

VISITOR

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East Jamaica

West Jamaica

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Dedication



The Editor

WE have just returned from the dedication of one of our new churches at Ythanside, in the parish of Portland, Jamaica. This is the sixth church thus far at which I have been privileged to preach the dedicatory sermon. How wonderful it is that we are building and dedicating structures to the honour and glory of God here in the British West Indies Union! And as we come up to this time of year when men dedicate themselves to frivolity and hilarity and to the worship of a day, Christmas, should not we at this season of the year dedicate ourselves to the finishing of the work of Him who was supposed to have been born on this day,—a day when men worship the creature rather than the Creator?

During this Christmas season we as a people should be dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that of finishing the gospel to all the world in this generation. The Lord is calling us not only to dedicate churches for His service, but to dedicate ourselves for the unfinished work of the Advent message. David said, "Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?" 1 Chronicles 29:5. God expects us as a people to be dedicated to the work He has called us to do.

Yes, we are to build and dedicate churches, but also our characters must be formed and our lives framed and dedicated to God so that He can build us into His church. "Ye also, as lively stones,

are built up a spiritual house, . . . acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:5. God is building a spiritual house that needs to be dedicated; an house of lively stones "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth into an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Ephesians 2: 20-22. This is the spiritual house that the Lord is building; the church against which "the gates of hell shall not prevail." Mathew 16:18.

It is fitting and proper that we as a people should recognize the wonderful spirit that exists in the world at Christmas time. It is fitting and proper that we should make this season a season of joyfulness and gratefulness. We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy that this season should not be passed by unnoticed, but it should be a season when we can extend our blessing to others and help those less fortunate than we are. Yes, it is fitting and proper that we should enter into the spirit of the season, but brothers and sisters of the Advent movement, it is a season when we should dedicate and consecrate our all to the service of God. And, should not we the people of God be determined that we shall do all in our power to hasten the day when we can see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven?

I am told that before the end of the year we will have dedicated more than twenty churches in this island. My hope and prayer is that all of the members of the 290 churches here will be so fully dedicated and consecrated to their Lord and Saviour at this season of the year that the work will go forward speedily; that it will soon be finished, and that soon we will have the privilege of attending that great dedicatory service in heaven when all the church of God in heaven and earth will be dedicated to the everlasting worship of our God and of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Greetings

As this last issue of the *Visitor* for 1954 goes to the press, we the officers of the British West Indies Union desire to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation to all our workers and lay members for the fine support that you have given throughout the year. As we view in retrospect the year so soon to close, surely we can see the hand of God outstretched in blessing, guiding and protecting His children in a very special way. Our wish for you at this time is a fuller, richer, Christian experience, realizing that we are one year nearer to our eternal home. Let us consecrate ourselves and all we have to the finishing of the great task committed to us, of giving this Advent message to all the world, so that the coming of the Saviour may be hastened.

Yours in Christian fellowship,
A. C. Stockhausen
R. S. Blackburn

"The Eyes of the Lord Run to and Fro"

The Story of an Anglican Theological Student

John C. Martin

It was just on fifteen months ago that events were happening in my life which were to alter completely its course.

At the time I was in my second year of preparation as an ordination candidate for the Church of England ministry, in New Zealand. Prior to my contact with the mission in Wellington, Seventh-day Adventists were a people whom I had always regarded as being a little queer. I was soon to learn, however, that one's thinking can undergo a radical change even in the short space of three months.

The reason for my choosing the ministry as a vocation was to some extent unusual. As a nominal Christian I fulfilled all the requirements. My infant baptism had given me the Christian names

of John Charles and little else. Sunday school was never attended and was for me a place where other children were able to pass away a few of the idle hours of Sunday. Church was an old wooden building where a kind grandmother used to take me two or three times a year, while the Bible was indeed a strange book and very hard to understand.

When I was sixteen a film dealing with the life of a French priest and the great social improvement he produced in a small rural community so disturbed me that I called upon the Anglican vicar at one o'clock on a Sunday morning and informed him that some day I wanted to become a minister. At seventeen I attended a mission conducted by Bryan Green and was told that Christ had died for me two thousand years ago. Although I was much impressed, I found it difficult to understand how a man's death so far back in history could benefit a person living in the twentieth century. (From such an experience I now realize how essential it is to outline *clearly* the atoning death of Christ.) At eighteen I presented myself, a virtual pagan who had no idea that Christ was an effective Saviour and worthy Lord, to the Bishop of Wellington as a candidate for "Holy Orders," and was accepted.

