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“Let us Rise up and Build”

THE Lord has said through the prophet Haggai that He is not pleased when proper attention is not given to His house of worship. In Haggai chapter one, verses 3 to 9 there is a reproach to those who think that it is not time yet to build the house of God. It says:

“Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. . . . Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord. . . . Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.”

The Lord has not always been honored by His people in the matter of church buildings. In the great city of Buenos Aires we are holding meetings in rented halls which are often used for worldly entertainments and which usually have a bar adjoining them. There are seasons, as in carnival, when in gathering for our meetings we have found the hall gaudily decorated, and on such occasions the worldly appearance of such a place does not match with the reverence and solemnity that must characterize our services.

At a certain occasion Nehemiah said to the people: “Come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. . . . The God of heaven, he will prosper us, therefore we his servants will arise and build.” Neh. 2: 17-20.

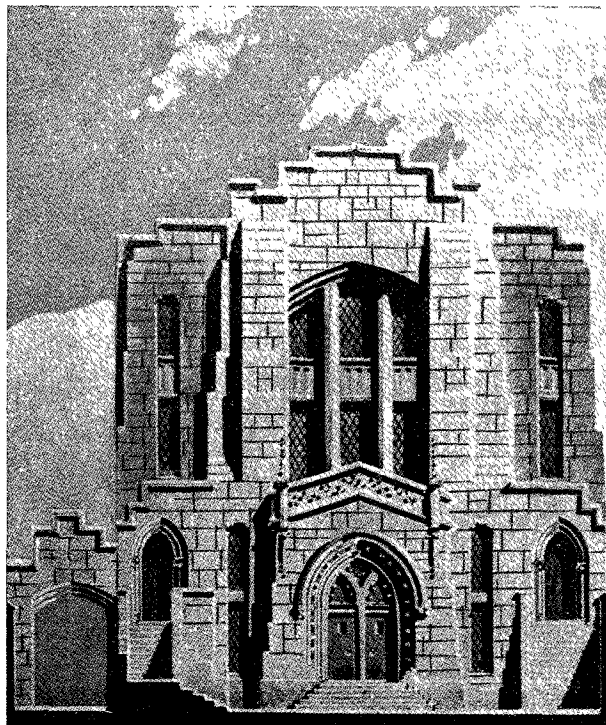
The crisis that has affected so many businesses in the world, and in some ways even affected our work, has at

the same time helped to make it possible to start building the first Adventist temple in the city of Buenos Aires.

I believe that the Lord has led in the buying of the land and in the study and planning of the building, that we may have in Palermo, a very populated section of this city, our conference headquarters, a hall for religious services and public efforts, and room enough for the colporteur institutes, biennial meetings of the conference, and general meetings of the union and Division.

At last we have stopped marching around Jericho to enter into the city. Our former plans, which offered less comforts than the present ones, made the cost of the work stand at \$185,000.00 pesos, but after a thorough study, we have reduced the cost to \$130,000.00 pesos. Besides that we have increased the capacity and practical usefulness of the building, which after it is completed and the equipment added, will cost \$140,000.00 pesos. Of this sum we have \$105,000.00 pesos on hand, and \$15,000.00 pesos more will be added from the sale of our conference property where we are now located, and we will need \$20,000.00 pesos to cover the total cost.

Trusting in the spirit of liberality and good will of our brethren we have not hesitated to start the building with the money we already have on hand.



Architect's drawing of the new Seventh-day Adventist temple now under construction in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This is our first church to be built in this great city of two and one half million people. It will seat 500, and will be finished about the first of next year.

Israel was passing through great perplexities, wandering in the desert, without a home, surrounded by enemies and often without water or food, when God asked of them offerings for the construction of His sanctuary. In spite of their condition the people responded so liberally that they brought even more than was required. We hope that our brethren will give with that same liberality as did the people of Israel in the desert.

Some time ago an aged sister handed me one thousand *pesos* saying: "This is all the money I have and I give it joyfully that we may have a church in the city of Buenos Aires, a building in which to worship the Lord, and a place consecrated only for His services."

PEDRO M. BROUCHY,
President, Buenos Aires
Conference.

The Weakest Link

WE enter a shop where the blacksmith is forging an anchor chain. This chain must be made strong enough to hold the vessel from being wrecked upon the shoals or ragged rocks in time of storm. Each link in the chain must be perfect. It matters not how strong the rest of the chain may be, if there is one weak link the chain may break and the vessel be wrecked. The chain is no stronger than its weakest link.

