

VISITOR

Bahamas East Jamaica West Jamaica Caymans Turks & Caicos

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A Happy New Year To All - From Your Union Treasurer

From Your President

To the Workers and Members of the British West Indies Union Mission:

New Year Greetings! Another year has passed into eternity and we stand on the threshold of 1956. With world conditions what they are, the outlook may be dark, but the uplook is brighter than it has ever been, seeing that we are nearer to the time when the Lord Himself will return in all the brightness of His glory and the glory of the angels. No matter what the future may hold in store for us "we have nothing to fear, except as we forget the way the Lord has led us."

As we take a retrospective look into 1955, are we all satisfied that we have done all that we could have done to lead souls from the pit of despair and degradation on to the Rock Christ Jesus? Do our records in heaven have the sad notation "wasted opportunities?" The old year is past and we can no longer redeem those opportunities that we have slighted, but the new year stretches before us: let us make sure that we do not repeat the mistakes of 1955 during 1956.

The year 1955 has been a good year in many respects—the best ever so far as tithes, mission offerings, and ingathering are concerned. Many hundreds have been brought out of darkness into the light of the Third Angel's Message. Thousands of pounds of literature have been placed in the homes of the people; more than ten thousand persons have been treated at the Andrews Memorial Hospital, and yet we could have done more.

Thank God that we still have the opportunity and privilege of working for Him, and may we cultivate these opportunities to the greatest possible degree, speaking the word in season that will bring salvation to every soul with whom we come in contact.

Wishing you all the richest blessings of Heaven during 1956.

Yours very sincerely,
—ALLAN C. STOCKHAUSEN

A new year has dawned! With it has come a new feeling of expectancy and delight. Just what does its 366 days hold in store for me? for the church? for Jamaica? for the British West Indies Union Mission? and for the world? There is only One who knows the full answer to these questions.

This new year is like a brand new book filled with white and spotless pages. Will these pages remain pure and white when the records of each day are written? This is altogether possible. But it can be accomplished with the aid and through the power of One who is mightier than we. It is only through the life and merits of the spotless Son of God that we can keep our records clean.

Resolutions are good. We should make them every day. Like Joshua we should resolve every morning: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Even though

we might fail at times we need not be discouraged. The Lord's pardon and grace are still available to us. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22, 23.

This new year will be happy and successful only as we find and follow the pathway clearly marked out for us by our great Example. As we follow in His footsteps we may have perfect trust and confidence not only for the New Year, but for all future time.

And so, to each and every reader of the VISITOR we extend our wishes, most sincere and true, that the year 1956 will be one of confidence and progress, happiness and victory. God bless you, every one.

—R. S. BLACKBURN

A Year of Precious Blessings

The year nineteen hundred and fifty-five passes on leaving gratifying memories. This is also true in the Educational and Missionary Volunteer Departments.

It was my privilege to survey our schools throughout the Union and I am glad to report that a good work is being accomplished by our loyal and devoted teachers in the Cayman Islands, Bahamas, East and West Jamaica. Not that we are satisfied with our attainments by any means, but we are confident that God's blessing is upon our educational work as we continue to follow the instructions God has laid down for us at this particular time. Time and space would not allow my mentioning by name, each teacher and the noble part he is acting in this particular phase of God's work, but we do thank God for every one and request the continued prayers and support of the readers of the *Visitor* on behalf of these self-sacrificing men and women during 1956.

Missionary Volunteers, what inspiring times we had at our various Camps in 1955!

How enthusiastically you have entered upon your work of witnessing for Christ! Indeed seventy percent of the support our laymen receive comes from our youth. God bless them!

However, Missionary Volunteers, we are not satisfied with the achievements of 1955, are we? "The path of the just is as a shining light that shineth more and more . . ." Even so must we make greater and greater contributions to the cause of the Master each succeeding year. Now as 1956 dawns with its new vistas of glorious opportunities to you, the youth of the Advent Message, what will you do about it? Jesus invites you to unite your efforts with His in completing the battle of the ages. Soon, yes, very soon the victory song will be sung on the sea of glass. Will you, dear youth who read these lines be one of that number? The privilege is yours. Enlist today and make 1956 tell for God just where you are.

