

VISITOR

Bahamas East Jamaica West Jamaica Caymans Turks & Caicos

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The General Conference President Speaks To The Church.

What does loyalty to God's organization mean? Manifestly, it means moving forward with God's established plan of activity, not launching out independently as whim or fancy may dictate. "I was shown that it is Satan's special work to lead men to feel that it is God's order for them to strike out for themselves, and choose their own course, independent of their brethren." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 29.

It is true in religious activity, as in all others, that in unity there is strength. Though one alone may be able to chase one thousand, if two work together, they can accomplish ten times as much, and chase ten thousand. How much more can the united efforts of one million accomplish for God!

A loyal Seventh-day Adventist is faithful in church attendance. Not only is he found worshipping in the house of God on the Sabbath, but he also enters into his church's plans and activities. He identifies himself with his church and with what it does. He does not say "they," he says "we."

He will recognize that in planning to meet the financial needs of the world work and to ensure fair and equitable treatment of all fields, a central body must survey the needs of the entire world and divide funds fairly among all sections of the field. In this way a proper balance can be maintained and the work established on a firm, equal basis. Good intentions to help a certain field directly have, in certain instances, actually resulted in confusion, and even discouragement. The field receiving the special favours was built up on such income, and when the support suddenly ceased, as it always does sooner or later, it was not possible to maintain the work on the same level. It can readily be seen that a regular, established plan whereby funds for the world work come into a central pool, and from which all receive help, has great advantages.

A loyal Seventh-day Adventist will not support by word or act anyone who arises to weaken or tear down what God has guided in establishing. He will

not engage in, nor listen to, destructive criticism. Suggestions and counsel that he believes may be helpful, he will freely send to proper individuals for consideration, recognizing at the same time that the brethren may not see as much in the suggestion as he does, although sometimes such suggestions have proved very helpful.

A loyal Seventh-day Adventist will foster a spirit of confidence in his church organization. He will not go about sadly shaking his head and murmuring, "The old organization is going to pieces." It is not going to pieces. In the words of the messenger of the Lord, it is a "grand success" and is carrying to the world Heaven's last message of warning. Imperfect? Enfeebled? Yes, but still the object of Christ's supreme regard. Despite the imperfection of many of the members, God is using His church, and He will continue to do so until His work on earth is completed and His church fully perfected.

A loyal Seventh-day Adventist safeguards and conserves his funds. There have always been those who have come with plausible stories, endeavouring to persuade members to send to them their tithes and offerings. Occasionally the talk has been so persuasive that numbers have been induced to turn over to such persons funds that should rightly have come into the church. Such a practice only encourages and strengthens those who are carrying on subversive activities. Church giving is safe and effective giving.

A loyal Seventh-day Adventist will recognize that merely joining the church and engaging in its activities is in itself not sufficient to include him with God's elect. He must be a newborn creature and daily growing in grace if he is to pass successfully the divine scrutiny in the last great day. He must be a constant, living exposition of God's great system of truth.

How God needs loyal Seventh-day Adventists today who shall verily be lights to the world! God grant that we may all meet His expectations of loyalty in these momentous times.

R. R. Figuhr.

Comparative Statistical Summary

	Organized Churches	Membership	Baptisms	Profession of Faith	Sabbath Schools	S.S. Membership	Church Schools	C.S. Enrolment
BAHAMAS	1953	19	960	55	24	765	2	230
	1954	22	875	40	26	800	3	235
GAYMAN ISLANDS	1953							
	1954	2	135	3	6	216	1	35
EAST JAMAICA	1953	103	10317	1029	11	114	10697	4
	1954	104	10862	1123	12	115	11151	6
WEST JAMAICA	1953	144	10497	1474	16	156	10829	13
	1954	155	11293	1382	25	167	12837	13
B.W.I. UNION	1953	266	21504	2558	27	294	22291	19
	1954	283	23165	2548	37	314	25004	23

The readers of the *Visitor* will no doubt be interested in the statistical gains made in the British West Indies Union in 1954 over 1953, a summary of which is being placed before you. We are happy to see that the church membership of the union has now passed the twenty-three-thousand mark by one hundred and seventy five, and that the Sabbath school membership is just over twenty five thousand.