We, too, like the blacksmith, are forging a chain—our chain of character—upon the anvil of time. Our traits are the links and our acts are the hammer strokes, shaping them. But our chain of character is no stronger than its weakest link. How important it is, then, that we forge links which will stand the test! The storms of the last days are upon us and the chain will be tested to the utmost. Let us carefully examine each link to discover, if possible, the weak places in our character.

As the blacksmith places the iron into the fire that it may be heated in order to weld the links, so it may be necessary for us to be placed in the furnace of affliction to melt our hearts in order that our lives may be welded together with the Divine Nature. Thus only will we be able to withstand the storm through which we may be called upon to pass.

N. P. NEILSEN.

A Visit with the President of Brazil

ON EVERY visit to Brazil I have wanted to make a visit to the President, and this desire increased after "Patriarchs and Prophets" had been printed in the Portuguese language. The first time we solicited an audience with Dr. Getulio Vargas we failed. The second time we received a favorable reply, but the men comprising the appointed commission had left the capital. Elder C. K. Meyers, to represent the General Conference had gone to Bahia, Elder N. P. Neilsen, to represent the South American Division, together with E. M. Davis, D. Peixoto, and S. Oliveira to represent the Brazilian mission work, and the writer, representing the South American Division Publishing Department, had gone to Sao Paulo to attend the board meetings of the several institutions. On returning to Rio de Janeiro the writer again solicited an interview of a substitute commission of the first. Days passed and no reply came to our telegram and only a few days were left until I must embark for the northern states of Brazil. I finally decided to go personally to the *Cattete* or government palace, accompanied by Pastor Peixoto, to request the interview. We were told that the President had been away from the city and that he would now be exceptionally busy since political affairs from the interior were pressing. However, we received the promise of good will and were asked to wait until "*mañana*."

"*Mañana*" came and with it a telephone call from the *Cattete* informing us that "His Excellency" would have the honor of receiving us on the 12th of February at five o'clock in the afternoon. In the afternoon of the same day the message was confirmed with a telegram, stating that the President would be honored to receive the Adventist ministers. Before the appointed hour for the visit came Elders E. M. Davis and D. Peixoto, Brother S. Oliveira and the writer met in the Rio-Minas Mission office for the purpose of organizing our commission. We asked the Lord to help us that we might rightly represent His cause before the chief administrator of the Brazilian government.

We were received by the President

in the large and beautiful reception hall of the *Cattete*. As we told of the missionary activities of the Seventh-day Adventists throughout the world and especially in Brazil he listened with increasing interest. "*Sua Excelencia*," as they say in Brazil, was especially interested in the story of the mission work in the Amazon region, Goyaz, as well as other portions of South America. The President then asked us several questions concerning our organization and methods of work thus opening the way for a freer conversation on religious liberty, religious teachings in public schools, and the separation of church and state. We soon learned that the President has only the best wishes and good will for all the religious societies now operating in Brazil.

After an agreeable visit we improved the opportunity of presenting two of the largest books published in the Brazilian Publishing House in Sao Bernardo, viz. "Patriarchs and Prophets" and "Practical Guide to Health" in Portuguese. Both books had the name of the President neatly engraved in gold on the face cover, and both were wrapped in transparent gelatine paper to protect them and to add to their rich appearance. On handing the books to the President it was stated that one would serve as a guide to spiritual health and the other as a guide to physical health. The books were received with appreciation, and we soon hope to receive a written statement to this effect.

We also gave the President some Portuguese, Spanish and English numbers of our recent Harvest Ingathering papers together with a liberal collection of pictures taken in the Amazon and Goyaz missions and also a few of the Brazilian Training School in Sao Paulo. At this point we emphasized our medical missionary work and expressed the desire of establishing a sanitarium in Brazil as we have in other countries. After expressing our good wishes for a prosperous government and successful elections we handed the President a memorial written to present the world activities of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination and a concise statement of our beliefs regarding the points touched in our conversation.

We are thankful indeed for the opportunity the Lord gave us to speak

for the truth before the highest representative of a nation of forty million people and to leave with him over 2,000 pages of literature full of truth and hope. We pray that "*Sua Excelência*" may appropriate the eternal principles contained in his new books and know how to apply these principles in his private and official life.

May we never forget to pray for the presidents, senators and other officials of our South American republics that they may be guided by righteous principles especially at this time when "Men's hearts (are) failing them for fear and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Nor let us forget the faithful ministers of the printed page who are in reality the only Seventh-day Adventist workers who seek to carry the message to the government palaces of earth. God will surely permit that eventually fruits may be seen, and He will also justly reward His faithful servants in that day.

