

INTER-AMERICAN MESSENGER

TRUE WITNESSES—Part 3

As the end approaches, the testimonies of God's servants will become more decided and more powerful, flashing the light of truth upon the systems of error and oppression that have so long held the supremacy. The Lord has sent us messages for this time to establish Christianity upon an eternal basis; and all who believe the present truth must stand, not in their own wisdom, but in God, and raise up the foundation of many generations; and they will be registered in the books of heaven as repairers of the breach, the restorers of paths to dwell in. We are to maintain the truth because it is truth, in face of the bitterest opposition. God is at work upon human minds; it is not man alone that is working. The great illuminating power is from Christ; the brightness of His example is to be kept before the people in every discourse.

The rainbow above the throne, the bow of promise, testifies to the whole world that God will never forget His people in their struggle. Let Jesus be our theme. Let us with pen and voice present, not only the commandments of God, but the faith of Jesus. This will promote real heart piety as nothing else can. While we present the fact that men are subjects of a divine moral government, their reason teaches them that this is truth, that they owe allegiance to Jehovah. This life is our time of probation. We are placed under the discipline and government of God; to form characters and acquire habits for the higher life.

Temptations will come upon us. Iniquity abounds; where you least expect it, dark chapters will open that are most terrible, to weigh down the soul; but we need not fail nor be discouraged while we know that the bow of promise is above the

throne of God. We shall be subject to heavy trials, opposition, bereavement, affliction; but we know that Jesus passed through all these. These experiences are valuable to us; the advantages are not by any means confined to this short life; they reach into the eternal ages. Through patience, faith, and hope, in all the changing scenes of earth, we are forming characters for everlasting life. Everything shall work together for good to those that love God.

All the scenes of this life in which we must act a part, are to be carefully studied, for they are a part of our education. We should bring solid timbers into our character-building, for we are working both for this life and eternal life. And as we near the close of this earth's history, we advance more rapidly in Christian growth, or we retrograde just as decidedly.

"I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. . . . And I will remember my covenant, . . . and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh." In the rainbow above the throne is an everlasting testimony, that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Whenever the law is presented before the people, let the teacher of the truth point to the throne arched with the rainbow of promise, the righteousness of Christ. The glory of the law is Christ; He came to magnify the law, and to make it honorable. Make it appear distinct that mercy and truth have met together in Christ, and righteousness and peace have embraced each other. It is when you are looking to His throne, offering up your penitence and praise and thanksgiving to God, that you perfect Christian character, and represent Christ to the world; you abide in Christ, and Christ abides in you; you have that peace which passes all understanding. We need constantly to meditate upon Christ, His attractive loveliness. We must direct minds to Jesus, fasten them upon Him. In every discourse dwell upon the divine attributes.

As the bow in the cloud is formed by the union of the sunlight and the shower, so the rainbow encircling the throne represents the combined power of mercy and justice. It is not justice alone that is to be maintained, for this would eclipse the glory of the rainbow of promise above the throne; men could see only the penalty of the law. Were there no justice, no penalty, there would be no stability to the government of God. It is the mingling of judgment and mercy that makes salvation full and complete. It is the blending of the two that leads us, as we view the world's Redeemer and the law of Jehovah, to exclaim, "Thy gentleness hath made me great."

We know that the gospel is a perfect and complete system, revealing the immutability of the law of God. It inspires the heart with hope, and with love for God. Mercy invites us to enter through the gates,

My New Year's Resolution

I will start anew this morning with a higher, fairer creed;
I will cease to stand complaining of my ruthless neighbor's greed;
I will cease to sit repining while my duty's call is clear;
I will waste no moment whining, and my heart shall know no fear.

I will look sometimes about me for the things that merit praise;
I will search for hidden beauties that elude the grumbler's gaze;
I will try to find contentment in the paths that I must tread;
I will cease to have resentment when another moves ahead.

I will not be swayed by envy when my rival's strength is shown;
I will not deny his merit, but I'll strive to prove my own;
I will try to see the beauty spread before me, rain or shine;
I will cease to preach your duty; and be more concerned with mine.

—Selected.

into the city of God, and justice is sacrificed to accord to every obedient soul full privileges as a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King. If we were defective in character, we could not pass the gates that mercy has opened to the obedient; for justice stands at the entrance, and demands holiness, purity, in all who would see God. Were justice extinct, and were it possible for divine mercy to open the gates to the whole race, irrespective of character, there would be a worse condition of disaffection and rebellion in heaven than before Satan was expelled. The peace, happiness, and harmony of heaven would be broken up. The change from earth to heaven will not change men's characters; the happiness of the redeemed in heaven results from the character formed in this life, after the image of Christ. The saints in heaven will first have been saints on earth.