There are some things in this report that we would especially like to call your attention to: first, the baptisms for 1954 are ten less than in 1953, while those taken in on profession of faith were ten more in 1954 than in 1953, so that the baptisms and profession of faith added together were exactly the same the two years. We trust that 1955 will show a very material gain over these two last years.

With over twenty five thousand Seventh-day Adventists in this union, it would seem that there is very much more that we can do for the education of our children, when the figures reveal that less than two thousand are in church schools. We realize that two things militate against our church school enrolment: (1) the majority of our members are poor, and (2) elementary education in Jamaica is free. But, we must not lose sight of the fact that while Seventh-day Adventist children are eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the elementary schools, those in our church schools have the privilege of eating of the fruit of the tree of life. Upon which fruit do we want our children to grow?

The West Jamaica Conference for the last couple of years has been pushing the matter of Christian education by urging all the members of that conference to contribute a farthing out of each shilling earned for the education of Seventh-day Adventist youth in church schools. As a result, this conference with about the same membership, has twice as many church schools and twice as many children in the church schools as the East Jamaica Conference. We would like to urge all the fields of the British West Indies Union to take the burden of Christian education upon our hearts and to follow the example of West Jamaica

in contributing this one farthing out of every shilling as faithfully as they contribute five farthings out of every shilling for tithe. If we would all do this we would certainly see a different picture where Christian education is concerned.

We praise God for the good gains that were made in 1954 in almost every line, but there is far more that we can still do if all God's people would be willing to make greater sacrifices as we see the time of our opportunities rapidly coming to a close.

ALLAN C. STOCKHAUSEN

CAYMAN ISLANDS MISSION

Pres. W. O. COMM
Secy.-Treas. R. S. BLACKBURN

Cayman Islands News

The Truth for Today series was officially closed at West Bay on Sunday night, February 6. Regular services will still be continued, however, three nights a week to hold the interests and to conduct a baptismal class. After twelve weeks of concentrated effort four have been baptized and twenty-one organized into a baptismal class. Opposition, and in some cases persecution, have not caused the interest in the message to wane.

The Missionary Volunteer society at West Bay with the inspiration of a goodly number of new members, recently organized for Progressive classes with 28 members joining to work out the requirements. The Georgetown and East End clubs are also working hard on their requirements in preparation for investiture in early spring.

The mission family was happily surprised by the arrival of Brother Dudley Mahabee by plane on January 18. Brother Mahabee comes to fill the vacancy left by Brother Cyril Newman.

Brother and Sister Newman left on heavy seas by the motor vessel "Merco" en route for Kingston on January 30. The harvest of souls coming to fruition in West Bay is due largely to the faithful seed-sowing by Brother Newman. Our

prayers and sincere best wishes follow them to their next field of labour.

—Walter O. Comm.

BAHAMAS MISSION

Pres. H. D. COLBURN
Secy.-Treas. CYRIL TENNENT

Convention in Andros Island

This year is one of special interest to the out-islands of the Bahamas. Hitherto difficulty in transportation had caused the far-away islands to be rarely visited by our meagre staff of workers, but now these islands are seeing on the horizon the radiant gleams of a golden morning. A convention on Andros Island has been the harbinger of a new era for the scattered islands of the Bahamas. Similar conventions are planned for Eleuthera, Cat Island, Exuma, Long Island, San Salvador, and Crooked Island.

Journey to Kemps Bay

At eleven o'clock on Sabbath morning, January 29th, Elder Colburn and I boarded the plane for Mangrove Cay, as the mailboat was off the run for that week. We sensed our responsibility, but could not help shuddering as we thought of the journey before us. After twenty minutes of flying, our plane landed in the smooth waters of Mangrove Cay; from here the hard part of the journey began. Thirty miles of rugged country lay before us. How should we get to Kemps Bay? Should we hire a taxi-cab? No, there are no automobiles in that part of the world, and what is worse, there are no roads either. We heard that there were two motorboats there, one of which could be hired, but both of these were out of gasolene. The sun was going rapidly across the heavens and in desperation we climbed into a small sailboat which was nicknamed "Submarine" as more of it was under water than that which was above. In this we set sail. I refrain from telling the story of this part of the journey for if God had not protected us through we would not have had anything at all to tell.

