a mighty blast of the trump of God calling His people to *universal action*.

True, if we render the best and most efficient service we must diligently study the Book of God. The highest form of worship is perfect obedience, hence in obeying this call to *action* we are rendering the most acceptable worship possible. Perfect obedience brings to the soul the consciousness of divine approval, resulting in the deepest joy, the most lasting peace, and awakening in the heart the sweetest strains of the most exultant praise to the gracious Giver of all good of which the human heart is capable. The disposition of the heart to perfect obedience to the divine will creates such a hunger and thirst for God, and the constant presence and power of His Holy Spirit that it will lead the one thus disposed to pour out his soul in constant and prevailing prayer.

This is a call to every believer to equip himself for the most efficient service possible; and, hence, in a secondary way, it is a call to diligent study, to devout worship, to exultant praise, and to prevailing prayer; but first it calls for *action*.

The approach of a crisis usually calls for decisive action. There come times when one must do his praying while in action; delay to act promptly would mean irreparable disaster. We are now rapidly approaching the supreme crisis of all the ages. The decision that will fix for eternity the destiny of millions for whom Jesus died is soon to be rendered. God now calls His people to arouse and quickly carry the message of warning to all the world.

The world today is calling everywhere for men and woman of *action*; men and women who can *do* things—all others soon fall helplessly behind in the race of life. Then in this last hour of human probation, when things all about us are moving rapidly, when, "The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly," should we not much more expect that God would send forth such a summons as the above to the entire church membership calling them *into action*?

"We must give this message quickly line upon line, precept upon precept. Men will soon be forced to great decisions, and it is our duty to see that they are given an opportunity to understand the truth, that they may take their stand intelligently on the right side. The Lord calls upon His people to labor—labor earnestly and wisely—while probation lingers."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, pp. 126, 127.

"Men will soon be forced to great decisions." They must decide for life or death, and they must make their decision quickly. Since God has committed to His remnant people His last invitation of mercy it is clearly "our duty to see that they are given an opportunity to understand the truth, that they may take their stand intelligently on the right side."

Every soul living, who has not already made his decision, must *soon* do so, hence every consecrated believer must now be pressed into service as an instrument of divine power in this crisis hour. The Master's voice may be heard clearly and distinctly above the noise and din of this dark world, saying, "Son, go work today in My vineyard." This does not mean alone the minister, the Bible worker, the office worker or others employed by the conference or mission; but it does mean that *every soul* whose heart has been set free from the bondage of sin is to *go to work*—not for himself, but for God. He is personally to "go work" in the Lord's "vineyard," and *he is to do this "today."*

MARRIAGE INSTITUTION NO. 1

1. By whom and when was marriage instituted?

It was instituted in the Garden of Eden, before man transgressed the command of God. See Gen. 2:20-24.

"God Himself gave Adam a companion. He provided 'an help meet for him,'—a helper corresponding to him,—one who was fitted to be his companion, and who could be one with him in love and sympathy. Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him, as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand at his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him. A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self; showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation. 'For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it.' 'Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one.'

"God celebrated the first marriage. Thus the institution has for its originator the Creator of the universe. 'Marriage is honorable;' it was one of the first gifts of God to man, and it is one of the two institutions that, after the fall, Adam brought with him beyond the gates of Paradise. When the divine principles are recognized and obeyed in this relation, marriage is a blessing; it guards the purity and happiness of the race, it provides for man's social needs, it elevates the physical, the intellectual, and the moral nature."—"*Patriarchs and Prophets*," page 46.

2. What is the nature of this institution?

"Marriage was in God's order; it was one of the first institutions which He established. He gave special directions concerning this ordinance, clothing it with sanctity and beauty."—*Id.* 101.

"The instruction given to Abraham, touching the sacredness of the marriage relation, was to be a lesson for all ages. It declares that the rights and happiness of this relation are to be carefully guarded, even at a great sacrifice. Sarah was the only true wife of Abraham. Her rights as a wife and mother, no other person was entitled to share. She revered her husband, and in this she is presented in the New Testament as a worthy example. But she was unwilling that Abraham's affections should be given to another."—*Id.* p. 147.

"The marriage relation is holy, but in this degenerate age it covers vileness of every description. It is abused, and has become a crime which now constitutes one of the signs of the last days. . . . When the sacred nature and the claims of marriage are understood, it will even now be approved of heaven, and the result will be happiness to both parties, and God will be glorified."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. II, p. 252.

3. Upon what does the happiness and prosperity of the marriage relation depend? See Amos 3:3.

"The happiness and prosperity of the marriage relation depends upon the unity of the parties; but between the believer and the unbeliever there is a radical difference of tastes, inclinations and purposes."

"The happiness and prosperity of the married life depends upon the unity of the parties. How can the carnal mind harmonize with the mind that is assimilated to the mind of Christ? One is sowing to the flesh, thinking and acting in accordance with the promptings of his own heart; the other is sowing to the Spirit, seeking to repress selfishness, to overcome inclination, and to live in obedience to the Master,

whose servant he professes to be."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. IV, p. 507.

4. What is the object of the marriage relation?

"The grace of Christ, and this alone, can make this institution what God designed it should be,—an agent for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. And thus the families of earth, in their unity and peace and love, may represent the family of heaven."—"*Mount of Blessing*," p. 101.

"The family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred, of any on earth. It was designed to be a blessing to mankind. And it is a blessing wherever the marriage covenant is entered into intelligently, in the fear of God, and with due consideration for its responsibilities."—"*Ministry of Healing*," p. 356.

