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The Adventist and the Holiday Season

-by V. G. Anderson

... and on Earth Deace. Goodwill Toward Men"

One night, about nineteen hundred years ago, a strange and glorious announcement was made. An angel from heaven made known to shepherds abiding in the field: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
"Let us now go," said the shepherds one to another, "and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord bath made known unto us," They went in baste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe, just as the angel

Previous to this, the angel had announced Mary that the babe should be named JESUS, for "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David and of His kingdom there shall be no end."

That birth meant much to those shepherds and the world. Time and distance have detracted not one iota of its meaning. So great was the love of God for the world that He gave His Son, that babe, that all who believe in Him might have everlasting life. In that one gift, all heaven was poured out.

The story of Bethlehem is an exhaustless theme but how little has been learnt of its meaning! With amazement heavenly messengers behold the indifference of the world toward sacred truth. In their strife for riches and worldly honour many are not prepared for a revelation of the Messiah. Only a few long to behold the Unseen.

Read again the announcement of that birth during the Christmas Season. Let that "peace which passeth all understanding" fill your hearts. "Goodwill" may not abound in the world today but it can abide in your heart. The entire staff of the British West Indies Union Mission join with me in wishing you the most joyful and blessed Christmas Season you have ever had.

-R. S. BLACKBURN.

The holiday season will soon be with us. I am eager that we shall approach the Christmas and New Year's holidays in a positive way, rather than from the negative viewpoint. We all know that Christ was not born on December 25, but is it possible that our negative approach to Christmas has caused many people to feel that Seventh-day Adventists do not believe in Christ? Even though there is a question about the date, Seventhday Adventists above all people should have what might be called the spirit of Christmas in their hearts not only during the holiday season but throughout the year as well,

In families, especially where there are children, I do not believe we can afford to take the attitude that we will have no Christmas in our homes. More harm than good will result from such a course of action. When our children see that the rest of the people of the world are in a happy mood and are making many references to Christ, they cannot help but be impressed negatively when we ignore the holiday season. We must therefore plan wisely as this season approaches.

We can always explain to our children that we do not know the exact date of Christ's birth, but that His birth was one of the most wonderful events in the hsitory of mankind, and as God gave His greatest gift to the world in the person of His Son Jesus, so we in turn should give our lives in service for Him. The strength of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is unity, and I believe we can present a united approach to the holiday season as we encourage our people to unite in a proper spirit of giving.

The holiday season is one of the happiest of the year, and people, in general are in a better mood at that time than might be true otherwise. We should not carry this to a spirit of hilarity, but certainly we should be happy Seventh-day Adventist Christians. Let us plan for church gatherings, not only for the new year, but also at the Christmas Season. In our Sabbath schools let us do all we can te interest our children in the greatest of all gifts-Jesus, who gave Himself on Calvary's

I believe we can do much to strengthen our church work by celebrating the new year by having a special service. I believe in newyear resolutions! As progress is made, drive a stake, and from that point go on to further achievements and victories. The apostle Paul speaks about pressing toward the mark. In our MV groups I think it would be well to have a planned programme the last night of the year and usher in the new year with a special service for dedication for a new year of service. If we do not plan something for our young people, others will,

Isn't it surprising that the Spirit of prophecy has spoken on so many subjects that we discuss these days? This ought to bring new confidence to us as we realize that more than seventy years ago God informed us by sending the following messages concerning the holiday season:

"Christmas is coming, is the note that is sounded throughout our world from east to west and from north to south. With youth, those of mature age, and even the aged, it is a period of general rejoicing, of great gladness. But what is Christmas, that it should demand so much attention?

"The twenty-fifth of December is supposed to be the day of the birth of Jesus Christ, and its observance has become customary and popular. But yet there is no certainty that we are keeping the veritable day of our Saviour's birth. History gives us no certain assurance of this. The Bible does not give us the precise time. Had the Lord deemed this knowledge essential to our salvation, He would have spoken through His propbets and apostles, that we might know all about the matter. But the silence of the Scriptures upon this point evidences to us that it is hidden from us for the wisest of purposes.