—A. R. HAIG

Building For God in the B. W. I. Union

The days of miracles are not over; it has been no less than a miracle what has been wrought in our church building campaign for 1955. Although our appropriations have been considerably less than that of the past few years, yet the Lord has multiplied the little that we had and as a result we were able to complete 14 new church buildings. With the high cost of materials and labour it has been no easy task to get through with the year's programme; but these churches stand out as monuments to God's wonderful working power and a credit to the cause of truth.

Eight of these monuments are located in West Jamaica Conference, namely:- Warsop, in Trelawny; Axe and Adze, Dias, and Flower Hill, in Hanover; Downs, Porus, Mike Town, and Campbell's Castle, in Manchester. In East Jamaica there are five:- Camberwell, and Port Maria, in St. Mary; Burnside Valley, and Woodford, in St. Andrew; Bath, in St. Thomas. In the Bahamas Mission, there is the North Palmetto Point church on the island of Eleuthera.

In addition to these fourteen, work has been carried on, on 87 unfinished church buildings in the East and West Jamaica Conferences. Some of these are in advanced stages and others we have just started the foundation work.

Our story does not end there; there are many more places from which calls are coming for permission to start buildings. This presents a tremendous financial task to the British West Indies Union and the conferences and missions, and with our intensified evangelistic programme for 1956 there will be many additions to this number. However, we have no fear for the future, remembering how the Lord has led us thus far.

During the past six years we have completed 114 churches in the British West Indies Union. We wish to express to the higher organizations, our conferences and missions, and especially to our loyal members throughout the union as well as to our friends, our sincere thanks for assisting us in the completion of these buildings wherein men and women can gather together to worship God after the dictates of their consciences.

Not only have we been building churches this year, but the readers of the VISITOR will be happy to know that we have completed a beautiful office building in Nassau, Bahamas, under the capable building instructions of Pastor H. D. Colburn. Also we have completed a commodious church school building at Coleyville, in the parish of Manchester. The members are to be highly commended for what they have been able to do under God's guidance there, with the liberal help of the West Jamaica Conference.

Our task in providing houses of worship and school buildings have been growing year by year and will continue to grow as the work progresses. We solicit the prayers of our readers in behalf of this needy phase of our work, and we ask for your material aid also in accomplishing the task.

Greetings From the Bible School

MINISTERS, WORKERS, AND LAYMEN:

The Staff of the Bible Correspondence School greet you!

We thank you for your contribution to the success that has come to our department during the year 1955. The response we have had indicates that the school has been an agency directed by the Lord to bring not only the knowledge of the Advent Message to our friends and neighbours, who as scholars passed through the courses we offer, but more particularly those who are sincere in heart and have been converted and united with the remnant people. We have numerous testimonies sent in to us of the wonderful experiences of so many who have had a change of heart. Here are a few brief statements that convey the feelings of so many:

"I thank God for the Radio Message and the Bible Correspondence Course. My life is changed and I am rejoicing in the truth held by the Advent People."

"I am to be baptized shortly because of what I have studied and learned through the Faith Course."

"Jesus directed me to become a student of the Bible Course and I now believe and am obeying the Sabbath commandment and look for the return of the Master."

"I thank you for your effectual prayers on my behalf. I do not suffer as much, and more, I rejoice in the message of the Sabbath truth."

"I have accepted the Adventist message and I am now keeping the Sabbath and all the members of my family are united with me in worshipping God as Creator, all through the Bible School."

Because of joy and satisfaction to us in the Bible School for our labour of love during 1955, we desire our brethren throughout the field to share the throbs of delight we anticipate in this year, 1956, which we can achieve together by our own personal sacrifice in co-operating with the Bible School. Each of you in your locality may enrol a friend and during the course of study visit and pray with and make plain the subject matter and lead that one over the line on into the baptismal class. You will have come to the thrill, the joy, and the satisfaction of being a co-labourer together with God. This is one means of having a higher, brighter, and more joyous Christian experience.