5. In selecting a life companion, what should we consider as essential?

"Let those who are contemplating marriage weigh every sentiment and watch every development of character in the one with whom they think to unite their life destiny. Let every step toward a marriage alliance be characterized by modesty, simplicity, sincerity, and an earnest purpose to please and honor God. Marriage affects the after life both in this world and in the world to come. *A sincere Christian will make no plans that God cannot approve.*"—"*Ministry of Healing*," p. 359.

"Examine carefully to see if your married life would be happy, or inharmonious and wretched. Let the question be raised—Will this union help me heavenward? will it increase my love for God? and will it enlarge my sphere of usefulness in this life? If these reflections present no drawbacks, then in the fear of God move forward."—"*Fundamentals of Christian Education*," pp. 104, 105.

"Let the woman who desires a peaceful, happy union, who would escape future misery and sorrow, inquire before she yields her affections: Has my lover a mother? What is the stamp of her character? Does he recognize his obligations to her? Is he mindful of her wishes and happiness? If he does not respect and honor his mother, will he manifest respect and love, kindness and attention, toward his wife? When the novelty of marriage is over, will he love me still? Will he be patient with my mistakes, or will he be critical, overbearing and dictatorial? True affection will overlook many mistakes; love will not discern them."—"*Fundamentals of Christian Education*," p. 105.

"Before giving her hand in marriage, every woman should inquire whether he with whom she is about to unite her destiny is worthy. What has been his past record? Is his life pure? Is the love which he expresses of a noble, elevated character, or is it a mere emotional fondness? Has he the traits of character that will make her happy? Can she find true peace and joy in his affections? Will she be allowed to preserve her individuality, or must her judgment and conscience be surrendered to the control of her husband? As a disciple of Christ she is not her own; she has been bought with a price. Can she honor the Saviour's claims as supreme? Will body and soul, thoughts and purposes, be preserved pure and holy? These questions have a vital bearing upon the well-being of every woman who enters the marriage relation."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. V, p. 362.

6. Is the fear of God and His glory always considered by the parties contemplating marriage?

"How often marriages are formed between the godly and the ungodly, because inclination governs the selection of husband or wife! The parties do not ask counsel of God, nor have His glory in view. Christianity ought to have a

controlling influence upon the marriage relation; but it is too often the case that the motives that lead to this union are not in keeping with Christian principles. *Satan is constantly seeking to strengthen his power over the people of God by inducing them to enter into alliance with his subjects;* and in order to accomplish this, he endeavors to arouse unsanctified passions in the heart. But the Lord has in His Word plainly instructed His people not to unite themselves with those who have not His love abiding in them. 'What concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part has he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?'—"*Patriarchs and Prophets*," p. 563.

"PERSONAL TOUCH WORK"

"I see the great need of 'personal touch work,'" wrote some one to me recently. That is a great discovery; because it is largely through personal invitations that men and women, and boys and girls, are won to Christ. "This was Christ's method. His work was largely made up of personal interviews."

And this is the work to which our young people are called. In the message that was sent to our young people back in 1893, it said, "All should realize that they are to seek counsel of God, that by well-directed personal efforts they may save souls for whom Christ died." And this is a work which we all can do. There is an old song that says,

"If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all."

Does it not thrill your soul to realize that right in your neighborhood, your school, or your home, there is some one you can lead to Jesus by personal effort?—someone that God expects you to lead to Him? Pray that God will give you a burden for a soul. And He will. Pray for that one, and God will send His Holy Spirit. Keep on praying. Pray for grace to speak the words that are uppermost in your mind. And God will answer. And when you begin to tell of your love for God, and how you want this one to love Him too, it will not be nearly so hard as you thought.

Rarely have I found young people who did not appreciate my personal interest in their spiritual welfare. Many times, those who are not Christians wonder why Christians are so slow to speak to others about religion. They really think that Christ does not mean as much to us as we profess. And they think right. There is something wrong with our experience if we are not trying to lead others to Jesus.

Every Missionary Volunteer society should have at least one Prayer and Personal Worker's Band. It should

consist of the officers and as many others as will unite with them "to pray together" and "put forth united action." If the number is large, you can divide. Such a band is the life of the society. Such a band may be the means of resurrecting a dead society.

"All who engage in ministry are God's helping hand. They are co-workers with the angels; rather they are the human agencies through whom the angels accomplish their mission. Angels speak through their voices, and work by their hands. And the human workers, co-operating with the heavenly agencies, have the benefit of their education and experience." - "Education," page 271.

M. E. KERN.

ANTILLIAN UNION MISSION

Josefina 56, Havana, Cuba

J. A. LELAND - - - - - Superintendent
N. L. TAYLOR - - - - - Secy.-Treas.

SANTO DOMINGO GENERAL MEETING

The first biennial general meeting for the Santo Domingo Mission was held in the new church at Santo Domingo City, February 3-13. Until 1925 Santo Domingo was a part of the Porto Rican Mission. Thus the work is growing under the careful supervision of the Inter-American Division.

The work in Santo Domingo started under great hardships. Imprisonment came to some of the early believers, and even yet a fanatical prejudice makes it difficult to prosecute the work in some parts of the country. But prosperity has attended the preaching of the message and the membership is making steady growth. At the close of 1926 the membership was 212. There are now six churches organized and seven unorganized companies. A wise provision has been made to house properly the congregations and neat and comfortable churches help to give our work favorable standing with the public.

The financial report of the mission shows a gain over previous reports. Tithes for 1925 was \$2,688.91 while for 1926 it was \$2,802.17, a gain over the preceding year of \$113.26. Offerings to missions for the two year period were also above past records. For 1925 the total was \$2,566.98 and for 1926, \$2,618.41. The colporteurs sold \$7,268.16 worth of literature during the two year period. Steps were taken at the February meeting to strengthen this branch of the work, and a much larger record should be made during the present year.

