

PR 23 1953



VOLUME X

MANDEVILLE, JAMAICA, MARCH, 1953

NUMBER 3

Saving The Lost Sheep

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When Abraham, the leader of God's people, was told of the imminent destruction of Sodom, he immediately thought of the little flock in that city. He was quite sure that his nephew Lot, the local elder of the church in Sodom, was righteous, and sure there were other righteous members who were ever ready to respond to the call of God.

To Lot's great dismay he found that Abraham's minimum supposition of at least ten righteous members in Sodom was too high an estimate. At the crucial hour he found that all his members had apostatized. Even the members of his own immediate family had backslidden to the place where his earnest pleas for repentance were unheeded. This appalling situation brought Lot to the sudden realization that he had failed to feed his flock. His failure to be a true shepherd now meant the destruction by fire of his own flesh and blood, and there was no time now for a revival. Yes, the very last hour had come to win souls, and he had been found wanting before the Judge of all the earth.

If Lot had only had the deep interest for souls that Abraham had, and had done his work faithfully each day, we would never have on record the story of the destruction of Sodom.

Let us remember the words of Christ: "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot even so shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." -- Luke 17:28, 30.

Soon, very soon this world will face a similar situation as Sodom. NOW is the only time we have to warn men and women of the impending doom. It seems to me that the church of Sodom was a backslidden church. When Abraham pled before God to save the city for the sake of 50 righteous he must have known that the church membership was much larger than that number; but to be sure that the few righteous would

be saved, he began to subtract those who might have reached the backslidden condition. Alas! the church had died. Even Lot and his two daughters were not in good and regular standing in their conduct. Their lives too would have been lost, if angels had not taken them by the hand to lead them out. It was only because of God's great mercy and love that even Lot was saved. If his example and attitude had been different, his companion's life might have been saved with him.

What are you doing, dear leader, to save the straying members of your church? We thank God for the 5,198 souls who have been baptized into the church during the last two years, but what are we doing for the 1,000 who have gone out of the church during the same period of time? Let us think of these souls in the light of what it cost Christ to ransom them. The price, however, will never fully be understood by finite minds.

We know from the pen of inspiration that Christ would have died for one soul, in order that that one soul might live through the eternal ages. (Vol. 8, p. 73). As a church

we cannot, must not, leave anything undone that could be done to save a soul. Those who have once been in the fold should be the first to gain our sympathy and help. Through the eternal ages these brands plucked out of the fire will praise God for those who were instrumental in their salvation. Just now, while the hand of God is stayed before the final decree goes forth, let us go after the lost sheep. It is far better to weep for these precious souls now while probation lingers, than to wait until there is no Mediator between God and man.

It is Christ Himself who bids you go after these blood-bought members of His family. May God grant that we be more ready to respond to His commands in behalf of these way-

*Hark! 'tis the Shepherd's voice I hear,
Out in the desert dark and drear,
Calling the sheep who've gone astray,
Far from the Shepherd's fold away.*

*Who'll go and help the Shepherd kind,
Help Him the wand'ring ones to find?
Who'll bring them back into the fold,
Where they'll be sheltered from the cold.*

*Out in the desert hear their cry,
Out on the mountain wild and high,
Hark! 'tis the Master speaks to thee,
"Go, find my sheep where'er they be."*

ward sheep than were our fathers. *Vol. 2*, p. 219: "Had they regarded the lesson taught by Christ, they would have been willing to yield their dignity and pride, and go after the wandering ones. They would have wept over them, prayed for them, implored them to be faithful to God and the truth, and to abide in the church. But the feeling of many was: 'If he wants to go, let him go.'"