Meeting the Brethren

They came from Black Point, Little Creek, Deep Creek, Smith Hill, journeying on foot along the beaches or sculling their dinghies (boats) along the shallow waters. These faithful smiling members surmounted every obstacle in order to attend this convocation.

Before entering into the day's discussion, Elder Colburn led us through a period of devotion and then brought before us a report of the progress of the work in the other sections of the Bahamas.

It is very interesting to note that each Sabbath school superintendent when asked how she could improve her Sabbath school

replied, "If the members would only attend regularly, we would have a better school." The attendance problem seems to be the great difficulty here, and in order to combat this we suggested firstly, that every family should have morning and evening worship, one of which period should be dedicated to the study of the Sabbath school lesson. There would be a greater inclination on the part of the member who studied his lesson to attend Sabbath school, than there would be with one who did not study at all. Secondly, it was decided that if each teacher would visit any member who happened to have been absent from his class for two successive Sabbaths, the attendance problem would not be so acute as it is at the present.

Lay Evangelism Planned

The ground work for lay evangelistic campaigns throughout the field was laid during this convention. Plans are being made to start these efforts within three months, when the remaining portion of the territory shall have been visited on the same basis as was Andros. We are still making a strong appeal for help from the faithful group of laymen we have. "When we turn to the task of evangelistic preaching," said Doctor William Temple, archbishop of Canterbury, "we must call on the laity. It is impossible for the clergy and ministers alone to preach the gospel to the detached multitudes."

Our islands are numerous and far apart. Our means of travel is slow and unreliable. Our working staff is limited and our helpfulness is strained. Ready help can come only from our laymen to whom we are now calling. Of course, they will need organization as well as mobilization, so to this end we pray, "Send down upon us all the Holy Ghost, O God."

In the evening nearly the entire village was gathered to see motion pictures of a General Conference Session. Interest began to stir as men realized the enormity of the Advent Movement, so much so that the film was repeated the following night. This time the school room was packed to capacity with people who came from five surrounding villages. What an opportunity! What a brilliant start for this island! The faithful members are now doing personal visitation preparing the field for the approaching lay evangelistic effort.

Pressure of duty back in Nassau forced Elder Colburn to leave, but the writer remained to conduct revival meetings for the balance of the week. Our good president had to ride on the back of Brother Barnes' little motorcycle; sometimes riding on the beach, sometimes walking over rough paths, sometimes helping to lift the machine over jagged rocks. This was his means of travel for more than twenty miles before taking a ferry boat across a creak and running six miles to Mangrove Cay to catch a

plane going to Nassau. Four days later I had to use the same method of travel and undergo the same circumstances, as the mailboat was off schedule, nevertheless the work goes on and God and heaven are still our own.

—L. S. BINNS, *Home Missionary and Sabbath School Secretary.*

EAST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

Pres. R. E. DELAFIELD

Secy.-Treas.

News Notes

A few weeks ago Elder R. E. Delafield became seriously ill and was subsequently removed to the Andrews Memorial Hospital. He is now at home, the Lord having been gracious unto him, but is not yet able to resume his duties. We know the Lord has heard the prayers that have ascended to heaven on his behalf, and our merciful heavenly Father will restore him to health according to His will.

Until the new duly appointed secretary-treasurer arrives, Elder E. H. Schneider was appointed to act in that capacity for the East Jamaica Conference. We are happy to welcome Elder Schneider to our conference. Already he has proven to be a friend to all.

We also welcome Brother A. Green to our Book & Bible House as Assistant Manager, and Miss D. Williams to our secretarial staff. We know their stay with us will be a blessing to all. In the field we welcome Brothers Roy Ashmeade and Noel Fraser. We know the Lord will use their consecrated services to His glory and the advancement of His Cause in this conference.

With reluctance we say goodbye to Miss E. W. Parchment, our former secretary-treasurer. We wish her God's richest blessings in her new sphere of labour, and are confident that the Lord will continue to use her there, as He did here, to help finish the work and usher in His kingdom of peace and glory.