The mission schools have been an important feature of the work in this field in breaking down prejudice and

opening homes for the presentation of the truth. Seven such schools are being conducted at the present time and there are openings for several more. We are developing some promising young workers in this line of missionary endeavor who should be useful in other lines of work as the way is opened. The government is very kindly disposed to our school work and this in turn has given us favor with local officials where these schools are in operation.

The workers and members told of many interests in various parts of the country, and many are keeping the Sabbath. Our lay-members in a number of places are doing faithful work to give the message to others, and God is blessing their ministry. One church of 31 members reported that 32 others were keeping the Sabbath and preparing for baptism. Elder C. V. Achenbach is the superintendent of the Santo Domingo Mission, and Brother B. Bullard, the secretary-treasurer. Prospects are bright for the future in this interesting field, and a goodly harvest will yet be gathered for the Master.

J. A. STEVENS.

OUR COLPORTEURS

No words of appreciation are strong enough to emphasize the value of the work of our faithful colporteurs. Their

HOMEWARD MEDITATIONS

Let me be thankful for all blessings received in meeting today.

I have been getting, now let me give. Let me grow more earnest as I mingle with those who are indifferent.

By daily Bible study, secret prayer, and quiet meditation, let me continue to grow in my Christian experience.

Let my daily actions prove that my life, my time, and my money all belong to God.

Let me plan everything with reference to the needs of others, not my own.

Let me never again be led astray by my feelings but let me ever cling to my determined purpose to be an earnest Christian.

Let me be a winner of souls, always realizing that life holds no privilege more precious than to give itself for the salvation of others.

Let me make Henry Clay Trumbull's life purpose my own: "I have resolved that whenever I am in such intimacy with a soul as to be justified in choosing the subject for conversation, the theme of themes shall have prominence between us so that I may learn his need and if possible, help him."

Let me rise above fault-finding, jesting, and gossiping, and become absorbed in the great work of giving the Third Angel's Message.

Let me remember that my life is somebody's Bible, and that it should be so true to principle that it will lead others to Christ.

Let me each morning pray: Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me and let all my work be wrought in Thee.

influence is met wherever a minister or a Bible worker goes. Very often these reap the results of what the colporteurs have sown,—often sown under hardships and with tears, in true apostolic fashion. Few there are who bear this burden patiently year after year as has Brother Augustin Borrero, our veteran colporteur.

Since our last biennial report we have developed a new type of colporteur in this field. This colporteur is the girl who earns her scholarship through canvassing. There are four who belong to this class, two of whom have gained their scholarship two years in succession. We praise God for the success that has crowned the efforts of these undaunted young missionaries of the printed page. Their example has brought to our youth a new vision, the effect of which is incalculable.

The anxiety to give her daughter the privilege of a Christian education, has taken one sister from her home for weeks at a time selling little books up and down the streets of the towns and villages of the island. Losses and trials have not been able to shake her purpose; her feet refused to tire until she obtained the amount necessary to keep her daughter in school. We feel certain that God will recognize the earnest service of this mother and in heaven she will receive her reward.

Other young people, boys and girls, are either paying their way through school by canvassing in their spare time or are devoting all their time to the sale of literature with the view of entering school at the opening of the next session.

H. E. BAASCH.

OUR CUBAN SCHOOL

Although the Colegio Adventista de Cuba is not all that could be desired, we have much to make us thankful to God. We are far from being a fully grown institution, but we are plodding along meeting difficulties and laying them low as we pass on to success.

We have seen the hand of God working with us so constantly that I cannot doubt the success of our school here. As the years roll by we are striving to prepare adequately the young people of this field for efficient service, and we still trust that the Lord will open hearts and open the way for this training school to be fully manned and equipped to go ahead without handicaps.

The young people here are worthy of our utmost efforts, they are as consecrated a group of young people as I have ever met. A finer selection

it would be hard to find anywhere. And, dear brethren, as you give and pray for others remember us too. Put the Bartle school on your prayer list.

C. LAWRENCE POHLE

CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION

Apartado 1059, San José, Costa Rica

W. E. BAXTER - - - Superintendent
A. P. CHRISTIANSEN - - - Secy.-Treas.

HITHERTO THE LORD HAS LED *

On beginning my report, I feel to express thanks to our heavenly Father for His care and blessings, and for the manner in which the work has advanced during the past two years. Death took away from us our esteemed co-worker, Sister Amy Walters, who fell asleep in Jesus, July 29, 1925. The loss of this faithful soul-winner was felt keenly, but the memory of her life continues to stir us to greater diligence.

Our conference bathed by the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, divided by the Canal, bounded on the east by Colombia, and on the west by Salvador and Honduras, has the distinguishing features of uniting in one, five different peoples in a wonderful cause. Our territory of 106,590 square miles has a combined population of approximately 1,606,221.

While the official language is Spanish, the greater part of our work has been carried on in the English language. Since coming to the conference we have struggled to get workers into the field who could speak Spanish or who were capable of learning it. At this time I am glad to present to you Brethren Holder, Lusk, Shidler, Ellis, and Larson and Sister Correa, who are giving the whole or the major part of their time to the Spanish work. At the training school we have two teachers, too, who are teaching in the Spanish language.

Aside from the Spanish and English speaking peoples, we have several tribes of Indians who are clamoring for the truth. At Talamanca, Costa Rica, there is a marvelous opening among the Indians. Brother J. A. Walker has been back to visit them on two occasions. They are now waiting for us to send them permanent help. Work is opening up in several new places along the San Blas coast, also in parts of Nicaragua and other places in the Republic of Panama.