Could it be possible that some in our day, yes, even in the British West Indies Union, or perhaps in your own church, who are willing to say, "If he wants to go, let him go!" Have we lost sight of the true value of a precious soul? Are we more interested in baptizing someone that might bring us a little more praise and credit, than to go after the wandering sheep who were brought in by another brother or pastor? Let us pray that God will give us a pure, holy zeal for the salvation of ALL men, but especially the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Brief Report From the Bahamas

R. E. Gibson, President

The year 1952 has been a year of progress in the Bahamas Mission. Advancement has been made in every department of our over-all evangelistic efforts. Every worker has done exploits for God.

An outstanding feature with real appeal to youth, was the Youth Camp and Rally held in midsummer at Caves Point in New Providence. The youth are now making plans and preparations for a much more extensive Camp and Rally to be held this coming July 16-28. Our youth are on the march for God, and are being trained to hold responsible positions in the churches, as well as becoming active in the "Share Your Faith" youth movement.

The Bahamas Junior Academy has shown much progress in the past year. At opening date, January 5, many students were disappointed, as the applications for entrance far exceeded our facilities. Although about fifty additional desks had been provided during the year, our class rooms and teaching staff could not handle the extra load. Each teacher is now carrying about 45 or 50 students, and teaching at least two grades. Last year, the total enrolment in our two mission schools reached over 300 students. The addition of some vocational arts training has been well received by the public and our present educational programme is

inspiring our youth to seek higher education in advanced schools abroad. Several have entered the West Indian Training College and others are going to the United States. Two students have just recently left for the United States, to prepare for medicine, and others are planning on nursing and secretarial courses. Every effort is being put forth to save our youth for Christ and His work. We look to well trained youth to finish the great task before us in the Bahamas.

The literature ministry is also forging ahead rapidly. Our 1952 goal for deliveries was passed in less than 8 months. Book deliveries by our regular colporteurs set a record in the Inter-American Division by closing the year with a per capita average of over \$3,800.00 (U. S.) worth of books delivered in 12 months. We expect to exceed this figure during 1953, as we have already invited several successful student colporteurs from West Indian Training College to join our corps of workers in order to earn scholarships for educational institutions abroad. We look to these young men to spread the printed page like the "leaves of autumn" in these needy islands.

The rapid developing Bahamas islands are affording wonderful opportunities for consecrated youth with a vision and a purpose. We believe 1953 will surpass all previous records in books delivered, as large sums of money are now being spent in developing defense bases. Several elaborate pleasure resorts and yacht havens are also being built on our beautiful out islands. Some of the world's most beautiful white sand bathing beaches are to be found in these hitherto undeveloped islands surrounded by crystal clear aquamarine waters. Their natural, unspoiled beauty has recently been discovered by pleasure lovers, and several hotel and resort syndicates are planing on spending several million pounds in erecting modern accommodations and play grounds for tourists. This will call for an influx of workers, everyone a real prospect for the colporteur. Ten of our thirteen districts are still without a worker, and what a challenge, as well as an opportunity is here presented to our consecrated bookmen!

At present, our working staff is so small that it is impossible to spend much time in evangelistic efforts, but the radio knows no transportation barriers. It is impossible to visit our churches more than once or twice per year with our present staff of workers, but by radio we are

visiting them each week. We have been developing our church choirs until we now have been granted considerable free time on our local broadcasting station. We have a regular half hour weekly programme from the studio along with a one hour broadcast from our church each month. Every seven weeks we have devotional hour each morning for one week. These live broadcasts are reaching our entire field and have broken down much prejudice and many misconceptions of our work. We thank God for all this free time, but the need for personal work is great. Nearly all of our baptisms for this year were students of the radio Bible School. We feel sure that hundreds more are awaiting the personal efforts of a worker to help them over the line.

Last, but not necessarily least, through the faithfulness of our good laity the Mission has prospered financially. Our tithe has increased so that we closed the year with about one hundred percent tithe gain over four years ago, recording by far the greatest amount ever received in one year in the Bahamas. Due to the high cost of living here, our workers have been paid a substantial living bonus to offset this additional living expense and still the mission treasurer shows us a very healthy financial picture with our authorized reserve working capital full in hand. For these many divine blessings we are extremely grateful and we give God the glory. With faith and courage we of the Bahamas face the unfinished task, pledged to loyally press forward in this new year. Our motto and goal is "BY GOD'S HELP, DOUBLE OR MORE, BY FIFTY-FOUR."