"In His wisdom the Lord concealed the place where He buried Moses secrecy was to prevent idolatry the very same purpose He has concealed the precise day of Christ's birth, that the day should not receive the honour that should be given to Christ as the Redeemer of the world one to be received, to be trusted, to be relied on as He could save to the utmost all who come unto Him. The soul's adoration should be given to Jesus as the Son of the infinite God."

"As the twenty-fifth of December is observed to commemorate the birth of Christ, as the children have been instructed by pre-

LIBRARY PACIFIC UNION CULLEGE cept and example that this was indeed a day of gladness and rejoicing, you will find it a difficult matter to pass over this period without giving it some attention. It can be made

to serve a very good purpose.

"The youth should be treated very carefully. They should not be left on Christmas to find their own amusement in vanity and pleasure seeking, in amusement which will be detrimental to their spirituality. Parents can control this matter by turning the minds and the offerings of their children to God and His cause and the salvation of souls.

"The desire for amusement, instead of being quenched and arbitrarily ruled down, should be controlled and directed by painstaking effort upon the part of the parents. Their desire to make gifts may be turned into pure and holy channels and made to result in good to our fellow men by supplying the treasury in the great, grand work for which Christ came into this world"

"The holiday season is fast approaching with its interchange of gifts, and old and young are intently studying what they can bestow upon their friends as a token of affectionate rememberance. It is pleasant to receive a gift, however small, from those we love. It is an assurance that we are not forgotten, and seems to bind us to them a little

closer "

"It is right to bestow upon one another tokens of love and remembrance if we do not in this forget God, our best friend. We should make our gifts such as will prove a real benefit to the receiver. I would recommend such books as will be an aid in understanding the word of God or that will increase our love for its precepts.". The Adventist Home, pp. 477-479.

What is nicer than to receive a gift from a loved one! I think we are always impressed by a gift. To refrain from giving takes away one of the finest privileges of life. But our truly generous giving should be to God, who has given the greatest gift of all for us.

I believe we should make special gifts through the Sabbath school and for the Lord's work in general during the Christmas season.

The holiday season comes very close to the Week of Prayer. O how much these Weeks of Prayer have done for our schools and churches! Let us plan wisely that the holiday season may be a continuation of the Christian life that was strengthened by the Week of Prayer. In planning wholesome gatherings let us not only make them happy occasions but ones that will honour God.

(Copied from Review and Herald)

With the British West Indies Union Mission Publishing Department

Deliveries for 9 months of 1955 compared with 1954:

January to September 1954 . £19,927 12 8
" " " 1955 . £21,515 2 10
Gain . £ 1,587 10 2

"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teachings in our past history." Mrs. E. G. White speaking to us in Volume 6, page 478, said as long as probation continues there will be opportunity for the canvasser to work. Our publications can go to places where meetings cannot be held. By the canvassing work the truth is presented to thousands who otherwise would never hear it. Review & Herald, Oct. 1902.

A university teacher recently told me that he hated Seventh-day Adventists and did every thing even to go out of his way to oppose them, until he read one of our books. It interested him so much he could not resist reading others. It was not long when he became an Adventist and is now using every energy of his life to convince others of the truthfulness and importance of the Third Angel's Message.

These were the words of an influential lady who read the Desire of Ages while attending our hospital: "Why, a little people like you ought not to have this book. It should be in the hand of the great London publishers so it could be brought to the attention of all." Naturally she read the books by the same author and was amazed at their wonderful beauty, "That author is inspired", she declared, and wrote this testi-monial: "After a lifetime of studying the religions of the world, - the efforts of the human soul to get into contact with the Infinite, I have come across by Ellen G. White the very name of which describes its motive. "The Desire of Ages." Since reading this truly wonderful book, my most ardent wish for this suffering, distraught world is that every man and woman should become through its pages familiar with its supreme subject. I can imagine no gift to mankind that would help humanity more really to live, for in it are indeed the words of eternal life." This testimony from an outsider should inspire us S. D. A.'s. to read more of our wonderful truthfilled books. Get in touch with our Book and Bible House and they will help you to get your library established.