J. L. BROWN.

East Brazil Union Mission

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Some Changes in the East-Brazil Union

It is true that we are living in a world of changes. The present conditions seem to make necessary many changes in our work. This is especially true owing to the financial conditions through which we are going at present.

In view of these conditions we found it good to unite the two missions, Bahia and Pernambuco. This suggestion came from the Division, and after studying the case carefully, the union committee saw that it would be the best which could be done under existing circumstances.

The new mission comprises the six states of Bahia, Sergipe, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Parahyba and Rio Grande do Norte. This territory is larger than the states of Sao Paulo, Parana, Santa Catharina and Rio Grande do Sul, united.

The population of this new field is more than ten million inhabitants. Some of the capitals of these states

have only about 45,000 inhabitants. Two of them, Bahia and Recife, are respectively the third and fourth city in population of Brazil. The first city has 450,000 inhabitants and the second has 400,000.

The following name is given to the new mission: "Missao Nordeste Brasileira dos Adventistas do Setimo Dia."

Elder Gustavo Storch was appointed as superintendent of this field. This will be good news to the members of the old Pernambuco Mission and according to information which we received by personal contact and by letters, the brethren of the territory which belonged to the Bahia Mission, will be glad that Brother Storch is coming back to them. He has worked there already, helping to organize some churches and groups.

Due to the health condition of Brother Guilherme Ebinger's family, he felt the necessity of a change of climate.

He accepted the call that came to him from the South Brazil Union, to work in that field. He left Recife in the first days of February. We feel sorry that the East Brazil Union had to lose Brother Ebinger, who successfully worked there for eleven years. Brother Guilherme Itin, former secretary and treasurer of the Bahia Mission, was appointed to the same work in this new field. Brother Jose Baracat was transferred from the union office in Nitheroy to help in the office of the Nordeste Mission.

The headquarters of this new field will be in Recife, which was formerly headquarters for the Pernambuco Mission. All the correspondence for that mission, should be sent to Caixa Postal 378, Recife, Pernambuco. All the money for this mission or for the tracts society should be sent to Guilherme Itin instead of Guilherme Ebinger, as it has been done until the present.

It would be very difficult to direct the colporteur work in this great field with only one director, as a result Brother Jose Seabra, former director of this department of the Bahia Mission, was appointed as field secretary of this new mission, and Brother Jose Moraes is his assistant. He will move to Bahia and Brother Jose Seabra will be located at the headquarters.

The committee which discussed the uniting of the two missions, resolved

that in the territory of the former Bahia Mission, there should be an ordained minister. Therefore, Brother Jose dos Passos, from the Rio-Minas Geraes Mission, was invited to assume the work in the capital of Bahia. This will supply a necessity which has been felt for a long time. Plans having been made already that Elder Jose dos Passos should hold a public effort in Bello Horizonte, it was felt not to be wise to transfer him until after these meetings. Therefore he will not move to Bahia before the middle of the year.

The other workers of this mission are, Joao Meier, Theophilo Berger and Oscar Castellani. It is with much pleasure that we can say, that in spite of having suffered, like the other fields in the world, a reduction of 16 per cent in the appropriation from the Division, it is possible to go forward with the same number of evangelistic workers that were in both fields before the reduction was put into effect.

To fill the vacancy made by Brother Jose Baracat in the union office, Brother Ernesto Ebinger, office assistant of the Rio-Minas Geraes Mission since the uniting of these two fields, has been invited.

We hope that these changes will be of a permanent nature, for it is not good for the progress of the work, to change constantly. We ask the prayers of the people of God in behalf of all these workers, and especially for those who start now to work in this holy cause. H. B. WESTCOTT.

The Lord Rewards Fidelity

"BRING ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

It seems that the Lord in this verse gives power to His words and says: "Prove me now herewith."

If He could not fulfil His promise, He would deny Himself and this He can not do. There are many who tried Him and always afterwards had to exclaim: "Glory to the name of the Lord for He fulfilled His promise."

This our brother, Amaro Umbelino, who lives in a small village far in the interior of the state of Pernambuco

is doing. He is poor and lives from the result of his small business, selling bread, sugar and other things. When the crisis was most seriously felt in that district, his faith daily became weaker. The hardest things was that he was denied credit for the things he bought in the morning to be paid in the evening. As a consequence, he became sad and discouraged, for he did not have any other means to support his family.

When he was meditating on his misfortune, there came to him a hopeful thought. He remembered the promises of God and went home to tell his wife about his idea. Both resolved that the only and sure way to follow in this dark hour, was to be more faithful to God in paying tithes. He always was a good tithpayer, but he resolved to be more faithful.