We look forward with you to the coming of Christ when He will bestow on each of us a star-bedecked crown as a reward for the souls we have won. May the good Lord bless you in this important phase of His work.

—G. A. E. SMITH

A special word of commendation must be given to our loyal district pastors and workers for the noble part they have played and the great sacrifices that they have made in contributing to the success of our building programme. To God be the glory.

—E. E. PARCHMENT

Let Us Press Toward the Mark

Nineteen hundred and fifty five is now history. As we look back on our achievements we cannot help but feel that God has certainly led us to great things. As co-labourers in the Home Missionary department, I want to take this opportunity of thanking each worker and every member for the part you played. Hundreds of souls have been won to Christ, and many of these have been baptized with their Lord. Many have been blessed by the Bible studies given and literature distributed. Many hearts have been cheered and warmed by the kindly help of the Dorcas Society, and only eternity will tell of the various accomplishments performed by the battle-scarred heroes of the cross. Our Ingathering campaign was most successful in every field, and by comparison of what was accomplished in yesteryears, we feel sure that we are on the onward march.

Past accomplishments cannot, however, suffice for the future, and so, under God, the past must of necessity be only a stepping stone to greater and nobler attainments in 1956.

God has permitted us to see 1956. A clean page, a new lease on life has been presented to us. Our future destiny depends upon what we will make of these opportunities, these open doors to success. Every valiant soldier of this great Advent message must fall into the battle lines. Every man, woman and child must arise like one man and go all out for God in this new year; we are almost home. Soon we shall shout, "heaven at last!" We must press on as never before with greater determination and energy to reach the mark of the high calling which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Now is the time to plan in a definite way to contact, win and bring souls to Christ by the various avenues of the Home Missionary department. God is calling you. Now is the time to answer. The world must be warned, and as Sister Ellen G. White expresses it, "Everyone must be pressed into service." You and I cannot disappoint God in these the closing hours of earth's history, for the hour is late, very late. Are you ready now to give unreserved, consecrated service? May God depend on you.

—C. S. GREENE

A Word From Our Publishing Department Secretary

Now that 1955 has become history and we stand upon the threshold of a new year, we feel confident that, like Peter, we are launching out in the deep at the Master's command. New and untried are the days before us, but the Master's promise is sufficient to give us courage. As soldiers under his direction, we are dauntless for we are sure of victory.

Looking back upon 1955 we rejoice, for inasmuch as we are conscious that much more could have been done, yet reports prove that we have done better in 1955 than we did in 1954. Our deliveries in the Union amounted

to £2,358 10 2 above that of last year's. (1955 — £25,167 8 3; 1954 — £22,801 18 1 (for eleven months). In Jamaica alone, the colporteurs made more than one thousand exhibitions. These could quite easily be called sermons, for there are cases where the books were not sold, yet, the persons accepted the message. We are impressed, that few are without excuse for not knowing the truth in this island, because our colporteurs are everywhere.

Our recent colporteur institutes, December 8—21 in both East and West Jamaica Conferences were very successful. Eighty attended in the East and forty in the West. We were very fortunate in having Elder Culpepper, Publishing Secretary of the Inter-American Division, and Brother Clinton VonPohle, factory manager of the Pacific Publishing Press Branch in Brookfield, Illinois, as instructors. The colporteurs are of good courage and are determined to do more than ever in 1956. The leaders are also of good courage and feel that this day of prosperity is the day of opportunity.

It seems an opportune time to announce the departure of Brother Alphanso Reid from the Publishing Department in East Jamaica. His place will be filled by Brother Lloyd Scott, who has been one of the outstanding student colporteurs and who, we feel sure, will capably fill the vacancy.

If there ever was a time when this department needed the prayers and kind thoughts of everyone, it is today. Both in private and in public worship this department needs to be remembered. We are soliciting the help of every church member in scattering literature to help make 1956 a "banner year."