-B. E. HURST

News From the Bahamas Mission

PROGRESS OF NEW MISSION OFFICE BUILDING

By the time this December issue of the VISITOR leaves the press, the Bahamas Mission Family will have moved into its permanent home, thus ending more than forty years of living in rented basements, attics and other quarters which have often been inadequate and unsatisfactory, for, according to present plans, we will be moving out of our present quarters which are in an attic over a garage, into the spacious building which is rapidly nearing completion on East Shirley Street.

The new office building, located on this second most important street in Nassau, and on which ninety percent of all east-bound traffic flows from down-town Nassau, has already become a "landmark," being a three story building. Not only will it provide the necessary accommodations for the Mission staff, thus making their work much easier,

but it is a building which brings even now, before its completion, credit to the Seventhday Adventist organization here in the Bahamas.

It combines the best in Bahamian architecture with a touch of American designs here and there. For instance, the corner-stone effect, which stems from slavery days when the important buildings were erected of cut or sawn stones, has been worked into the corners by the masons, and the typical Nassau "keys" over the windows also help to retain this interesting type of construction proceedure which has been a vogue in Nassau for two centuries. The architect then drew from the modern and functional designs so prevalent in Miami, in the treatment of the front of the building where their is recessed and indirect lighting. A split-level which calls for two steps from the lobby floor to the main corridor, has been borrowed from present day building trends, where the contour of the land makes it possible.

Besides the ground floor, which will house the various administrative, departmental and Book & Bible House quarters, the building has two more floors above, the second which has been designed for doctors' offices and the third for two apartments, both of which are served from an outside concrete stairway, as well as an inside flight of stairs.

The construction has been under the direction of two of our Seventh-day Adventist brethren, Arthur Roach and Solomon Ward, both of whom have worked untiringly to bring the building to completion in the quickest possible time as well as to save the Mission as much money as possible. The speed and efficiency with which these men have worked have brought most favourable comments from the residents in the area as well as from many who daily drive by and have watched the progress of the building programme. They have had in their employ, a goodly number of other Adventist brethren, all of whom have worked with a will to finish the job quickly and economically.

Early in the construction programme, the Mission purchased a six cubic yard dump truck in order to cut down hauling cost, and Brother William Nairn, our esteemed Home Missionary and Sabbath School Secretary, has been at the controls of this over-enginecab, heavy duty truck, most of the time bringing rock and sand and cement and lumber, and hauling away earth and anything else needing to be moved. The truck, incidentally has already paid for itself in savings effected. The writer has commuted from building job, to building supply houses, to Mission office, to architect's office, endeavouring to keep things moving smoothly and to assure no slowing up of the work due to lack of materials, plans, or other help when needed.

The Bahamas Mission will always be prateful to the membership of the Mission, the Union and Division, for giving of their means and prayers to make this dream a reality. We are confident that a far stronger Mission programme can be carried out as a result of this important step forward in providing for the permanent Mission Home.

-H. D. Colburn President, Bahamas Mission.

December, 1955

"'We Never Saw Nor Heard Such Things As These"

The first rays of truth penetrated the soil of North Palmetto Point through the ministry of the Voice of Prophecy. Soon interest developed and in response to repeated calls for help, Elder Lee Gouldbourne was appointed to conduct an effort there. The first fruits were four souls to follow the Light. After his departure the remaining brethren under the leadership of Brother Richard Hutchinson kept the torch ablaze.

Sensing the need for a strong vanguard, the brethren sent several appeals to the Mission, resulting in the sending of Brother L. S. Binns and the writer to lead out. This was in June of this year. Our first meeting night witnessed a packed church and after the evening's message persons were heard saying: "We never saw or heard such things as these!"