Having made his resolution, he took his hoe and brush scythe and went with his two daughters and one son to work in the country. They worked with courage from Sunday to Friday.

Some neighbors who saw this, said pitifully: "It is sad that we are obliged to work so near to this 'new sect'—as the believers in Pernambuco are called—for because of this, everything will be destroyed by drouth this year." Such are their thoughts when they see that anyone does not observe Sunday. It is true that it is not a very strange thing in the interior of Pernambuco to lose the whole crop, for this happens about four out of every five years, because it rains very little.

But God said: "Prove me now herewith." It seems that our brother wanted to try it; for he did not listen to what the others said. He fulfilled his duties toward God and trusted in His power. When the necessity of rain was felt, God proved to the men that He was still alive and that His arm was not shortened that He could not help. He caused it to rain and only the plantation of our brother was benefited. The rain touched only small parts of the plantations of the nearest neighbors.

In the harvest time, our brother Amaro had the privilege to gather abundantly, while his neighbors gathered very little, for their plantations had been destroyed by the caterpillars and by the drouth. But all the crops of our brother were spared.

Brethren, our God never fails and

never will fail. It is true that sometimes He wants to try His followers, as He tried Job and as He tried our brother who withstood the trial, and we too can receive His blessings abundantly.

I am sure that if our brother in the hour of darkness had hesitated, and would have said to his wife: "We cannot give any more to God what is His;" he would today lament the crisis and perhaps be in hunger and nakedness. But by the crisis he came nearer to God.

I had the privilege to see some of the plentifulness of which our brother spoke, for on the last trip which I made, I spent one day in his home. He is happy and his confidence in God increased.

May God grant that we learn a lesson from the experience of this brother to be more faithful to God in all that He wants us to do.

THEOPHILO BERGER.

South Brazil Union

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A New Departure

THE Brazil Publishing House has just participated in two expositions in the city of Sao Paulo. The Literary and Cultural Society of Sao Paulo arranged a book exposition in the month of December, denominated "Quinzena do Livro Nacional" (fifteen-day show of national books) in which all book publishers of the state of Sao Paulo were invited to participate. Sixteen firms accepted the invitation and arranged their exhibits in a large edifice in the very heart of Sao Paulo. No entrance fee was charged, and thousands visited the exposition.

We had the privilege of making many encouraging contacts with visitors to our display. Many opportunities were given us to witness for the truth. Our exhibit was so different from the others in the exposition that this fact alone aroused inquiries on the part of the visitors. Many asked questions about our work as a people and about our beliefs. Thousands of tracts were taken by the visitors that we feel sure will bring their fruitage.

All exhibitors were permitted to sell their wares during the exposition. It is a well-known fact that sales are small at expositions. People go to see and not to buy. Even so our sales were larger than any others in the show.

We were also invited to participate in the 4th Centennial Industrial Exposition organized to commemorate the founding of the state of Sao Paulo. It was planned that all the industries and manufactures of the state of Sao Paulo should be exhibited during this exposition. The Sao Bernardo Township, in which are some sixty-five factories, made plans to have all the industries of the township exhibited in one building, erected especially for the occasion. The Publishing House is in this township, and we have our well-organized exhibit near the entrance of this building. Most of the fixtures of the former exposition were utilized in this second show, arranged in a somewhat different manner.

The attendance at this show has been much larger than at the first one, in spite of the fact that an entrance fee is charged. The first one was composed of book exhibits only while in this one there is a great variety of industries, most of them highly perfected. It has been estimated that on some days the attendance has reached 30,000. Of course not all these visited all the exhibits, but a relatively large number did. The book sales in this show were somewhat better on the average than in the first show.

We believe the impression made on the visitors, who came from all parts of the state as well as from the city, will be very helpful to our work in the future. It should be especially helpful to our colporteurs as they visit the homes of the people who have visited the exposition. Many visitors expressed a desire to possess one or more of our books but were unable just now. Doubtless many of these will later avail themselves of the opportunity when our agents pass their way, ordering our books.

We have received numerous favorable comments on the arrangement of our exhibits, which in both expositions were something unique. There was nothing of the same order on display. In planning for these expositions we purposed to make it very

explicit as to just what our exhibit represented. Across one whole wall was the name of the institution and right underneath it these words: "Property of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists." On a large chart, artistically arranged, were some outstanding, concise statistics relative to the work of Seventh-day Adventists in all the world. A small handbill was prepared for free distribution containing on one side a statement of our belief and on the opposite side a statement with reference to our objectives as a people. These sheets were carried away by the thousands.