From Elder J. N. Williams' district comes the report of a Hindu lady who accepted Christianity and was baptized into the Advent faith. Missionary work was done with her sister, whose husband is a Hindu priest. All efforts seemed in vain, until on her sick bed she called for the Pastor, confessed her belief in the Lord Jesus, and her desire to join with the people of God. She was too weak to be baptized and subsequently was received into church fellowship. She continued faithfully for six months and passed a few days ago. The testimony of one gentleman at the funeral was that she had spent six months with Jesus.

From Camberwell comes another report of a crippled lady to whom this message was presented. She accepted it, and

by obeying the voice of God she found His healing power. Although 87 years of age, she is now a baptized member walking to church services. Surely the power of God is the same today as when He walked on the earth.

Elder E. C. Walton, now holding an effort at Mt. Moreland, St. Catherine, reports that he is having a good interest and is looking forward to a good harvest of souls. His lay preachers are on the march for God. The church members are of good courage, getting ready to go forward in 1955 Ingathering.

"The fields are all white . . . ready for harvest." Truly this is the condition in St. Catherine No. 3 District, particularly at the Palm church where Brother T. O. Shaw is conducting a revival, intended for two weeks. The crowd was so large that he decided to keep on for two more weeks. At the end of the second Sunday night's service 16 precious souls took their stand to obey the Sabbath of the Lord, and personal work is being done for 50 individuals. Indications are that this small revival will blossom forth into a major evangelistic effort with rich fruitage for the Lord.

Brother K. Samuels is in the midst of a revival at the Greenwich Town Church. The interest there is fair, and a Bible class of 35 has been organized. Let us pray for these honest seekers of truth.

A series of church officers conventions were conducted with very good results in several districts of our conference. It was inspiring to note the interest displayed and the fellowship manifested by believers and particularly church officers as they received counsels and instructions for the carrying of the gospel to all corners of the conference.

Beginning March 7, there will be a series of regional Layman's Institutes all over the East Jamaica Conference, starting in the St. Thomas district. Many of our laymen are already holding efforts, and others are planning to start right after the Institute. We know there are many ripe sheaves awaiting those faithful reapers for the Master.

A few weeks ago the stonelaying ceremony of the Bonny Gate church was held. Our hearts rejoice as the foundation of a new monument to God's glory is laid. Elder and Mrs. E. H. Schneider of the British West Indies Union and the East Jamaica Conference were present at this function and laid stones for the two mentioned organizations. Plans are on the way for a similar service at Islington in East St. Mary No. 2.

The new Spanish Town church building is now on the way on its new site. Half of the foundation is already in, and we are looking forward to its speedy completion and dedication to the glory of God.

Wedding bells again chimed March 3 as Brother Kenneth Lewis took for his bride Miss Mildred Burrell. This couple will be labouring in the parish of Portland. May the Lord's blessing rest on this newly established home.

—VINNETTE E. WALKER

WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

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

News from the West

Elder Palmer and Brother Henry are now in an evangelistic effort at George's Valley, St. Elizabeth. Over 100 are enrolled in the Bible class. The brethren are praying and working hard; they ask for the prayers of the believers that the Lord will bless their endeavours in this section of the field.

On February 7 a church leaders' council was conducted at Lucea for the western Hanover district. Elder Greene had a very fine programme for the day. There was a spirit of fellowship and unity throughout the meeting. The western district of Hanover pledged, under God, to see at least 200 souls won to the church this year. At the present time over 130 are enrolled in their baptismal classes.

A goodly number of lay efforts are now in progress throughout the conference. Some of the larger efforts in progress are: Elder Holness' at John's Hall; Brethren Beyd and Bennett's at Alderton; Brother Rupert Henry's at James Hill; Elder Harold Fletcher's at Royal Flat; Elder Morrison's at New Green; Elder Lindo's at Resource. The students of the West Indian Training College, under the guidance of Elders Mote and Nation, are also conducting three efforts. Ere this *Visitor* reaches you there will be about four other efforts in progress. We solicit your prayers that the Lord will bless these endeavours to the honour and glory of His name.

There are now 172 churches throughout West Jamaica. At the present time our Sabbath school department is promoting very strongly the plan of on branch school to every church and company and our churches are responding encouragingly. We wish to urge that every Sabbath school superintendent lay plans with his Sabbath school council to see that a branch school is started in his church before the end of the quarter.