Items of Interest from East Jamaica

H. D. Colburn, President

On Sabbath afternoon, December 20th, just before the set of sun, the most impressive service of the second biennial session of the East Jamaica Conference was held. It was the ordination service which traditionally is held toward the close of these large convocations of God's people.

The two candidates, David McCalla and C. C. Nebblett, had demonstrated for a number of years to the complete satisfaction of all who had been associated with them, that the Lord had called them

to the sacred work of the gospel ministry, and it was fitting that at the closing service of a wonderful Sabbath, recognition of their accomplishments for God should be given by conducting this important meeting.

Associated in this service were all of the ordained ministers attending the conference session. Elder N. F. Brewer, one of the Field Secretaries of the General Conference gave the charge. The ordination prayer was offered by Elder R. W. Numbers, president of the British West Indies Union Mission. Speaking for all on the platform and on behalf of the brotherhood of ministers the world around, the writer welcomed these young men into the ranks of the Advent ministry.

I am sure that the prayers of the entire constituency will often ascend on behalf of these young men who have had placed upon them heavier responsibilities.

* * *

The entire worker personnel of the East Jamaica Conference spent Thursday, February 5, together at the conference office. Meeting with us were the officers and departmental secretaries of the British West Indies Union, with the exception of Pastors E. E. Parchment and A. R. Haig. After a splendid devotional period in which Elder R. W. Numbers led out, the rest of the day was spent in earnest discussion of the topics on the agenda. The most important subject dealt with was evangelism. During this meeting far reaching plans were laid to carry on an even more aggressive work in soul winning. Evangelistic campaigns by each worker was planned, as well as outlining methods by which we can lead out faithful and consecrated laymen in their soul-winning activities during the year. Considerable study was given to the matter of reclaiming the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." It was shown that we could no doubt double our membership in our conference if all the backsliders were brought back into the church. Elder Numbers pointed out that if each church reclaimed 10 souls we would have additions equivalent to the number of baptisms for the past year.

This was the first meeting of its kind to be held this year, and was also the first in which it was our privilege to have our new workers with us. We could not help but feel proud to be associated with such a splendid group, for truly our conference had never been manned with a larger or more capable group than those who make up the worker personnel of the

East Jamaica Conference at the present time.

Elder J. N. Williams, who for a number of years served as the president of the British Honduras Mission, is leading out in the district of St. Mary. Associated with him will be Brother Talbert Shaw, who is beginning his second year as a ministerial intern in the conference. We are also happy to have with us Elder B. A. Woodburn, who also has recently joined us, coming from British Honduras where he served for a number of years. Brother Woodburn will be in charge of the Upper St. Andrew district.

Several young people who recently graduated from the West Indian Training College have joined us. They are: Brother Fred White, ministerial intern who will be associated with Pastor A. D. Laing in Eastern Kingston; Brother Kenneth Lewis, who will be Assistant Publishing Secretary; Brother Leroy Carter, who also is a ministerial intern, will be
(Continued on page 4)

Andrews Memorial Hospital

The progress of the work at Andrews Memorial Hospital has taken a trend that gives us much cause for rejoicing. The workers at this institution are working with new zeal to make a successful contribution to the needs of the community, and the results show that God's blessings have been added to our labours. We are praying daily, and we know that friends of the institution, even in overseas lands, are praying daily also, that this work shall thrive and prove beneficial to the denomination in souls won.