We have plans for the building of four new churches, and by present indications the Colon and Panama churches will have to be enlarged to

* Read by the conference president at the biennial meeting of the West Caribbean Conference.

accommodate the people who desire to attend services.

GATHERING SOULS AND CLEARING DEBTS

Four tent meetings have been held since our last conference session. All these meetings have brought new converts into the church, and reclaimed some who had grown cold. The advisability of employing tents for evangelical services has been amply demonstrated; for many people go to a tent who would not go to a church building.

In the providence of God we have been able to pay off a large part of the tract society debt. The indebtedness on the Panama and Colon churches has been wiped out. Represo, too, has decided its church free from debt.

Since the first of this year we have baptized in Chiriqui fourteen Spanish and sixty-two English speaking candidates.

For more than a year Nicaragua has been scourged by a revolution. This has been a great obstacle to the development of our work. Nearly all this trouble has been along the east coast so quite a number of converts there are waiting for a minister who can baptize them. On the western coast a number are waiting for this message of hope. An appeal signed by twenty persons came to me sometime ago.

VALUE OF LITERATURE WORK

A man living on the Chagres River above Gamboa, through the reading of a tract, has begun to keep the Sabbath, and has bought a supply of tracts to distribute in his town. At Arraijan a Spanish school teacher, because of reading one of the Spanish Harvest Ingathering papers, has written making inquiry about our work. At San Andres, Colombia, a man is keeping the Sabbath because some one gave him a tract to read. I mention these incidents because I desire to emphasize the value of the circulation of our literature, and to show how susceptible the Spanish people are to our message.

NEW WORKERS

Several new workers have joined us: Sister Amelia Correa, Brother Ishmael Ellis, Elder and Sister Hutchinson, Brother and Sister Wallace Lusk, Brother and Sister Solomon Harriott, and Brother C. L. Stilson and family have come since our last session.

Brother Glen S. Ray and Mrs. Anderson have been added to our school faculty as Spanish teachers. There have been twelve church schools in different parts of the conference, aside from our training school at Las Cascadas.

DEPARTMENTAL WORK

The Sabbath school, the Young People's, the Home Missionary and the Colporteur work, have been blessed

through the faithful efforts of the leaders in these departments.

The treasurer's report will show in detail how we have been blessed of God with finances to carry on His work.

We have received during the two-year period, \$31,853.66 in tithes, \$11,234.23 from the Sabbath schools, and \$2,986.63 in other mission offerings. For local church work \$3,954.60 were raised and for home missionary work \$2,967.13, making a total of \$52,996.25 raised by our churches during the past two years. Our brethren have collected in the Harvest Ingathering campaigns \$7,003.76. All of this has been accomplished even though Nicaragua has suffered financially from her internal troubles.

NEEDS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

1. We all, brethren, have need of getting closer to the Lord, by consecrating ourselves anew and by raising up the family altar in our homes;
2. Each of us should set a goal for winning at least one person to the truth during the year;
3. Plans should be made to stimulate interest in our church schools. All Adventist children should be in our denominational schools;
4. Our Spanish paper *El Centinela* should have a larger circulation. We ought to use our literature more freely among our friends and neighbors;
5. This conference should send a teacher to the Talamanca Indians and maintain him there. The teacher must be able to teach in the Spanish language, and have a knowledge of simple treatments and remedies;
6. In order to develop properly the Spanish work in Panama City, we should plan at once for an adequate Spanish church building;
7. Our churches should be encouraged to reach the conference goals;
8. We need more Spanish workers to enter the places that are already open;
9. A greater number of our brethren should be encouraged to enter the colporteur work;
10. To encourage the reading of the "Testimonies" and the *Review and Herald* by every Seventh-day Adventist is another matter of capital importance;
11. *Every Seventh-day Adventist a tithe payer* is a goal that should be set and reached during the next two years; and
12. Brethren, we need a continuation of your loyal support and your prayerful co-operation in this great field.

At this time in behalf of our corps of workers, I desire to express our deep appreciation of your co-operation and support during the past biennial period; and I also desire to say to my co-laborers on the conference committee that my association with you has been one of the pleasant parts of my life's experience that I shall always remember.

Let all of us at this time renew our consecration to God and to His work until our task is finished.

W. R. POHLE.

!! REMEMBER !!

B I G W E E K, June 4-11
SABBATH SCHOOL RALLY, July 16

MORE THAN A HUNDRED IN SIX MONTHS

Our experience in Colon, Panama, so far has been of a very encouraging nature. We have enjoyed visiting and praying with the people in their homes, and they, in turn, have given us the very best of help and co-operation in our public work.

Shortly after our arrival, the latter part of July, 1926, we set two goals. One was for one hundred souls before the end of the year and the other was to pay the church debt. We are happy to report at this time that the Lord blessed us in attaining both goals; and in addition, He helped us to raise funds for much needed improvements on the church building.

Our Thursday and Sunday evening revival meetings, together with our Wednesday evening and Sabbath services, have been very fruitful. Hardly a Sabbath has passed without one to five or more have come forward and signed the covenant. At the end of the year 118 had taken their stand for the truth. January 2, we began a series of tent meetings. At the end of a seven-weeks effort, fifty-two more had definitely decided to unite with the church, while many more were in the valley of decision. I especially desire to mention the faithful help of our church choir and the entire church membership in this series of meetings.

During the past eight months 180 have signed the covenant and 101 have already been baptized, while a number of others have been received on profession of faith. Some of our sisters, who have been praying for years, have been rewarded in seeing their husbands take their stand for this message.