Early in the campaign we saw the need of a place of worship. Our appeal to the Mission resulted in the sacrificial effort of our President, Elder H. D. Colburn, in providing the necessary material for construction. Soon the brethren were helping us to build, at the sacrifice of their labours on their farms. Brother Edwards and Brother Hutchinson as men, stood by Brother Binns and me, and with the reduced cost of labour which the local tradesmen provided, we were able to complete the building in three months. Brother Binns led out and worked hard and faithfully in this building programme.

Following Brother Binns' departure to Jamaica, we continued the evangelistic programme aided firstly by Sister Ena Nooks who gave up her vacation to do Bible work and also Pastor A. R. Haig who ably spearheaded the way to our early baptism. On the bright morn of October 16, six precious souls dedicated their lives in service to God and man. Pastor H. D. Colburn officiated.

Three weeks later we were privileged to have Pastors Stockhausen and Colburn and Brother W. W. Antonio fly over from Nassau and dedicate another lighthouse, incidentally situated on a hill in the centre of the settlement, to shine for God. Pastor Stockhausen's dedicatory sermon: "And the Glory of the Lord Filled the House," presented the need of consecration in our individual lives if God's glory is to dwell with us. Pastor Colburn led in the dedication of the building. The interest is great and the need preater. Soon we hope to have another bantism. We solicit the sincere prayers of the Advent family in this region that the truth may shine forth gloriously in this corner of the Lord's harvest field.

VICTOR S. GRIFFITIIS Leader, Eleuthera District

Tidings From East Jamaica

With a confidence and a courage born of heaven, the East Jamaica Conference constituency is moving forward for the closing events of 1955. Much is still to be accomplished in the few weeks that remain of this year. The year has been eventful in the working personnel of the conference. Leadership has changed; many of our church leaders have gone to the United Kingdom; others of our brethren have journeyed to the States, some to seek their fortune, others to seek higher education. Surely, this is the Advent Movement. As the Spirit of Prophecy indicates we are enacting the events foretold years ago, —events which would characterize the closing days of earth's history.

Everywhere we can sense the spirit of courage that is felt in the hearts and lives of our brethren all over the conference. We are of the strong opinion that the events we see transpiring in the world are the closing events. We believe that the signs we see are indicative of the return of our Lord. They are the harbingers of what we know is in the immediate future.

As a result of our confidence we are preparing our lives to meet our Lord and Saviour. We are endeavouring to reflect His lovely image. We are preparing to be fully clothed with His righteonsness, for we know that "Only those who are clothed in the garments of His righteousness will be able to endure the glory of His presence when He shall appear with power and great glory.' Review & Herald, July 9, 1908. We are conscious that to be clothed with His righteousness, we as a people must recognize the sinfulness of sin and be ready to call sin by its right name. We as a people must not live in sin and expect to be clothed with the garment of His salvation, for again we are told: "The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin. It is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct." Desire of Ages, p. 555.

No man can live in sin and expect to meet his Saviour with a spotless garment. We must divest ourselves of every vestige of sin and put on the robe of Christ's righteousness, if we would enter into that glorious city prepared for those who are called to be saints. For again we are told: "Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, that are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own unkedness." Prophets and Kings, p. 188. However, to reiterate our opening thought, with a confidence and a courage born of heaven we are sure that "this covering, the robe of His own righteousness. Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul." Christ's Object Lessons, p. 311. And so, our people are of good courage. We are pressing forward; we are trusting in the faithfulness of His promises. knowing that they will be fulfilled in us, as Paul said: "We press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.' Phil. 4:13.

NEWS NOTES

CHURCH ORGANIZATION—On Sunday, November 6th, Pastor V. T. Boyce and your humble servant left our homes early in the morning to journey to Annotto Bay where we met Pastor L. Herbert Fletcher, who conducted us to the spot where our Dover church was to be organized. There we found a group of 22 new converts who were to be organized into the Dover Church, along with many

friends filling the bamboo booth that has been erected for a temporary shelter. As we drove up the road we heard them singing the songs of Zion. We also heard them singing a song that we had never heard before, composed by one of their group, entitled, "Have you heard of the Advent Church," The tune was a catchy one, and soon we were all singing: "Have you heard of the Advent church how she is moving according to prophecy? For the Lord is her leader, and she surely will conquer; have you heard of the Advent church?" It was the first time that we had heard either the words or the music. It thrilled our hearts as the strains of this new song echoed and re-echoed throughout the area of the Dover Church.