—B. E. HURST

Tidings From East Jamaica

Recently I have been further impressed with the positive evidence that God still rules in the kingdoms of men and is directing in every phase of our work. Constantly we have the reassurance that our loving Heavenly Father is at the helm of the Third Angel's Message, guiding it through the turbulent seas of sin and temptation that gather around us. We can all have the full assurance that our Saviour will guide us at last into that haven of rest where the storms of life and the tempests we all encounter daily will be no more. This safe guidance we solemnly pray for with the assurance that God will hear us.

As a people we need to draw closer to our God in prayer and supplication, realizing that the end is upon us; that soon Jesus will come. However, many of us "do not value the power and efficacy of prayer as we should. Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish." —*Ministry of Healing*, page 509. We have the full assurance in Micah 7:7 that our God will hear us. We also know according to the prophecy of Isaiah 65:24 that before we call our loving Heavenly Father will answer, and while we are yet speaking to Him in prayer He will hear. Should not we therefore like Paul come boldly to the Throne of Grace, thanking our Heavenly Father for His beneficences and supplicating His power in our behalf. May it be said of us that we are a faithful, prayerful people, awaiting the second advent of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It is the prayer of your humble servant that each one will be fully cognizant of the seriousness of the hour in which we live; of the positive assurance of the leading of the Lord; of a recrudescence of power through prayer and holy living for the finishing of God's work here in Jamaica. May God richly bless each reader of the *Visitor*.

NEWS ITEMS

Ordinations:—On Sunday, January 8th, three of our young men will be ordained to the gospel ministry at the North Street Church: Brethren Talbert Shaw, A. A. Morgan, and L. S. Binns. All three of these young men have given evidence of their divine calling to the ministry. We ask the prayers of the readers of the *Visitor* for them as they continue to serve the living God for the salvation of souls.

Stone-Laying:—On Sunday, November 27, a stone-laying ceremony was held at the Glengoffe Church. The church was crowded to overflowing. Many present gathered around the building on the outside during the sermon. We have never seen a more enthusiastic congregation. The spirit of the members at Glengoffe is good. We expect them to press on until their church is rebuilt and rededicated.

Church Dedication:—Just before the hurricane in 1951 the Bath Church was nearing completion, anticipating the date of dedication, and then the storm came. The almost completed church lay in ruins and had to be

News Flashes From West Jamaica

Colporteur Institute:—Once again it was our privilege of having the Colporteurs of West Jamaica meet in their annual institute, December 8-15. This institute was graced with the presence of Brother C. L. VonPohle, representative from the Pacific Press, and Elder J. C. Culpepper, Publishing Secretary of the Inter-American Division. Only eternity will reveal the inspiration and valuable instructions received from the counsels and talks given by these distinguished visitors.

The highlight of this institute was the last meeting in which a very unusual candle-lighting ceremony was held. Elder B. E. Hurst gave the consecration sermons, Elder Culpepper gave the challenge from the Inter-American Division to light Jamaica with the gospel literature and then in succession Pastor Hurst, from the Union to West Jamaica, and Brethren Grant and Wallace to the individual colporteurs. An open book with the words, "Send the Light" was a fit illustration of how the light of the gospel literature would fill Jamaica through the colporteurs. This device was ably done by Brother J. Mullings and Miss Pearl Bell.

A hearty "thank you" to all who helped to make this institute a great success. Surely all the colporteurs left filled with the Spirit and zeal to light every crevice of Jamaica with the gospel literature in 1956.

Church Dedications:—Throughout West Jamaica the following churches were dedicated: Warsop, in the parish of Trelawny, on November 13; Downs, in the parish of St. Elizabeth, on November 20; Dias, in the parish of Hanover, on December 4, and Porus, in the parish of Manchester, on December 11. At all these dedications the work of Seventh-day Adventists was highly extolled by representatives of the public. Surely, this is God's cause and may it be our prayer that when the truth triumphs we too may triumph with it.