The spirit of Christian education is moving like a wild fire over West Jamaica Conference, but at the present time there are 8 churches that are planning definitely to establish regular schools in the near future. These churches are as follows: Blackwoods, Coleyville, George's Plain, Grove Town, May Pen, Mount Horeb, Santa Cruz and Spring Garden. Under the leadership of Elder Joe Fletcher our people are rallying to the "farthing in the shilling" for Christian education. We wish to urge our church leaders to keep this before our people each week.

In the book of Malachi God tells His

BRITISH WEST INDIES UNION MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS' Tithe and Mission Offering Comparison 1953 & 1954

Organization	TITHE RECEIPTS				MISSION OFFERINGS				
	1953		1954		1953		1954		
			Gain	Gain %			Gain	Gain %	
Bahamas	5333	0 7	5682	10 2	349	9 7	6.6	1539	13 8
Cayman Is.	806	10 1	1778	0 11	971	10 10	121.6	248	19 11
East Ja.	22071	12 2	24644	12 6	2573	0 4	11.8	6454	1 11
West Ja.	22274	18 10	23984	7 7	1709	8 9	7.7	7275	17 7
	50486	1 8	56089	11 2	5603	9 6	11.2	15518	13 1
								16755	0 8
								1236	7 7
								8.0	

A Word of Thanks

In this issue of the *Visitor* we are giving our readers a comparative summary of the Tithe and Mission Offerings received in 1954.

We are happy to say there was a fine gain in tithe receipts in every part of our Union territory. These gains added together make a total of £5,603. 9. 6. Surely, the Lord will not overlook the faithfulness of his people and I am sure that His blessings which are promised as a reward of faithfulness will mean much to the families and the individuals who are faithful in the matter of tithe.

The Mission Offerings showed a gain of £1,236. 7. 7 over those in 1953. More than one-half of this total came as a re-

people, "ye have robbed me in tithes and offerings." The tithes we must pay for the support of the ministry—the offerings we must give for the support of Christian education. Both are vital; both are important in the sight of God. The paying of our tithes and the giving of offerings reveal our loyalty to God.

It is our hope and plan, with Heaven's blessing, to see all our children gathered from worldly schools into our own schools. The work in West Jamaica will not be finished until every Adventist child is found in an Adventist school. The servant of the Lord tells us, "Our church schools have been appointed as training camps to train our children to take their part to proclaim the message when the older ones will not be able to do it." Are you doing your part?

Under the energetic leadership of brethren Grant and Wallace, our colporteurs have started out this year in a most encouraging way. This year promises to be a most outstanding one for these faithful bookmen. There are still large areas of our conference without the presence of a colporteur. We wish at this moment to make an earnest appeal to men throughout our field who are desirous of uniting in this phase of God's work. If you feel the call of God in this direction, may I urge that you contact the publishing secretaries of our conference immediately.

To young men and women who are desirous of a Christian education, here is a golden opportunity to earn your way through school by gaining a scholarship.

sult of the splendid co-operation of our members during the Ingathering campaign. Most of the remainder came in through Sabbath School offerings. It is good to share however little we may have with others. In this way we can enter into the experience of Jesus who gave His life as a sacrifice for us.

To me, it seems appropriate that a word of thanks and appreciation should be passed on to you who have made this good report possible. I trust that we shall all continue to be faithful in our financial obligations to the Lord's work, so that our workers can enter new territories and find additional souls for the kingdom of God. What a privilege it is to have a part in their labours by providing the means which this glorious work requires!

—R. S. BLACKBURN—

During the month of February four conventions were conducted in our conference. They were as follows:- St. James, Trelawny, Clarendon, and St. Ann. These conventions have been very enjoyable; our people have turned out in a most encouraging way, and the inspiration received will be crystallized into a forward movement for Christ in '55. There are four other conventions to be held at the following places:-

13th of March Savanna-la-mar
20th of March Lucea
27th of March Mandeville
3rd of April Santa Cruz

May we appeal to all our church members to endeavour to attend these meetings and invite interested ones to come along with them.

—H. S. WALTERS—

The British West Indies Union Visitor

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