Perhaps my desire to be a minister can be best summed up by saying that I entered the Anglican Theological College in Christchurch with the explicit purpose of finding out whether Christianity could really provide the answer to my many questionings. Secondary school studies and private reading had not provided the solution to the meaning and purpose of life. (Evolution and a materialistic psychology didn't seem to offer a satisfactory outlook upon life, as which one could build.) Indeed, this failure to find true "soul happiness" resulted in my leaving school two months before final college and scholarship examinations, to enter a business office and "contemplate" the future.

The direct outcome of the following eighteen months of indecision was to enter College House in 1952, literally athirst for a knowledge of the living God. But I soon found, much to my bitter disappointment, that such information was hard to come by. My university studies were not the success they should have been, while my sporting activities and music were sacrificed in a furious endeavour to come to a knowledge of the truth. Churches of various denominations were visited (S.D.A. churches don't open on Sunday) but to no avail—my condition was gradually becoming critical—and I couldn't understand why God seemed such a difficult person to find.

Doubts which were arising as to God's loving care were, however, soon to be dispelled. It was at a lecture given to the ministerial students in April of last year that God spoke to my soul and intellect in such a way that confidence was gained to seek the Lord with all my heart. The

(Continued on Page 4)

BAHAMAS MISSION

Pres. H. D. COLBURN

Secy.-Treas. CYRIL TENNENT

Bahamas News

On Tuesday night, November 2nd, most of the workers of the Bahamas Mission gathered at the home of Professor and Mrs. W. W. Liske to welcome in genuine Bahamian form Brother and Sister Lloyd Binns to the Bahamas. While he has been in the colony for some time, labouring in Nassau as well as in the out-islands, yet this time, after spending the summer at the Seminary Extension School in Jamaica, he was married to Miss Audrey Alvaranga and has returned to establish his home in the Bahamas. This fine couple were the recipients of the well wishes expressed in a number of speeches at the informal gathering, as well as a number of useful gifts from the workers and members of the Mission Committee. The Bahamas Mission welcomes back Brother Binns and is especially happy that he returned with a bride. May their years of service in these islands be many and richly blessed of God.

Colporteur Evangelist, M. V. Smith, with Sister Smith, arrived in the colony several weeks ago and have already endeared themselves to the Mission. He is doing splendidly in sales and deliveries. His coming has brought great strength to the meagre colporteur army here in the Bahamas. We extend to them too, a most hearty welcome.

Friends and acquaintances of Brother Binns will be glad to learn that in a recent meeting of the Mission Committee, an action was taken in which Brother Binns was invited to serve as the Mission's Home Missionary and Sabbath School Secretary. He has entered into his new work with real enthusiasm. We are sure that both the local field as well as the British West Indies Union will now be better served.

Brother Victor Griffiths is making final preparations for an evangelistic crusade in Englerston, one of the fine suburbs of Nassau. Associated with him will be some of our most talented youth of the Grants Town church. His tent is pitched on the land where the new Englerston church is being built and we are confident that the membership will now be increased sufficiently so that a new church can be organized in this part of New Providence.

Results from our radio work are most encouraging. We have recently had the pleasure of seeing several new worshippers in our churches in Nassau, as a direct result of the broadcasts. The local station, ZNS, has been more than generous in

giving free time to the Adventists, and, while this requires much time in preparing the programmes and in appearing regularly at the studio, we feel that under the blessing of God, the message is literally being broadcast to all of these islands, many of which are so inaccessible. Our heavy correspondence gives reason for encouragement too. Our workers in the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School keep more than busy. Surely this is a heaven-ordained means of carrying the message in such a difficult field as this colony is.

Layman Clarence Smith, who comes to the Bahamas from the United States each year, has just completed a series of meetings at Palmetto Point. He states that there has been a fine response and now the people are worshipping again in regular meetings. We feel that it won't be long until we'll have another organized church in that part of the island of Eleuthera.

Thursday, November 11th, the many friends of Pastor and Mrs. R. E. Gibson were made happy by a visit from them, along with their two boys Roger and Danny. The Gibsons were en route to their new field, the Netherlands, West Indies.