The number of patients in the new building has grown to the point that we are hastily arranging to use the downstairs rooms. The signal-light system is being connected, beds are being made up, and the nurses' station is being organized. Already we have set up a downstairs labour and delivery room, as well as a nursery, to care for our maternity patients. The hydrotherapy department is being set up in the new building, and is almost completed. The public address system with its individual pillow-phones is soon to be functioning. We hope to have Mrs. A. Woodmansee take up duties as nurse-dietician in the next few weeks.

The work is going forward, and we hope to see even greater progress in the future, as the present plans and changes reach completion. God is good to us, and we are thankful.

—M. Hoehn, *Medical Director.*

A Layman Reports

I have the pleasure of reporting the activities of the lay preacher's effort now in existence. As a result of our fasting and prayer on the 31st of January, when we visited there were many who accepted us and the Bread with which they were fed. Going out under the leadership of Emmanuel, He has softened the stony hearts and at our first night's meeting two Indians took their stand for Christ.

After the meeting another Indian came up and desired us to study with him the following evening. Two of us went over, and as we studied he followed the Scriptures closely. The Lord helped us to answer all his questions, and we left him quite filled and satisfied.

Now, this last Indian was one whom they called "a professor-showman". I was told that during the week he burnt up all his regalias and instruments. He was at vesper service on Friday night, and he and his mother spent the whole day with us on Sabbath and went home feeling very much satisfied. Brethren, join with us in rejoicing as we say "to God be the glory."

We began a baptismal class with four the same Sabbath, and on the following Sunday night the Lord added two more Indians to the fold of safety.

—Herbert Golding, *Leader,*
Race Course Church.

Signs of Progress in the Cayman Islands

The thirteen months I spent in Grand Cayman were extremely interesting. Soon after my arrival we started a church building at Bodden Town, which is almost complete. This building is made of cement blocks, cement floor, and asbestos roofing. But for window sills, ceilings, painting, a reading desk and lights, the building is complete. As was to be expected, the other Protestant group in the vicinity tried to discourage us, but we rejoice that God made this building possible. Brother C. R. Wood contributed hundreds of pounds to the erection of this church. There are bright prospects for the work at this particular centre, there being many interested ones, and we anticipate a great harvest of souls when an effort is conducted.

There is also a growing interest at West Bay, where we conducted a branch Sabbath school during the past year. It was on the occasion of going to deliver a

Bible Correspondence Course certificate that we met a dumb lady who manifested an interest in the truths we preach, and so arrangements were made to conduct a branch Sabbath school in her home. At our first meeting a very intelligent lady, the mother of three lovely girls, attended and took home Bible Correspondence lessons to her girls, who, although they would not attend the meetings, studied the lessons at home. Shortly after this, one of these young ladies went to America for a few months, but she continued her course all the while she was away. Today, that mother and her three daughters are a part of a group of nine who have identified themselves with the Seventh-day Adventist church and are looking forward to baptism shortly. This has caused no small stir among the other denominations there, but the persecution is only making the believers more determined to follow their Lord.

There is also another company of believers about two miles from the one just mentioned at West Bay, that have been meeting for some time in the unfinished home of a brother. We are in desperate need of a church building in this place and look forward to that day when such a need will be filled. The interest in this particular community makes it evident that we will have a full church as soon as the building is erected.

Brother Thompson who was greatly opposed to the message accepted it largely through the kindness of our believers who cared for him while he suffered from a cancer. This experience is helping to break down the prejudice of the people as they learn that we are their friends in time of need.

Much could be said about the people in general, not only of Grand Cayman, but also those on the Brac. Although they cannot be won to the truth as easily as in other places, yet when they are convinced of the truthfulness of the message we present they become determined to join with the people of God.

During the year 1952 twenty members were added to the church by baptism and two on the profession of faith. We thank God for these, six of whom are from Cayman Brac. The light of truth is being rekindled, and we look forward to a brighter day when many will accept Christ in these islands. We earnestly solicit your prayers on behalf of the work in the Cayman Islands.