Our tithes and offerings have increased and there is a spirit of brotherly love and zeal for the finishing of the work manifest throughout the entire church.

Mrs. Hutchinson, by her continual visiting and Bible work, shares equally with me in all this work, and together we give our Lord all the glory and praise due to His holy name.

L. L. HUTCHINSON.

EAST CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

Box 221, Port of Spain, Trinidad
 M. A. HOLLISTER - - - - - President
 ETHEL EDMED - - - - - Sec'y-Treas.

GREATER PROGRESS STILL

Our meeting in the Leeward Islands Conference has closed, and I am happy to say that it was an especially fine conference. Pastor Edmed secured the

motion picture theatre for the ten days. It seats 450 easily; and we needed it too, for all the night meetings were crowded; and the last night we had at least 600 in it; and still over a hundred were turned away. Many came and stood under the porch or veranda. The offerings lacked just about \$4.50 of paying the rent of the cinema.

Delegates were here from all islands except one, I think; and it was a wonderful time for them, and for all of us. Harmony reigned supreme; and we greatly enjoyed the blessed presence of the Spirit of God, and the evidence of His leadership.

Elder Edmed was given full and hearty support again; the choice of a

South Caribbean	745
British Guiana	403
Leeward Islands	268
<i>Total</i>	1,416

This will mean a wonderful addition to our membership and I am sure these workers and members are going to pray and work earnestly for their goals.

M. A. HOLLISTER.

MEXICAN UNION MISSION

Calle de Jalapa 210, Mexico, D. F., Mexico
 D. A. PARSONS - - - - - Superintendent
 J. G. PETTEY - - - - - Secy. Treas.

"YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER"

Love has been the impelling motive of the gospel in all ages. It is not inherent in man himself but it comes from God. It is shed abroad by the influence of the Holy Spirit that is given to each believing soul.

"Only when selfishness is dead, when strife for supremacy is banished, when gratitude fills the heart, and LOVE makes fragrant the life, — it is only then that Christ is abiding in the soul, and we are recognized as laborers together with God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 402.

This love from the Father comes as gratitude fills the soul; and gratitude comes as we behold Christ uplifted on the cross for us as He gave Himself for our sins. "Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."

As the poor sinner sees himself in the light of the Cross he can only behold it with amazement for God's unspeakable gift and his soul fills with love and inexpressible gratitude to his Maker.

There is a story drawn from history recounting Mexico's struggle for liberty that helps me to see more clearly what our feelings should be to God for His inexpressible goodness to us. Briefly the story is this:

General Morelos was holding 300 Spanish prisoners for exchange and he offered to liberate them for one Mexican general held by the Spanish forces. The Spanish viceroy refused his request and in consequence the Mexican general General D. Leo Bravo, was shot.

His son at the time was in charge of the 300 Spanish prisoners; and General Morelos, greatly angered, ordered the immediate execution of the prisoners. That night young Bravo could not sleep. He kept thinking of the sacrifice of so many men; in the morning, however, he ordered them all lined up in the place of execution in front of his men. Then he placed himself in the midst of them and raised his voice and said:

"You all know how that General Morelos had

T H E B I B L E

(Tune, "Greenland")

We thank Thee heavenly Father,
 For Thy most Holy Word;
 It brings the sweetest message
 That mortals ever heard,—
 The offer of salvation
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 To men in every station
 Rich promises are stored.

It is a mine of treasures,
 A sea of precious pearls,
 Revealing heavenly pleasures,
 In brighter, better worlds,
 Inspired by God's own Spirit,
 It calls us to obey;
 It bids the nations hear it,
 Nor from its precepts stray.

I love the dear old Bible;
 It tells me whence I came,
 My fallen state by nature,
 My hope through Christ the Lamb;
 The bulwark of our nation;
 The root of learning's tree;
 Safe guide in every station;
 It guards the family.

Help send this Book to others,—
 Millions have never heard,—
 For all mankind are brothers;
 All need the living Word.
 The law of God was given
 That all the world might know,
 And find the way to heaven
 Through Christ who loved them so.
 —Anon.

secretary-treasurer was referred to the union and division committees. The conference workers and other delegates set personal goals for 1927 in soul-winning work as follows:

H. J. Edmed	50
J. A. Reed	40
Philip Giddings	30
I. G. Knight	40
George Rickard	5
C. G. VanPutten	30
W. R. Archbold	25

The other delegates' combined goal was 48, making a total of 268. So now the East Caribbean Union goal stands thus:

sent orders to sacrifice your lives for the life of my father. You know how the life of my father was villainously taken, thus exposing you all to execution according to the laws of warfare. But I do not wish to respond thus to the errors of the Spanish viceroy; and so I have come to tell you that I have resolved to not only give you your lives but also your liberty. Therefore, you may now all go wherever you choose."

The prisoners, expecting death, stood speechless. . . . Then filled with joy they shouted, "We will not leave; we will stay with you and fight for the Mexican independence!! Viva Nuestro General! . . . Viva!!!!"

How much more eagerly should sinners, guilty of death but saved from sin, enter the fight against all *sin*. How much more should they *love* and serve their Redeemer and Saviour until death! Let us have more of this love, and then we "shall receive power" for service.

CLARENCE E. MOON.