Last week also we were made happy by a visit from Elders Blackburn and Hurst, from the British West Indies Union. These brethren were en route to the Division Council in Miami, but Pastor Hurst conducted a short, inspiring colporteur Institute during his three-day stay, as a result of which several more colporteurs have joined the ranks of the colporteur evangelists.

—H. D. COLBURN

CAYMAN ISLANDS MISSION

Pres. WALTER COMM

Secy.-Treas. R. S. BLACKBURN

Spreading the Gospel Net in Cayman

Nearly half a century ago, the servant of the Lord counselled, "Evangelistic work, . . . is to occupy more and more of the time of God's servants." *Review & Herald*, August 2, 1906. Are we today "busy with many things" of lesser importance? Greater impetus must be given to aggressive evangelism as the day of the Lord draws near.

Since arriving in this little island three weeks ago, we have endeavoured to get a perspective view of the needs. By God's grace we want to put soul-winning in first place in all our plans and objects.

On October 24 a neat little church was dedicated at West Bay. We were privileged to have Elders Stockhausen and Schneider from the Union office present for this occasion. There are now five

churches on Grand Cayman. Although the membership in West Bay is small, we are working for its growth. On Sunday, November 7, we introduced a series of evangelistic meetings under the caption of Truth for Today. At this writing we have had only two services; both nights the crowd has overflowed the capacity of the church. Pray for us as we lower the gospel net by faith.

—W. O. COMM.

Souls

Approximately 900 souls were won to Christ the first nine months of the year, and it looks like we will have one of the largest baptisms ever in one quarter ending December 1954. How happy and thankful to God we are for this choicest of all blessings in the showers of the latter rain now falling as the harvest is being reaped for Christ!

Nembhard's Arrival

Pastor and Mrs. Hilbert Nembhard and Pauline will no doubt be in their Portland district before the *Visitor* reaches you. We expect mighty things in Port Antonio and in the Portland district, under God's Holy Spirit's power and direction. May God visit His dear believers and His churches and work in Portland in strong and mighty power in the immediate days ahead.

—R. E. DELAFIELD

EAST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

Pres. R. E. DELAFIELD
Secy.-Treas. MISS E. W. PARCHMENT

In the East

Conference Session

Conference session will begin Saturday evening 7:30, December 11, at the North Street Temple church, and we plan to finish Monday evening, December 13. This is a slight change to fit in with the year-end Union meetings. Elders Olson, Read and Knight from the General Conference; Elders Roth, Bohner, Franz and Westphal from the Inter-American Division in addition to our Union men will be present.

Church Dedications

Thank God for the churches which have already been dedicated this year in East Jamaica, including Carron Hall and Hunt's Town, in Pastor Holgate's district; Annotto Bay, in Brother Fletcher's district; Ythanside, in Brother White's district! Other dedications coming up are: Williamsfield, November 21, Brother Shaw's district; Duxes, November 28, Brother Carter's district; Comfort Valley and Yallas, December 5, in Elders Williams and McCalla's districts respectively. The Camberwell church dedication in Brother Herbert Fletcher's district is now scheduled for December 26, and Woodford in Elder Woodburn's district for January 2. The Burnside Valley church is almost ready, but the death of one of the leaders there has held up completion. Elder Woodburn has worked hard in Burnside Valley, as have all the pastors in getting their churches ready for dedication. We praise God for such energetic leadership and counsel in church building completion as our veteran pastor, Elder E. E. Parchment, has given in East Jamaica this year. God bless him, the pastors and members for their labour of love well done for the blessed Master.

Kingsway

We thank our churches for their very gracious offering on Sabbath, November 6. Reports indicate a very splendid response. Kingsway High School, phase No. 1, front section only, 20 x 107 feet will be completed to God's glory free of debt in early December.

Dr. Affeldt Arrives in Jamaica

On November 9, Dr. John Affeldt, M.D., Seventh-day Adventist polio expert from the West Coast Polio Centre in Los Angeles, California, arrived in Jamaica for a ten-day stay. We are happy to have Dr. Affeldt, a graduate of the College of Medical Evangelists, with us in Jamaica even if but for a few days.