An allegorical exhibit showing the circulation of *O Atalaia*, our missionary magazine, to all the states of Brazil occupied one side of the room. In one corner was another allegorical exhibit calling special attention to the book "Patriarchs and Prophets." Large framed pictures of our college and the Sao Paulo church were also displayed prominently. On all the catalogues of publications was stamped the address of the Sao Paulo church.

We trust and pray that the seed sown during these expositions may germinate and produce an abundant harvest for the kingdom of God. That was our only object in participating in them. Will you not join us in praying that this may be the result?

J. BERGER JOHNSON.
Publicity Manager,
Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The Colporteur Institute in Sao Paulo

IT WAS really for us colporteurs a great and special privilege to attend here the biennial meetings after a year of hard work in the field. These days were rest days, days of meditation and special blessings. We were fed with the bread of life, and these solemn messages we heard, prepared our hearts and spirits for the institute which took place from the 20th to 27th of January. The most important and necessary thing for the colporteurs in this time of battle, is the spiritual food and we thank God that we were not disappointed, that every day was better,—the message more effective and powerful in the upbuilding of our spiritual lives. Many were the blessings which the soldiers of the Lord received and all were glad and

satisfied that they could attend these blessed meetings.

On the 20th, at eight o'clock in the morning, the colporteurs gathered to begin the good institute. The conference president, Brother E. V. Moore, spoke first and gave a welcome to the colporteurs. During the hours dedicated for special studies and consecration, we felt the heavenly presence in our midst. From the first to the last day predominated a good spirit in all meetings. Many times the colporteurs took an active part in the deliberations of the day,—in the things that enter into the practical life of the colporteur. Their thoughts were much appreciated by all present.

The Sabbath afternoon and Wednesday evening were given to the colporteurs that they might tell the church their experiences. Every experience was a sermon. All present listened attentively and became much impressed by the marvels of the canvassing work, and by the revelation of God in soul winning.

Also the workers of Sao Paulo showed their interest and took part in the colporteur meetings. We thank them for their help which made our institute an ideal one. We extend to them an invitation to visit us again in the coming year.

During the last year we had an average of 28 colporteurs each month and they worked 39,021 hours, and delivered 161:283\$000 worth of literature. We had a good increase in sales over the year before. We have all reason to exclaim with the Psalmist: "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Ps. 126: 3.

Now, forward to the field. I have the names of fifteen colporteurs on my list and I expect to visit them as soon as possible, so, let us really work this year.

J. M. ZEROOTH.

"There is no Substitute for Work"

TO BE a real success in any line of Christian endeavor in the Seventh-day Adventist movement one must do real hard work. This is especially true of the field missionary secretary in this time of crisis. It is not sufficient for him to preach about the colporteur work in the churches, talk about selling books in the institutes, and tell

how it is to be done, and how others are doing it, to write about it in circular letters and in all of the denominational publications. The successful secretary must do all of that, and much more. It has been very well put in the following words: "There is no substitute for work."

A letter that I received from Brother J. M. Zeroth, field missionary secretary of the Sao Paulo Conference, caused me to write the above observations. Brother Zeroth writes from the field, the front-line trenches:

"Well, Brother Moore, I had a wonderful experience in Catanduva. You know that place has a bad name with the bookmen. They have said that books could not be sold there, so I went there with the idea of making it go or 'break.' Well, I certainly found some hard 'nuts to crack.' We visited all of the doctors and lawyers and they certainly were terrors. Out of the whole 'bunch' I finally got five combination orders. Finally we got started, and we are delighted to let you know that in a short time we got forty-two combination orders. This magazine *O Atalaia* (The Watchman) is something wonderful! The Lord does bless faithful efforts, and it is a *success* if one puts heart and soul into it. I shall never forget Catanduva, for it took every ounce of me to 'put it across' there. I shall be there for the delivery to see that Brother Timoteo gets along all right. . . .

"When I arrived in Rio Preto I found the colporteurs getting along well, and waiting my arrival to start them with *O Atalaia*. Sunday morning we started out to visit the doctors and lawyers, but oh, it was just like running up against a brick wall. It seemed like their hearts were hardened with sin. Finally we got two doctors and two lawyers, and the manager of the hotel where I am staying. Well, thank the Lord tonight we have eight orders, and how happy the boys are. Tomorrow we are going to 'hit' it hard, for they are getting 'fired up' to work with *O Atalaia*."