HOME MISSIONARY DEPT.
C. E. Wood - - - Secretary

HARVEST INGATHERING REPORTS

Five of the conferences and missions in the Inter-American Division are at present engaged in the Harvest Ingathering campaign. Nearly all of the other fields will put forth their effort during the months of September and October. The following reports have been received at the division office:

Santo Domingo on March 12 reported \$600.00, which is about half of her Harvest Ingathering goal. South Caribbean on March 21 had received \$540.00, and reported larger gifts than last year. One man, who gave \$75 in the last campaign, gave \$100 this year. Another man increased his gift from \$25 to \$50. Porto Rico reports \$102 received in the district of two sugar mills. One native worker in Atlantic Colombia had collected \$127 by the first of April as the result of his personal solicitation.

These reports indicate that a good beginning has been made in all of these fields, and the prospects are that our receipts for 1927 will far exceed those of last year.

"Church members awake to the importance of the circulation of our literature, and devote more time to this work. Place in the homes of the people papers, tracts, and books that will preach the gospel in its several lines. There is no time to be lost."—Mrs. E. G. White, "Southern Watchman," November 20, 1902.

HOW TO GIVE BIBLE READINGS

There are a number of statements, which come to us through the Spirit of Prophecy, emphasizing the prominent place that Bible readings will occupy in the sounding of the last warning message:

"In visions of the night representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people . . . hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the Word of God." "Testimonies," Vol. 9, p. 126.

"Our work has been marked out for us by our heavenly Father. We are to take our Bibles, and go forth to warn the world." "Testimonies," Vol. 9, p. 150.

"Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings. . . ." "Ministry of Healing," p. 149.

A new book, "How to Give Bible Readings," has been recently published to provide a text book for these Bible classes in the churches.

This book of 138 pages contains ten lessons on how to successfully conduct Bible studies; and also outlines of twenty-eight Bible studies embracing the principal doctrines of our message. We trust that every minister, Bible worker, church elder, and home missionary secretary will take an interest in promoting a Bible Workers' class in every church. In definitely carrying out this instruction from the Lord we may expect remarkable results.

B I G W E E K
in the
INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION
June 4-11

A THREEFOLD OPPORTUNITY

1. Opportunity to assist in
 1. Educational.
 2. Publishing, and
 3. Medical
 work in the great mission fields of the world.
2. Opportunity to engage in
 1. Literature ministry,
 2. Personal soul-winning endeavor, and
 3. Raising funds for needy missions.
3. Opportunity to donate
 1. Time in selling literature,
 2. One day's wages, or
 3. A special amount for the finishing of the work.

Remember the Date
June 4-11

Missionary Volunteer Department
Mrs. E. E. ANDROSS - - Secretary

DID WE DO OUR BEST?

Figures make very interesting reading when we let them sink into our hearts to test our own earnestness in this great work. So let us use the figures below to stir ourselves to greater diligence. They show what our Inter-American Missionary Volunteers did along certain lines, according to reports received in the Division Office:

	1925	1926
Missionary visits	53,252	60,523
Bible readings held	24,527	30,125
Hours of Christian help work	52,488	69,297
Treatments given	14,174	13,375
Value of food given	\$1,856.10	\$1,908.93
Articles of clothing given	3,541	3,355
Periodicals distributed	27,619	33,174
Tracts distributed	54,277	49,474
Books distributed	9,998	9,853
Letters written	8,352	10,289
Letters received	5,701	6,514

We thank God for the progress that some of these figures indicate. But why do four of these items show a backward step? Let us not forget that our army of workers is growing. Let us not fail to ask ourselves: "Did we do our best?" and

"If every member were just like me
What kind of report would ours be?"

HELP SOMEBODY TO-DAY

Our Missionary Volunteers reported 69,297 hours of Christian help work for 1926, almost 17,000 more than the year before. That is a splendid increase. But have you stopped to think that we would more than double that number if every Missionary Volunteer did *one hour* of Christian help work each week? Then think what it will mean in 1927 if we live up to the slogan: Help somebody to-day!

You have done nobly. But I feel sure that you are all resolved to make the 1927 record better than that for last year. God will help you to do it, if you will **HELP SOMEBODY TO-DAY**.

WILL YOU BE ONE

To take the Standard of Attainment test this month? One of our fields requests its workers to take it each year that they may become rooted and grounded in the truth. It will help you to find the points that need strengthening and all who long to become more efficient workers will do well to take that test again this season. Many will.

Will You Be One?

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

J. A. P. GREEN

Secretary

TWO MORE YEARS OF BLESSING

Our publishing work was presented to the servant of God "as extending to the east and to the west, to the islands of the sea, and to all parts of the world."—"Testimonies," Vol VII, pp. 171, 172. Then came that wonderful word: "In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory."—"Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 140.

Cheered by this assurance, and by the prospect of seeing the task finished, men and women have dedicated their lives to the book work. The last two years show how the Lord has rewarded their faithfulness. During the year 1925, nineteen colporteurs took orders for \$7,494.75 worth of books. During 1926, thirty-four colporteurs took orders for \$11,160.42 worth of books, and \$8,260 worth were delivered, or 74% of all orders taken. Every page of all this great output is crying aloud the message, "Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come."

During the two-year period fifty-four colporteurs have worked 7,179 hours and made 10,493 exhibitions of their books; with a total value of orders for two years of \$18,655.17, or an average of \$2.45 worth of orders per hour. By a little mathematics we learn that for every work day during the past two years we have sold \$30.48 worth of books. If it were possible for us to visit each home that has our literature and learn what changes have been made in the lives of the readers, I am sure we should feel rewarded for the effort. Each book sold is, as it were, a torch of light piercing into the darkness of this last hour, giving light and hope and pointing hearts to the better way.

After all, it is not the value of books sold but the value of the souls for whom we are responsible. When we read that "the printing and circulation of the books and papers that contain the truth for this time are to be our work," and that "the world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals," and that "the wider the circulation of our publications, the greater will be the demand for books that make plain the Scriptures of Truth," we take courage and dedicate anew our lives to this literature ministry.