Dr. Affeldt is here at Government request, and as a faithful Seventh-day Adventist medical worker he is giving demonstrations to doctors and nurses regarding treatment of poliomyelitis. We believe his coming will help to heighten respect and appreciation for the already highly thought of medical work of Adventists in Jamaica.

Unfortunately, the *Daily Gleaner*, Jamaica's morning newspaper, carried a Government announcement for several days that Dr. Affeldt would be giving his lectures and demonstrations on Friday and Saturday. This announcement was handed to the newspaper before Dr. Affeldt's arrival in Jamaica, and appeared without his knowledge or consent. But the thing of importance is that Dr. Affeldt is a faithful Seventh-day Adventist and he did not teach or give any demonstrations on Saturday. He in fact was in attendance Sabbath morning, the beginning of the week of prayer, at the Andrews Memorial chapel.

We are thankful for Dr. Affeldt and for our faithful doctors in Jamaica who with our nurses and medical attendants are bringing the light of the blessed third angel's message, through its right arm before the attention of all Jamaica. May God bless us all—medical, ministerial and laymen—as faithful Sabbath keepers, reformers in the truest sense, repairers of the breach, and restorers of paths to dwell in. (See Isaiah 58: 12-14.)

—R. E. DELAFIELD.

WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

Pres. H. S. WALTERS
Sec.-Treas. L. A. MORRISON

West Jamaica News

West Jamaica Conference Camp Meeting

Over 250 delegates are expecting to attend the West Jamaica Conference session and camp meeting. The session convenes December 21-26.

The first meeting begins 6 o'clock Tuesday night, December 21. This will be a service of dedication. We wish to urge that all delegates be present at this meeting. At 7:30 the conference will be officially opened, followed by the President's report.

The Conference Committee is at work, and prayerful plans are being laid so that this gathering of God's people will be of great spiritual benefit to the church of God in West Jamaica.

Congratulations to Our Teachers

The church schools of West Jamaica maintained an average of 52 per cent passes in the recent Jamaica Local examination.

The candidates were presented by the following teachers: Misses Rita Richards, Sybil Walters, Shirley Williamson, Beryl Williamson; Mrs. Merle Bennett, Mrs. Mae Palmer; Mrs. E. Benson, assisted by Misses Plummer and McKenzie; and Messrs. Colville Jones, Audley Dwyer and Donald Morgan.

The elementary department of the West Indian Training College under the direction of Misses Brodie and Campbell, was also outstanding in their passes.

To these faithful teachers we offer our thanks for their entiring effort; and to the successful students we offer our congratulations. To those who have not been successful we offer our encouragement to try again.

Lay Preachers of West Jamaica

The lay preachers of West Jamaica are on the march. A recent bulletin from the Home Missionary Department reveals that a large number of lay efforts are in progress in spite of the rains. The most outstanding ones are being conducted by the following laypreachers: Daniel Dunn, Aston Wallace, R. E. Evans, David Nembhard, James Langley, A. James and James Westley.

The believers of West Jamaica are at present engaged in house to house visitation. It is our hope, with the blessing of heaven, to present 100,000 Bible studies on the *Second Coming of Christ* by December 31. Pray for us in this endeavour.

The Sabbath School Department, under the efficient leadership of Pastor Harold Fletcher, is gaining momentum steadily. The churches throughout the conference are rallying to the cry, "A branch school

to every Sabbath school." Within a short time this goal will be realized in every church.

Elder Vaz along with the believers of the Goshen church have been working very hard to have this church completed. At their dedication service on November 21, representatives of the Union and leading members of the community were present.

West Jamaica extends a hearty welcome to Miss Erma Chambers, a former student of the West Indian Training College, to their staff. Miss Chambers is secretary in the Missionary Volunteer and Educational Department. We wish her heaven's blessing as she enters the organized work.

During the month of November 13 churches will be organized in the West Jamaica Conference. This will bring the total number of organized churches up to 156.

The stork paid a visit to Elder & Mrs. Harold Fletcher the latter part of October and brought them a bonny, baby girl. We wish through this medium to welcome this new member of West Jamaica.

West Jamaica welcomes back Pastor S. G. Lindo who spent some months of study at the Seminary in Washington, D.C.

At the present time he is busy assisting in the St. Ann district. There are a number of baptisms being carried on throughout the district.