Brother Zeroth has been in our field but a little more than a year, but of the thirty-five to forty colporteurs working at different times he has worked with practically every one of them and some two or three times. He not only helps them in the institutes but out in the field, taking orders and making

the delivery. He works from early morning to late at night and on Sundays in the offices and private homes. He says that when it rains the success is better. That sort of a program makes for success.

We as a people have practically formed the habit of praying daily for the faithful colporteur. This is a good custom. Let us continue to do so, but somehow it seems to me that we should ask the Lord to especially bless and assist our faithful field missionary secretaries. Their task at this difficult time is an extra hard one. They indeed have a heavy load to bear. They go from one weary and discouraged colporteur to another one, and they must make the work go in every place.

May the Lord richly bless the faithful field missionary secretary. Let us pray constantly for him, as well as for the faithful colporteur.

ENNIS V. MOORE,
President,
Sao Paulo Conference.

Casualty or Providence

WHEN I was working in the Big Week campaign last year, I had several interesting experiences, which certainly are for the honor and glory of God and gave me certainty of the holiness of the mission work. One of these experiences I want to tell you and hope that it may encourage you in the blessed hope which is ours.

In the Catholic church of Itararé, more than a year ago, an image of Jesus was carried in procession. Before forming the procession, the image was taken from its place in the church to be put on the platform on which it was to be carried; and while doing this, because of someone's carelessness the image fell and broke. It may be that it was a casualty, but I remember that when the image of Saint Peter was carried through the streets of Tijucas, Santa Catharina, it also fell from the pedestal and broke in pieces. But, what interested me, was that one of the choristers, who was present, and should have followed near the image, left the church that day with the intention never to go back again. During the Big Week I visited him; he bought with pleasure the book, *Esperanca do Mundo* (Hope of the World) and is studying it now, for he already

had some of our books. He told me that he was astonished that with all the saints and the blessings of the priests, these could not avoid such a sad misfortune before the believers.

This experience taught me that always we should look for those who are seeking for the light of the gospel that we might draw them out of the darkness of paganism. Daily we can have such experiences and they should show us that the Lord opens the eyes of those who are seeking salvation.

G. DOERNER.

Resumé of the Colporteur Work in Rio Grande Do Sul

ANOTHER year of labor is in the past. In looking back we thank God for His help which has permitted us to accomplish what has been done in our field. Even though we were not able to reach our financial goal, many were the blessings bestowed upon our efforts. Outside of the sale of large and small books, magazines and tracts, we are able to rejoice in a goodly harvest of souls.

Wherever we look we are rewarded with the remembrance of some one who has been brought to Christ. Whole groups were founded as a direct result of the colporteur work, and from many places the call "Come over and help us" sounded in our ears. There is a constant stream of addresses flowing into our office, of interested ones who have received their contact through the colporteurs. On one of the journeys undertaken by Pastor Boehm, the conference president, and the writer, in which we followed in the footsteps of the colporteurs, twelve persons were baptized, and other groups are waiting to be baptized. God is working upon honest hearts.

Thousands upon thousands of printed pages containing the solemn message of a soon-coming Saviour, were distributed among the hills, the mountains, and even in the caves (Jer. 16: 16), as well as in the colonies, villages and larger cities.

In many places the priests have been awakened and they are endeavoring to check the work. At times doors close before us on account of the warning given against the purchasing of our literature. In spite of this we are encouraged and rejoice

in all the experiences which come to us.

During the past year we held the first colporteur institute for the students in the school at Taquara. We expect each year a hearty cooperation from this student body. Since the student colporteurs of both our college in Santo Amaro and the school at Taquara have left the field to resume their studies, only a few of us remain in the field. But we are continuing our work in the spirit of the 300 Gideonites, for with God it does not depend upon numbers; He is able to work equally with many or with few.

The 10th of February we will hold our colporteur institute, at which we expect a good attendance. Then at the close of this institute we will be privileged to attend for a few days the camp meeting held for this conference.

With new consecration, new goals and greater zeal we will again place our lives upon the altar of service. May the Lord use us as tools in His Hand for the furthering of His work. May He help us to look trustfully into the future and be reminded of the fact that while the unbelieving are in unrest and fear, we, as the followers of Christ, may look for the glorious appearing of our Saviour. And the surety of the fulfilment of these promises will help us in time of perplexity to conquer as did the patriarchs in their time, and look in faith upon the reward. (Heb. 11.)

EMIL DOEHNERT,
Field Missionary Secretary,
Rio Grande do Sul Conference,
Brazil.

IN THE heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment. Amid the greatest opposition and the most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage. But many who profess to be His followers have an anxious, troubled heart, because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender, they cannot find peace.—"*Desire of Ages*," p. 330.