It is encouraging, indeed, to see that many of the subscribers to *El Centinela* renew their subscriptions year after year, and that many homes are building Seventh-day Adventist libraries by adding one or more new books each year as they have opportunity.

Our corps of colporteurs have encountered some dangers as well as hardships, such as walking several days through fever stricken jungles, carrying their books on their backs, swimming rivers, etc. These darker experiences are always brightened with special blessings until they entirely disappear; but the blessing both to the giver and the receiver is enduring.

A year ago three of our colporteurs from the training school worked in the interior of Nicaragua selling books and explaining the truth; and as a result there are thirty people from there calling for further instruction and baptism.

The greater portion of the Republic of Panama was worked during 1926 with the health book, "Home Physician." Much of this territory had never before been worked. According to God's instruction through the Spirit of Prophecy we began with the health work, for this, she said, would break down prejudice. It would serve as an entering wedge for the gospel message.

This has been verified before our eyes in many striking experiences during our last year's work. In places where prejudice was bitter before, we can now enter and talk freely of the Bible without being suspicioned as heretics. These many places of opportunity must be visited this year with the gospel-filled books. May God help us in doing our part to lighten the world with His glory.

A. V. LARSON.



Medellin, Colombia,
January 31, 1927.

Dear Brother Green:

I am enjoying my work in Medellin. So far, despite the fact that I do not speak the Spanish, I have sold and delivered about \$125.00 worth of books. In addition, I received nearly one hundred subscriptions for our paper *El Centinela*. In the future I plan to use about five hundred each month.

Recently I secured eight subscriptions for *El Centinela* right in the heart of this Catholic city. I praise God for His wonderful help. One young man subscribed for three years and paid in advance.

After I cover the territory here I hope to work the other great cities of Colombia.

Very sincerely yours,

C. G. CHRISTIANSEN.

SABBATH SCHOOL DEPT.

Mrs. E. E. ANDROSS

Secretary

SABBATH SCHOOL RALLY

July 16

This should not be given during the time allotted to the Sabbath school but should occupy the 11 o'clock hour. It can be made a service of unusual blessing to all present.

Silent Prayer

Opening Song

Scripture Reading

Prayer

Special Music

*Talk: Purpose of the Sabbath School

Reading: Message from our Conference President

Special Music

Exercise: Improving our School (See June MESSENGER)

Reading: Message from Conference Sabbath school secretary

Song: Work for the School

* See Sabbath school leaflet No 1, pp. 3, 4 and 20. If possible have drawing on page 2 enlarged on card board or black board and place on wall.

AIM HIGHER

God blessed our Sabbath school work greatly during 1926, and somehow it seems to me, that our gratitude should be expressed in greater faithfulness in our efforts to do our full share in making our Sabbath schools as nearly as possible like our conception of God's ideal for them.

Surely our various aims are in keeping with God's plan for our school; and the more faithful we are in daily study, attendance, etc., the nearer we come to His plan for our schools and for us. The following comparative figures are encouraging:

	1924	1926
Schools	359	458
Members	11,495	15,017
Schools taking S. S. Worker	115	241
Red Seals only	2,343	3,468
Blue Seals only	4,934	5,966
Both Seals	5,151	8,424
Investment Fund		\$546.28
12 Sabbath offerings	20,772.84	23,948.20
13th Sabbath offerings	10,741.01	11,845.00
Total Sabbath offerings	31,513.85	35,793.20

If every other member in the Sabbath schools follow your example what will the record for 1927 be?

Did you remember to put your birthday offering into the Sabbath school fund? Some give birthday offerings on the anniversary of their baptism and marriage as well as on their birthdays each year. It is a very appropriate way of expressing gratitude to God "in whom we live and move and have our being."

A cent for each year is good,
But why not a penny a pound
As a thank-you for the blessings
That everywhere abound?

ANOTHER FORM OF SPIRITUALISM

Spiritualism has been taking on some strange forms in British Guiana. One of our ministers was holding some meetings in a place called Stewartville, and the evil spirits came boldly into the church where the services were being held. This minister told me the story of his experiences himself.

One day when he was reading the Scripture lesson, a spirit repeated it word for word as he read. There were about twelve members in the church that day, but when they began to sing the volume of tone was that of two hundred people singing. These evil spirits by joining in the singing were evidently doing so with no intent to worship.

In this same district where an old woman, who was a member of the church, lived with her grand-daughter, similar manifestations were seen. When this woman and the child prepared to go to the Sabbath service, a bucket of water would be thrown over their clothes so that they could not go. One day this evil spirit seized this girl and tore her clothes from her; and then in a few minutes they saw a thimble and needle—with no fingers or body visible—sewing up the rent in the dress.

In these mission fields, there are apparently stranger spiritualistic manifestations than in the homeland. Those are but a partial fulfilment of the predictions of the Scriptures, and doubtless we shall see stranger developments before the end.

C. E. Wood.

FROM THE FIRING LINE

Brother E. M. Trummer, superintendent of the Antioqueña Mission, is right out on the firing line with the colporteurs. "We do have stiff territory," he says, "but there are some liberal towns. The Lord will not permit any more opposition than that which is good for us."

Still going! Brother Fred Steeves, field missionary secretary of Venezuela says: "I am going over to the Andes to take Brother Pinto over to the state of Trujillo to begin work with 'Ministerio de Curación,' (Ministry of Healing). Venezuela made a wonderful book sale record last year, and prospects are excellent for 1927.

