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A BRIEF REPORT ON THE MANAGUA, NICARAGUA, EARTHQUAKE--We have just witnessed one more sign of the imminent return of Jesus as well as the evidence of the wonderful way God protects His children in keeping with His promise. Ps. 91:4-11.

As soon as we had detailed news of the earthquake, I flew from Miami to Managua. In the past I experienced two earthquakes. I have also visited a few hurricane-devastated places and some European countries after World War II, but the situation in Managua is worse than all that. The central part of a city inhabited by some 400,000 people was completely demolished and what was left untouched by the quake, was destroyed by fires that played havoc for several days. Our central church and the two-story mission building were practically destroyed. The #2 church and the adjacent elementary school were damaged almost beyond repair. About 600 church members lost their homes, their personal effects and most of their furnishings. But while thousands around them lost their lives, not even one of our members died, and only a few of them sustained injuries.

A visitation program was organized to ascertain our members needs and to help them move to safer places, and food, clothing and tents were distributed among them.

The mission office was temporarily moved to Jinotepe. Several workers and their families found refuge at Brother Robert Maxson's farm. Elders W. H. Waller, former mission president and presently Central American Union secretary, and Hector Jurado, union lay activities secretary, and the local workers were able to cope with the numerous problems generated by the emergency situation. The help received from Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras was very much appreciated as well as the money and supplies sent by the General Conference and the Inter-American Division.

We are confident that the work will keep on going forward in Nicaragua, and that Evangelism '73 will bring comfort and hope not only to the hundreds of thousands of earthquake victims but to the Nicaraguan people in general.--A. H. Riffel.



Partial view of the damaged mission office building



Food distribution



Workers inspecting the ruins of church school

ANTILLIAN UNION REACHES CONFERENCE STATUS--The recent Autumn Council held in Mexico City authorized the granting of conference status to the Antillian Union, the first of the Spanish-speaking unions of Inter-America to have this privilege.

LEADERSHIP COURSE--Honduras Mission MV secretary T. A. Henry, assisted by Pastor Roberto Brown and the local schoolteacher Mrs. Marjorie McField, conducted an MV leadership course November 23-26 in Jonesville, Roatan, Bay Islands. Thirty-two of the MV leaders appointed for 1973 in eleven of the English-speaking churches took the course. *Amalia Zelaya.*

TEMPERANCE TALK--West Venezuela Mission temperance secretary Mario Nino addressing 80 police officers of the city of Acarigua on alcohol and its adverse effects of the brain.

NEW POSITIONS--Former Caribbean Union College business manager C.A. Kum was appointed union assistant auditor. To fill the vacancy, Abraham Moore was appointed college business manager.--*J. H. Figueroa.*

UNION SESSION--The first session of the Antillian Union after becoming a conference, was held December 3-4 in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. Elder Theodore Carcich, one of the vice-presidents of the General Conference, and the IAD administrators attended the session. The following officers and departmental secretaries were elected: Felix Rodriguez, president; C.D. Christian, secretary; H. J. Brignoni, treasurer; C. A. Puesan, auditor; L.E. Leonor, publishing; C. A. Puesan, stewardship; Jose Hernandez, education and MV; Felix Rodriguez, ministerial; Dr. Jesus Vega, health. Ernesto Gil was appointed assistant treasurer, and Cesar Funes was called to head the Sabbath school and lay activities work.--*Jose A. Figueroa.*



EAST CARIBBEAN CHURCHES DEDICATED--The small group of believers at Cannaries, St. Lucia, greatly rejoiced in the dedication of their lovely new church building. For years they had met in a cottage by the river. Then came the day when they started to enlarge it and make it a little more representative. As the work advanced, ambition overtook them and the result is an attractive chapel--not a renovated meeting house, but a handsome church home. On dedication day, union president G. R. Thompson preached a heart-warming sermon. The president and secretary-treasurer of the conference were both there as well as all the island pastors. Pastor Edson Sutton who has been transferred to another field, but under whose administration the work was done, was also there. This new chapel will mean a lot to the image of our believers and will certainly hasten the finishing of the work at Cannaries.



*The recently dedicated Micoud, St. Lucia, church stands magnificently on a hillside overlooking much of the town. For the dedication of the 350-seat-capacity church every space was occupied. It seemed that all Adventist St. Lucia and their friends were present. The premier of the country made a speech that would have been becoming to any clergyman. Elder G. R. Thompson held the congregation spellbound with one of his Spirit-filled addresses. Also present were conference president W. W. Thomson, secretary-treasurer Eugene A. Blackman and district pastors O. Bovell, A. Bhola and O. Fleming.--*W. W. Thomson.*