Church Leaders' Council:—Our Church Leaders' Council will convene in Mandeville over the week-end of January 6-9. Elder F. L. Peterson of the General Conference and Elder A. H. Roth, president of the Inter-American Division, will be with us. We hope to have every church leader in attendance.

Educational:—December 11 was a very special day for the members of the Coleyville church, for on that day they witnessed the revival of their church school programme by the opening of a new building for that purpose. We rejoice with them in their efforts to foster Christian education in their midst. This function was exceptionally well attended.

The Harrison Memorial High School closed its second term for 1955 on December 9 and reopens on January 9, 1956. A record attendance is anticipated for the coming year.

God continues to bless our church schools in West Jamaica. For the last two weeks Brother A. McLean, our Educational Secretary, has been visiting the schools and making plans for a larger programme in 1956. We hope, under God, to open four new schools the coming year to take care of the lambs of Israel.

—MRS. BELL BENT.

Cayman News

After a week of rich spiritual blessings experienced by the members and visitors at the West Bay church during the annual Week of Prayer and Sacrifice, another series of evangelistic meetings was launched Sunday night, November 13. The church was filled to capacity as Brother Mahabee delivered the opening sermon. Since its dedication a little over a year ago, under the blessing of God, the West Bay membership has doubled, and others have expressed their desire for the sacred rite at the next baptismal service.

For some time a great need has been felt by the Mission Committee and the Georgetown members for a more adequate meeting place for the children's division of the Sabbath school, as well as a suitable home for the Dorcas Society. Plans are now on foot to meet this need in the erection of a fourteen-foot addition across the full width of the church at the rear. A partition cutting off one end will provide for a small vestry and office and leave a fine room for the children's Sabbath school on Sabbaths and headquarters for the Dorcas workers during the week.

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Grateful Thanks From the Bahamas Mission

Through the medium of our beloved *Visitor*, I wish to record the grateful thanks of the Advent Family scattered throughout these Bahamian Islands, for the signal blessing of God upon us during the fruitful year of 1955 which shall become history before this issue goes out into the field.

It has been truly a "year of precious blessings." Over and over again we have recognized our Heavenly Father's care, guidance and help throughout the past months. We have rejoiced to see the largest ingathering of souls in our mission's history. We likewise have been blessed materially, more than ever before, with the increase showing up through an approximate ten per cent gain in tithe. We have been made happy also because 1955 has witnessed the erection of our beautiful new mission office on East Shirley Street.

And right in this connection we want to register our deep gratitude to the Inter-American Division, the British West Indies Union Mission, and to our believers in the Bahamas for their united help which has made this permanent monument to the Third Angel's Message possible.

Needless to say, our new office home located as it is on one of the principal streets of Nassau, has a bright future, particularly for our Book and Bible House. While I'm typing these lines, our High Fidelity built-in sound system is providing beautiful music for prospective buyers of our albums who are in our "Reading" and "Auditioning" Room and making their selections from the finest in religious music. The location will enable our Book and Bible House to do a far larger volume of business through increased sales of truth-filled literature and of our Loma Linda, Worthington and Battle Creek health foods.

We want to register our thanks to our faithful workers, though few in number, who have stood by the work and have done so well as they have laboured untiringly for the advancement of the work in the office, in the field and in the schools. Time will not permit my mentioning them all by name, but I am very proud of each one and of his accomplishments, under the blessing of God this year.

We are grateful for two new church buildings, one at North Palmetto Point and the other at Englerston which are serving two new congregations. We are grateful for a new Hammond Electric Organ which has recently been installed in our Shirley Street Church.

I must not go on, for I find there are too many things to be included in these few lines, but before closing the giving of our thanks, I must record the beautiful "family" spirit which exists among both workers and laity here in the Bahamas. I'm often reminded of the words of inspiration: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"—Ps. 133:1.

As we face 1956, we do so with greater optimism than ever before. "The future is as bright as the promises of God." It is the

determination of the entire Bahamas Mission team to make it by far the best year in the history of this mission. To this end, we rededicate ourselves on this 20th day of December, 1955!