Austral Union Conference

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Buenos Aires, Argentina

Canvassing in Alto Paraná

WHILE engaged in the colporteur work I met a Catholic gentleman who was ill. I could not sell him a book, but he did buy the paper *El Atalaya*. After several days I met him again and he told me that surely I had another object in view besides selling books and papers. When I asked him what made him think so he mentioned that he had visited a friend of his who had not bought a book and had also refused to buy the paper, but that I had left a tract for her to read. The gentleman continued to talk saying that he would like to know more about my religion, for he did not find Catholicism very satisfying. This gave me an opportunity to speak concerning our faith, the love of God toward the world; the hope which we as Adventists cherish of the soon-coming of our Saviour; that we keep the commandments of God, and believe all of the Bible. The gentleman took much interest in reading the Bible and I believe with a little more study he will accept the truth. I am taking him a Bible, and hope to meet him in the kingdom of God.

ELÍAS PORTEL.

Colporteur, Alto Paraná Mission.

Displaying our Goods

A SIGNBOARD is displayed over an office, store, or establishment for the purpose of calling attention to that which is within. It should, therefore, represent the goods or work done within, otherwise it would deceive the passer-by. Suppose we should pass by a large office and notice the sign, "Physician and Surgeon" conspicuously displayed. We surely would be surprised to find it occupied by a dressmaker. If we should see the sign, "Grocery" over a store, we would be equally surprised to find it a hardware store. Immediately we would feel like saying to the manager, "Why do you not remove your sign, which misleads the people, and put up one that will represent your goods?"

Thus it is with us. Our profession is the signboard we display to the world. When we hang out the Christian sign, let us keep nothing but Christian goods inside. A man may profess to love his wife, he may speak of her good qualities to friends and neighbors; but if he scolds and frets and never speaks a kind word to her in the home, he does not have very "lovable" goods inside. His signboard does not rightly represent his work. What signboard do we display to the world, and what goods do we keep within?

N. P. NEILSEN.

Twentieth Century Persecution

ONE of our faithful believers whom I recently met in Rio de Janeiro told me the following story of the experience he and other Sabbath keepers had gone through for the truth's sake in the interior of the state of Sao Paulo:

"My father bought a Bible from a Bible colporteur in the year 1885. The Good Book lay around here and there for over thirty-five years until it was old and dirty and faded, but God had a work for it to do and still kept it complete. One day I picked it up in father's home to look at it, and father told me that it was supposed to be a good book. I began to read, and my interest in the Book increased from day to day even though I did not understand very much of what I read. After about ten days an Adventist colporteur came through our valley. He sold me some literature which helped me to understand the Book. He also offered to explain some of the truths I had been reading about.

"I soon learned the Sabbath truth and began to tell it to others. In 1920, over thirty-five years after the visit of the first colporteur, the second one called to help us appreciate the good old Book. Nine adults took their stand for the Lord and decided to 'follow Him all the way.' We continued to hold our Sabbath meetings as best we could in one home and then another. Our small number grew gradually until we reached thirty-five not counting the children.

"One Sabbath during the latter part of 1927 eight men surrounded my home where we were holding our

Sabbath service. We were just singing the closing song when these armed enemies of the truth gathered to kill the 'pastor.' They had heard that he was there making a visit. But he had finished his meetings and had returned to Rio de Janeiro.

"I went out to meet these men to learn what they wanted. They demanded the pastor, Brother Ricardo Wilfarth. When I informed them that he had left, the men furiously attacked me with revolvers and knives. God gave me strength to ward off the blows aimed at my heart. I finally escaped, I know not how, and hid in a marsh near the river. Brother Joaquim Barbosa came running to aid me only to receive a blow in his side which left him bleeding and powerless. Another brother received a terrible blow on his head which stunned him and nearly ruined one of his eyes. The other believers fled to the fields behind the house and there hid in the sugar cane plantation during a heavy rain storm.

"The infuriated persecutors entered the house, broke up the furniture, cut the mattresses to pieces, tore all the clothing and then made a big pile in the center of the meeting room and poured coaloil over the ruins. Their plan was to set fire to the house but they didn't. Nobody knows why. Surely the hand of God intervened. The neighbors stole what they wanted including my money and about 600\$000 tithes which I had received from the brethren.

"We finally returned from our hiding places to find my home wrecked. But we were thankful that God had spared our lives. The wounded were carried to the nearest town to receive medical attention.