After a brief review of the beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists the church was organized, officers wree elected, deacons were ordained, instructions were given, and the church was requested to hid for a place in the sisterhood of churches in the East Jamaica Conference. Another lighthouse was set un for King Jesus that will guide lost souls into His haven of rest. May God richly bless the Dover Church and also its pastor, Brother Fletcher, as they raise the banuer of Prince Empacuel bigh to guide souls into the kingdom of God.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT—The hearts of the officers of the conference were thrilled to read the last colnorteur report. For the first three quarters of 1955 our delivery stands at £1,705 ahead of 1954, God bless our colporteurs, and may God richly reward them for their endeavours. We trust that others in our constituency will be looking forward to this greatest of all work, the work which God would have His people to do at this time.

MISSIONARY RALLIES-Since the last Visitor we have held two important Missionary Rallies in the East: one at Greenwich Town, with the members of the Trench Town church in attendance. Elder C. S. Greene gave strong counsel and advice, supported by our own H. M. Secretary, Elder W. U. supported Campbell. Your humble servant had the privilege of attending these rallies and found the spirit of our people good. Their courses is strong, also their faith in the final triumph of the Advent message. Another one of these rallies was held at Kencot at which time we had the same personnel for counsel with the assistance of Pastor H. E. Nembhard. Again the same note of confidence and courage was seen in our brethren who are doing their part to finish the work of God. Other conventions are planned for East Kingston District at the North Street Church, November 11th, 12th and 13th. May God help us as we press the battle endeavouring to win souls for Christ.

WEDDING BELLS—The nuptial ceremony joining two of our workers in the East Jamaica Conference was performed by Pastor W, U. Campbell at Hope Gardens, November oth, when Brother Arlington Greene, the Manager of our Book & Bible House, was united in holy wedlock to Sister Fay Creary, one of the secretaries of Andrews Memorial Hospital. The beautiful little ceremony was witnessed

by a number of close friends who wished the bride and groom God's richest blessings as they journey along the uneven pathway of life. As they set up their new Christian home the prayers of the East Jamaica Conference family is that God will richly bless them. We pray that their home may be a little Leaven on earth, a type of that future home where we will live in eternal bliss.

CHURCHES NEARING COMPLETION-

In a former notice to the readers of the Visitor we suggested that we were planning for three more churches to be finished for dedication by the end of the year. At the present writing Bath is almost finished and will be ready for dedication December 11th. Woodford also is sure to be dedicated on December 18th. The members of the Burnside Valley church are striving with all muscular and spiritual strength to complete their church for dedication before 1955 closes.

> -E. H. Schneider, President East Jamaica Conference

West Jamaica—News Notes

WEEK OF PRAYER

The Week of Prayer for 1955 has brought added strength and courage to the people in Israel. The readings were dynamic in nature and the meetings were spirit-filled in almost all the churches. Memories of this memorable week will long linger within the breast of every earnest believer.

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS ON FIRE FOR GOD

The Faith of Lutler and Policarp still lives on and burns brightly in the hearts of Missionary Volunteers of West Jamaica,

Warren Carridice, a Missionary Volunteer from Harmons Society and Western Shaw from Vaughansheld very recently gave evidence of this fact by choosing to be sent back home from the United States of America to which they had been recruited, rather than give up their faith. "Will you work on the Sabbath, or shall we send you back to Jamaica?" was the question of the officials before whom these boys were arraigned. Warren, who had worked only four days, thus having only tasted of the waters of opportunity, said, "Send us home." Weston who had evaded this issue for more than a year by leaving the trouble Camp, replied, "We cannot break faith with our fathers."