—H. D. COLBURN, *President, Bahamas Mission.*

TIDINGS FROM EAST JAMAICA (Cont'd.)

completely rebuilt. However, even in the face of this terribly discouraging disaster our people at Bath rallied to the challenge and immediately began rebuilding. By personal sacrifices, much labour and perspiration, coupled with some gifts from the Conference, Bath Church was dedicated on Sunday, December 11, 1955, with an over-crowded congregation, thankful to God for what He has wrought. The Bath Church is a beautiful building—one that is representative of the Third Angel's Message.

Graduation at Kingsway:—The week end of December 10th brought to the members of our constituency in Kingston the privilege of witnessing the beautiful graduation exercises at the Kencot Church for Kingsway High School. Fifteen of our faithful students were graduated from this school which God has set up to be a continuation of the schools of the prophets. Brother Percy and the faculty are to be commended for the good work that has been accomplished. The students have done excellent work, and we, of the conference and school board, are happy for what has been and is being accomplished at Kingsway for Christ. This is our school, beloved; let us continue to remember them before the Throne of Grace.

Change of Workers:—January 1st will witness a change of a few of our workers in the East Jamaica Conference. Elder Nembhard is being called to the Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department of the Conference to carry on this important work. Brother Herbert Fletcher is being asked to head the Work in Western Kingston, consisting of the Regent Street, Trench Town and Greenwich Town churches. Brother Talbert Shaw and his wife are leaving for the Bahamas and Brother Lewis will be assuming the duties laid down by Brother Shaw in St. Catherine No. 3. Brother Alphonso Reid has been assigned to the St. Catherine No. 2. district. Brother Noel Fraser will be taking up his duties in Eastern St. Mary No. 2. A few other changes will be made of which we will notify the readers of the *Visitor* in the next issue.

Interns to East Jamaica:—The Conference officers have selected eight 1955 graduates of West Indian Training College to unite with the East Conference. Brother L. Scott will assist Brother Morgan in the Publishing Department; Brother Victor Brown will be assisting Brother McCalla in St. Thomas; Brother Randolph Daughma will be assisting Brother Woodburn in the Mountains of Portland; Brethren Eric Price and Astley Fletcher and Miss Judith Peterson will be joining our staff of teachers in the East Conference. We also have two new secretaries joining the secretarial staff of the office; they are Miss Moy Rhoden and Miss

Janet Stevens. We welcome these new workers and trust that God will richly bless each one.

Effort Dates:—The East Jamaica Conference committee in session has named January 22nd as E-Day for East Jamaica Conference ministers. Practically all of our ministers will be in efforts or revivals beginning on that date. January 29th has been appointed as E-Day for the leaders and lay-preachers of our conference. Already Pastor Campbell has sent out promotional material. We trust that we will see many efforts both by our preachers and laymen for the salvation of souls. May God bless you as you preach the message of the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour in the clouds of heaven.

Hospitalized:—Recently Brother A. W. Campbell who carries on the work in West St. Mary had a slight injury to his leg for which he was hospitalized at Andrew's Memorial Hospital. We thank God for our able Christian doctors who have treated Brother Campbell, who is again at his post of duty.

—E. H. SCHNEIDER,
President, East Jamaica Conference

CAYMAN NEWS (Cont'd)

On the evening of November 24 the writer with some enthusiastic laymen of the Georgetown church gathered in a large, well-ventilated room at the home of Sister Ena Forbes to start the first in a series of Bible studies. A good interest was evidenced by 25 to 35 adults and a number of children in attendance. The audio-visual aids equipment used gave excellent reproduction and clarity in the presentation of the gospel. At the second study, the interest was again good and some expressed their impatience at having to wait a whole week for another study.

The MV's of West Bay have forged ahead in their Progressive class work during the summer and are nearing the completion of their Companion requirements. Georgetown and East End are marshalling their forces to the training grounds at this time for what is hoped will be thorough preparation for a successful investiture next spring.

—WALTER O. COMM
President, Cayman Is. Mission

The British West Indies Union Visitor

R. S. Blackburn

Editor

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