To our division office has come a splendid colporteurs' News Letter, prepared by Brother George Rickard, field missionary secretary for the South Caribbean Conference. It is entitled, "The Colporteur Instructor." Speaking of the colporteur and his work he says: "Nothing can equal this personal contact with individuals day by day. A college course cannot equal it. . ."

It takes genuine courage to be of good courage in the interior of Colombia, but Brother F. A. Brower, field missionary secretary of Central Colombia writes: "At present we are doing what we can to sell 'Patriarchs and Prophets.' We are of good courage. We find many interested persons, and ten keeping the Sabbath as a result of the trip of Brother Prado."

Pastor E. W. Thurber, superintendent of the Atlantic Colombia Mission and Pastor Wm. Steele, superintendent of Venezuela sailed from Cristobal, Canal Zone, immediately after the close of their union meeting. They were eager to return to their fields. Pastor George C. Nickle, compelled to wait for a boat, embarked a few days later for the highlands of Colombia. He is superintendent of the Central Colombia Mission. All went forth with renewed courage to press on to greater victories.

Pastors W. E. Baxter, C. B. Sutton, from the union office, and Pastors E. J. Lorntz from Honduras and E. P. Howard from the Guate-

mala-Salvador Mission sailed northward after the close of the Central American Union meeting. All expressed their gratitude for the good meeting and their determination to see still greater triumph of the cross in the fields where they are leading out in the work. Brother Christiansen, the union treasurer, remained in the Zone for a short time to audit the West Caribbean Conference books.

"Let every believer scatter broadcast tracts and leaflets and books containing the message for this time."—Mrs. E. G. White in "Southern Watchman," January 5, 1904.

"The same ministry of angels attends the books that contain the truth as attends the work of the minister."—"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 316.

Our 1927 Goal

Every member active in the Big Week Effort.

MORE BOOKS SOLD!
MORE FUNDS RECEIVED!
MORE SOULS SAVED!!

OTHER TOKENS OF PROGRESS

You will observe that a new union section appears in this issue of the MESSENGER. Because of the rapid growth of the work and the greatness of the territory the five Central American republics have been formed into the Central American Union Mission, and the two large republics in South America which were formerly a part of the Caribbean Union become the Colombia-Venezuela Union Mission.

The West Caribbean Conference has also been divided, Costa Rica and Nicaragua being set off as a separate field to be under the direct supervision of the union officers who are located in Costa Rica.

ANOTHER PICTURE OF PROGRESS

The fourth quarter and annual statistical report has been sent out to the fields. This report shows progress for the year 1926. A few items gleaned from this report are listed herewith. There are 267 churches having a membership of 10,356; and of this number 1,013 were baptized during 1926. We have in the Inter-American Division territory 381 workers of which number 271 are supported by the conference or mission while the others are self-supporting workers. Our tithe of \$103,022.38 was the largest amount which has ever been paid by our members during one year, the per capita falling just a little below the previous year. \$65,813.08, the amount of our mission funds, denote a steady growth; and more than one-half of this was raised through the efforts of the Sabbath School Department.

The statistical report shows the amount raised during the Harvest Ingathering and Big Week campaigns by each conference or mission, total Harvest Ingathering funds being \$21,242.48 and Big Week, \$1,699.01. The report on mission funds gives the amount each field raised per member per week.

We appreciate the systematic giving by our people. Should not 1927 be our best year along all lines?

F. L. HARRISON, Secretary-Treasurer.

A MINISTER'S DAUGHTER WRITES

After completing the course in "New Testament History" a Methodist Minister's daughter writes:

"The courses presented by the 'Fireside' are wonderful. I have enjoyed my studies so much. I am enclosing two dollars for the first lessons on 'How to Conduct Bible Readings.' I know I shall enjoy this study also."

Is it possible that others appreciate these lessons more than some of our own young people? Why not send for particulars today and get started on some good course of study?

FIRESIDE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL,
Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

GENERAL CONFERENCE BIG WEEK RECOMMENDATIONS

"WHEREAS, The Missions Extension Fund, raised through the Big Week plan, is now shared equally by the Publishing, Educational, and Medical departments for the extension and development of these phases of our work in mission lands, at the same time exerting a tremendous soul-winning influence through the literature circulated; therefore,

"We recommend, That church members be asked to sell at least \$1 worth of our literature, either books or periodicals, during Big Week; all the profits to be turned over to the church treasurer, to be applied on the Missions Extension Fund.

"2. That colporteurs be invited to continue to share in the Missions Extension Fund plan by giving the profits of their biggest day's sales during the Big Week.

"3. That all conference and institutional workers be requested to join in the Missions Extension plan by selling literature during the Big Week, devoting the entire profits to the fund, in addition to giving their personal income for one day, or its equivalent in the sale of additional literature.

"4. That where conference or institutional workers cannot share in the sale of literature, they be encouraged to give an amount to the Missions Extension Fund equivalent to their personal income for one day.

"5. That one or more field days be held by all our churches, sanitariums, publishing houses, schools, and conference offices during the Big Week."

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION COMMITTEE

The annual Council of the Inter-American Division of the General Conference Committee is appointed for May 9-20, 1927, at the Division headquarters, 861 Morgan Ave., Balboa, Canal Zone. The first meeting is called for 2 P. M., Monday, May 9. All members of the Inter-American Division of the General Conference Committee are expected to be present in time for the opening. We are expecting Pastor O. Montgomery and Prof. W. E. Howell of Washington, D. C., to attend this meeting, if the Lord wills.

(Signed) E. E. ANDROSS, President,
F. L. HARRISON, Secretary.

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

Editor—Mrs. E. E. ANDROSS

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