Warren had no money, but Weston was willing not only to share his faith but also his money and clothing with his fellow Missionary Volunteer. What faith! I say Luther still lives. Today these boys are back home but steadfast; facing need, but trusting in our Chief Missionary Volunteer-Jesus Christ.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EDUCATION-AL DEPARTMENT

The Church School teachers of West Jamaica had success in the recent Jamaica Local Examinations held in July of this year. The report is as follows:-

Montego Bay 4 out of 6 662/3% 75% Vaughansfield 8 6 " 10 Sherwood Content 8 " 80% 4 " " 0 44% Jointwood curely God is leading in the Christian education of our boys and girls. A hearty congratulation to the Church School teachers of West Jamaica.

BIG WEEK CAMPAIGN

The Big Week campaign has been going well throughout the Conference. We do not think that any books will be returned this year. Some churches have sent back for a second supply and thus far, the proceeds of the sale of the books are coming in. At the end of this month the true position in that respect will be revealed. We believe that our Big Week campaign this year will be 100% successful and there shall not be one church in debt at the close of the campaign.

LAY PREACHERS CONTINUE TO BL-IZE THE TRIAL

Brother H. Nunes reports that at Moneague 50 came forward in the appeal he made on Sunday night last at his effort, Nine precious souls are now awaiting the next baptism

Sister McNairn from Orange is engaged in active house to house work and conducting a Branch Sabbath School. She has three candidates awaiting baptism at the earliest

Brother E. R. Anderson is doing an outstanding work in Content, St. Elizabeth, where he is conducting a very successful effort. As a result of this effort a Branch Sabbath School has been started. During the Week of Prayer, meetings were held morning and evening. Brother Anderson writes: "The interest is so high that we have to be planning for a water-tight booth to hold our meetings. New doors are being thrown open to the Message of Truth. Our Bible Class stands at 55 and we have up to 41 members of the class present; the total is approximately too."

Brother Aston Wallace reports that from his efforts at Crooks Bottom six have been baptized. The interest is great and God is

blessing abundantly.

A Branch Sabbath School has been started at a place called Fullerton Park between Aenon Town and Alexandria by the efforts of Sister Enid Robinson and Brother Carter of the Scarborough Church. Twenty-five came out the first Sabbath, some of which are now being prepared for baptism.

At Alston in St. Ann, Brother Langley has built a booth and is conducting a Branch Sabbath School. Already three are being prepared for baptism. Many such reports have come in week by week.

OUR PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM VACATION

Pastor H. S. Walters returned from the United States of America on the 10th of November feeling refreshed and invigorated to

resume his work after a few weeks' vacation. He has brought back the greetings of our brethren in that wonderful country and much inspiration for greater success in the cause

-Belle V. Bent

News Notes Andrews Memorial Hospital—News Notes

Mrs. Maynard, wife of the American Consul was recently a patient at the Hospital for a

Dr. & Mrs. H. L. Rittenhouse were invited on board the "Alcoa Clipper" the evening of November 1. They rendered music at the request of the members of the Los Angeles Breakfast Club who were passengers and had heard them on their programme in Los Augeles. Martin's Tours conducted these same people by the grounds of our Institution earlier

Dr. & Mrs. Alwyn Parchment visited Kingston on October 27, and together with Dr. & Mrs. Martin Hoehn attended the Briftsh Medical Council's after-dinner party held at Dr. Ivan Parboosingh's place. During the course of the evening they met Mr. & Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Stewart is Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Housing, Besides talking with Dr. Parchment of hiswork in Mandeville, they made mention of the favourable impression the outward appearance of Andrews had given them.

Dr. & Mrs. John Rogers of Glendale, California, paid us a visit recently. Dr. Rogers, a practicing dermatologist of the past twentyeight years, and a Professor of C. M. E., has just successfully passed his examination in Washington, D.C., as a skin specialist. He brought word that Dr. Hoelm's brother, Dr. Gus Hoehn, had likewise been successful im passing the same examination.

E HOEHN

The British West Indies Union Visitor

R. S. Blackburn P. Nation

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