— B. E. Hurst

Items of Interest from East Jamaica

(Continued from page 3)

associated with Pastor D. McCalla in Upper St. Catherine. Joining the conference as worker stenographers are Miss Lois Matthews and Miss Lilieth Shakes. Miss Matthews fills a vacancy made when Miss Majorie Walker left the conference office to continue her studies in America, and Miss Shakes takes the place of Mrs. W. A. Holgate. Connecting with our Branson Junior Academy are Brother C. J. Thomas, Principal, and Miss A. E. Williams.

There have been a number of adjustments in territory which have made it possible for more workers to be in the field and which will result in greater help to the churches of the conference. A number of our ministers also have been relocated. The district pastor's directory reads as follows:— *Eastern Kingston*—Pastor A. D. Laing and Brother Fred White, *Central Kingston*—Pastor C. F. Edwards, *Western Kingston*—Brother O. E. Gordon, *Lower St. Andrew*—Pastor W. U. Campbell, *Lower St. Catherine*—Pastor E. C. Walton, *Upper St. Catherine*—Pastor D. C. McCalla, *Western St. Mary*—Pastor W. A. Holgate, *Eastern St. Mary*—Pastor J. N. Williams and Brother T. Shaw, *Portland*—Pastor W. H. Waller, Brother K. Samuels, and Brother E. Fulton, *St. Thomas*—Pastor C. C. Nebblett, *Upper St. Andrew*—Pastor B. A. Woodburn.

Home Missionary and Sabbath School—Pastor W. U. Campbell, *MV*—Brother O. E. Gordon, *Educational*—Teacher V. H. Percy, *Publishing Department*—

Workers in the office and their duties are as follows:—Miss Edna W. Parchment, *Secretary-Treasurer & Book & Bible House Manager*, Miss Vinete Walker, *Secretary to the President*, Miss Huldah Shaw, *Secretary to Brother Gordon*, Miss Lois Matthews, *Secretary to Brother Albert Morgan*, Miss Lilieth Shakes, *Secretary to Pastor W. U. Campbell*, Brother Roy Daley, *Custodian*

At Kingsway Brother V. H. Percy is continuing to serve as headmaster with Brother Herbert Fletcher serving as assistant and carrying a heavy teaching load as well. Other members of the faculty are Miss Eva Williams, Miss Elethia Gibson, Miss Gene Mullins, and Miss Ena Parker.

As we begin this new year of service we are reminded again that we live in a world of change, and also that we are a people among whom there is constant

movement. Pastor W. A. Holgate, who has served the conference so efficiently as headmaster of Kingsway and more recently as Home Missionary and Sabbath School Secretary, has entered enthusiastically into his new duties as district pastor. We will greatly miss Pastor Holgate in the office. His work had been carried on most efficiently, and he has turned over to his successor his departments in excellent condition.

We feel that the churches in Western St. Mary are fortunate in having Pastor Holgate serve them and bespeak for that district a most prosperous time during the days which lie ahead. We shall likewise miss Sister Holgate, who has served in a most splendid way as secretary to the president and more recently in the Home Missionary and Sabbath school departments. She, too is entering enthusiastically into her duties as a district pastor's wife. We are confident that she with her husband will bring many blessings to that part of the conference.

Leaving our field to connect with the Caribbean Union Training College to serve on its faculty, is Miss Lizette Hall, who for a number of years has been connected with the faculty of Kingsway High School. She, likewise, will be greatly missed, for she has done a most commendable work in this institution.

The writer, who has returned from the States, is happy to be back in the conference and associated with these workers. He looks forward to the best year in the history of this field. May I solicit the prayers of all who read these lines in behalf of our workers to the end that the work of God will move forward as never before, and through the combined efforts of workers and laity, we shall measure to the expectations of God in these closing days.

The British West Indies Union Visitor

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Official Organ of the
BRITISH WEST INDIES UNION
of Seventh-day Adventists
Post Box 22, General Post Office, Mandeville, Ja.

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