"I am thankful for the experience because it brought the truth before high officials, and I must say that one high government official defended religious liberty and my case for hours at a time. This experience has won for us not only friends but also protection and religious liberty. People have inquired about the truth and interests have sprung up all around the country until our number grew to 180 Sabbath keepers and there are many more interested people in our section of the country. We thank the Lord that He has helped us to remain faithful through the years and especially

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during the hours of persecution and trials."

So the story goes. I only have space for the high points of what Brother Franco told me. God cares for the Good Book. He cares for His people and blesses the efforts of the self-sacrificing colporteur. Some day the sower, the waterer and the reaper shall meet the great Gatherer of sheaves, and oh, what a meeting that will be!

J. L. BROWN.

Experiences of a Roman Catholic

AT THE end of a beautiful Sabbath day, which we spent in Boa Vista, Brother Joao Fiuza, and the writer of this article, visited two interested persons in the evening and met at the house the father-in-law of one of them, who is a zealous Catholic. Naturally, we spoke about the gospel to him, and after resisting our doctrines very much, he told us the following experience:

"Since my childhood I have occupied myself with the question of the salvation of my soul. I have heard very much about the holiness of the Sabbath day and therefore one day asked God that He might reveal to me which church would be the true one. Very soon I had a revelation—I do not know if it was through a voice or a dream—but I remember it was revealed to me that the true church is the one which keeps the Sabbath day. I told this dream to all and asked them if anyone knew such a church that keeps the Sabbath day. Some said,

'there is a church which keeps the Sabbath and are called "*Sabatistas*.'" Then I began to think about it. In a certain year, I had a good planting and when I was cleaning the field, I heard in the air a strange noise. I lifted my eyes and was frightened by seeing a big swarm of locusts that came nearer and nearer, until they darkened the sky. They came down on my plantation and I went home discouraged. Some days later I went to see my plantation and noticed the devastation the locusts had made. Desperate I knelt down and asked God that He might not permit that we should starve. I asked Him for a sign. If He would withdraw the locusts from my field, so that I could plant again, and gather corn, then I would recognize that the Sabbath is the sanctified day of God; and if this sign should be given, I promised to keep the Sabbath. On the next day all the locusts left my plantation and that of my neighbor, and not one remained. A certain merchant told me that he never saw such a cloud of locusts before. Immediately I started to plant again and reaped a bountiful harvest. From that time on I have been keeping both, the Sabbath and Sunday; and know that the Sabbath is a day to keep holy, proved by the sign that I saw."

Let us pray for this man who believes he is justified in keeping the Sabbath superficially, but who is still a zealous member of the Catholic church. Let us pray for him that he might understand fully the truth as it is in Jesus Christ.

ROBERTO BECKENDORF.

Gleanings of Progress Throughout the Field

Conducted by N. P. Nielsen

WRITING about his recent trip up the Amazon river about 1,000 miles from Belem, Elder Halliwell says:

"Brother Michiles has been waiting for two years for meetings in the city of Maues and this time we stayed there for two weeks, holding meetings every night. We had from 250 to 300 present every night. The first four nights everything went well as the city authorities were present, but be-

cause of the change of governors in Manaus the *Delegado* and *Prefeito* were called to Manaus and the first night after they left we were stoned. Shortly after we began the meeting the stones began to fall. One large stone struck me on the head and nearly knocked me down. Brother Michiles went out and got two policemen and we continued the meeting. The rest of the time while there we had two soldiers on duty every night. We left a goodly number of interested ones there."

UNDER date of December 9, Elder Walter Schubert, president of the Chile Conference, writes: "Last Sabbath I baptized two souls at Quillota, and organized the group into a church with twenty-six members. The work is developing very well there, through the activities of our faithful colporteur, Brother Bernabé Montero, who is a good soul winner."

WE COPY the following interesting items from a letter recently written by Elder L. Halliwell, superintendent of the Lower Amazon Mission: "After much prayer we have rented a theater right close by a large church in the center of the city. It has a seating capacity of 1,200 persons. At first I was a little afraid to hold the meetings there alone, but then I remembered that I was not alone, for the Lord promised to be with us, so we rented it and began our meetings. We have had good attendance, and while the hall has not been full yet we have had an attendance of about 500 each night.

"I have had many interesting experiences in the Lord's work, but I have seen something happen here that I never saw before. The truth has broken up a circus. Some time ago the circus came here from Maranhao and some of the circus folk began to attend our meetings. The principal man now has accepted the truth and his wife and the clown are now keeping the Sabbath and paying tithe and as they left the circus, it broke up. It is wonderful what the truth will do for poor sinners."

WE ARE NOT saved because we keep the commandments of God; but we keep them because we are saved. Obedience is the fruit of salvation.