Brethren Boyd and Bennett are doing a most outstanding work in that section.

We look forward to meeting our faithful colporteurs at the forthcoming annual institute which convenes December 6-13. We also wish to congratulate them for the fine work they have done up to now. Keep up the good work you have started.

—H. S. WALTERS.

Family Worship

"We should jealously guard the edges of the Sabbath. Remember that every moment is consecrated, holy time. Whenever it is possible employers should give their workers the hours from Friday noon until the beginning of the Sabbath. Give them time for preparation, that they may welcome the Lord's day with quietness of mind. By such a course you will suffer no loss even in temporal things. . . .

"Before the setting of the sun let the members of the family assemble to read God's word, to sing and pray. There is need of reform here, for many have been remiss. We need to confess to God and to one another. We should begin anew to make special arrangements that every member of the family may be prepared to honour the day which God has blessed and sanctified."

Testimonies for the Church,
Volume 6, pages 356, 357.

"The Eyes of the Lord Run to and Fro"

(Continued from Page 2)

minister based his talk on Rom. 12:1, 2 and for the first time I realized that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. Later that morning I asked God on my knees to reveal that which constituted His "good and acceptable will."

Three months later, while on holiday, an advertisement in the paper attracted me to Pastor Vince's mission and I attended the meetings as a somewhat bewildered member of the audience. Although I couldn't quite appreciate all of what "666" was about, there was an inward realization that the preacher was a man with a faith and a message which came from God. On returning to Christchurch for the second term of the university year, contact was made with Pastor J. B. Colley's mission, and regular visits were soon made to his home in Papanui.

Unfortunately, space will not allow a detailed account of the events which followed in the most hectic yet crucial three months of my whole life. My first visit to the St. Albans Sabbath school was one of amazement and joy. The difference in conduct and speech between those assembled and that to which I had been normally accustomed, convinced me that the "Sabbath" and other similar questions must be correct. Here was a religious belief that worked, and when the teaching staff at the theological college became aware of my conviction to join the Adventist movement the reaction was indeed violent. Not only was I a menace, a person who was both mentally and emotionally unbalanced, but by my decision I was pushing my boat off the shore and could never return. One individual went so far as to say that in six months I would be nothing more than a disgruntled agnostic!

In all that happened I am convinced that God by His Spirit led me out of modern Babylon to a field of greater service amongst His people. While it is taking time to adjust myself to a completely new way of life, there are some things within the church which have alarmed me. The one that comes immediately to my mind is this matter of paralysis of analysis—the existence of far too much "fence sitting" (people who have the gospel but don't impart it)—resulting in the burden of the work being carried on by the faithful few. To millions within the borders of Christian countries Jesus Christ is only a name. Many are puzzled and searching for an explanation as to their existence. Although people might not outwardly reveal this, the little experience I have had in "rubbing shoulders with the world" has made it only too clear that inwardly they are longing for a knowledge of Christ. Ignorance, not prejudice, is the greatest barrier to be overcome. If we will but give our all to God, and with an earnest determination born of the Spirit go out and compel these spiritually starved and gospel destitute folk to come in, then Christ's coming will not be delayed.

The greatest argument or, should I say, witness, that we can present to the world is for people to see Christ dwelling within you and me.

Australian Record, September 13, 1954.

West Indian Training College News

The presentation of the 1954 Senior class of 30 members on the 20th of October reminds us that graduation week-end is scheduled for December 17-19.

On November 1 the Junior class, also of 30 members, was presented.

On Saturday night, November 6, the ladies of the Dorcas Society gave a fine variety concert in aid of local charity. In spite of the inclemency of the weather the attendance was very encouraging.

November 7. What is happening in the dining room? The faculty and staff members seem to be very busy today. Keep looking around and at 7:30 p.m. you will see the Seniors coming to the dining room all dressed and in their gayest moods. Tonight they attend the informal dinner given by the faculty and staff.

November 14-20. Why is everyone so sedate? Well, don't you know this is Culture Week, we must put into practice what we learn.

A beautiful baptismal pool has recently been built and we are looking forward to our first baptism therein on the 27th of November.

A very useful as well as attractive looking addition to our auditorium indeed are the drapes made by the ladies of the Dorcas Society.

—K. V. GREENE

The British West Indies Union Visitor

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