The salvation that Christ made such a sacrifice to gain for man, is that which is alone of value, that which saves from sin, the cause of all the misery and woe in our world. Mercy extended to the sinner is constantly drawing him to Jesus. If he responds, coming in penitence, with confession, in faith laying hold of the hope set before him in the gospel, God will not despise the broken and contrite heart. Thus the law of God is not weakened, but the power of sin is broken, and the scepter of mercy is extended to the penitent sinner.

ELLEN G. WHITE.

November, 1890.

“EVEN AT THE DOOR”

“O Jehovah, thou art my God: I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name: for thou hast effected wonderful things; counsels of old time, promises immutably true.” Isaiah 25:1.—Lowth's Tr. “Counsels of distant times [are become] faithful confirmations,” says Laesers's Translation of the last clause in the verse above.

Immediately following this declaration of thanksgiving and praise to Jehovah for the wonderful things He had wrought, the prophet speaks of the destruction of “the strongly fortified citadel,” and “the palace of the proud ones;” and he also says that, in accord with God's counsels or resolves of old, or distant times, “it never should be built up again.” This is cited as indisputable evidence of the unfailling nature of His promises, and as a confirmation of His faithful word.

The fulfilment of the signs in the

heavens,—the darkening of the sun and of the moon, and the falling of the stars,—in absolute and perfect accord with the unfailling promise of the Saviour, in addition to the accumulated evidences of past ages, has furnished sufficient ground for confidence in the fulfilment of all that He has promised. Not one word of all that He has spoken will fail; all that He has promised will most surely come to pass.

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” This word was spoken by the Saviour in connection with the promise of His coming, and with the above mentioned signs which show that His coming is “near, even at the doors.” “Verily I say unto you,” says Jesus, “this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.” Matt. 24:34, 35. The generation here mentioned is the generation that saw.—*in the light of the prophetic word*,—these signs fulfilled. “All these things” include the one glorious event to which all the signs point,—“the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

Since the fulfilment of the last of these signs on Nov. 13, 1833, many other signs, given by the prophets to confirm our faith in the near approach of that great day, and to add power and authority to the message announcing the coming of Jesus, have already been fulfilled; and many are now in the process of fulfilment. Among the multitude of signs, heralding the coming of the Saviour, that have been strikingly fulfilled, are those found in Matt. 24:7, 8. “Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

It is a remarkable fact that within the past decade, or since the beginning of the great war in 1914, each of these signs has been fulfilled so perfectly that there is left no room for an honest heart to doubt. The decade began with the greatest war ever known. Literally nation rose against nation, and kingdom against kingdom till nearly the whole world was involved. The results of this terrible conflict, that continued for more than four years, were so appalling that it left all of Europe prostrate; and even yet the hearts of the world's greatest statesmen are filled with fear and perplexity lest the world be thrown into another war more terrible than the recent World War.

And this decade, which opened with the most terrible war ever known, also witnessed incomparably the two greatest famines that have ever visited this sor-

row-stricken earth—the famine in North China, and the one in Russia. As a direct result of the World War, many millions in the war areas were brought to the verge of starvation; but were saved from this awful fate by the heroic efforts of sympathetic nations.

During this same period the earth was visited by the most fatal pestilence that has ever been known. In a few weeks' time the influenza scourge carried away more than twelve million victims; and this fearful toll was exacted simultaneously from nearly every part of the inhabited globe. In addition to all these unprecedented calamities, in September, 1923, Japan was the victim of the most destructive earthquake that has ever been recorded;—the most destructive both in life and property.

Let us stop and give serious consideration to the meaning of this accumulation of major, death-dealing calamities within one short decade. Is it not because “the earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant?” Isaiah 24:5. Are they not permitted as a warning, to all the world, of the approaching judgments, a judgment much more serious in effect, and much more general than any from which the earth has yet suffered?

But these are not all the signs of the approach of that hour when “we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ,” and “every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” Romans 14:10, 12. It is very apparent that the restraining power of God's Holy Spirit is being withdrawn; and, as a natural result, there is a rising tide of violence and crime. Iniquity abounds, and the love of many is waxing cold. Matthew 24:12.

E. E. ANDROSS.

PREPARATION FOR THE WORK

God does not call men to work for Him without fitting them for His work, if they will allow Him to do it. They may refuse to be benefitted by His effort to instruct them, but it is nevertheless true that He does give them an opportunity and means of preparation to fit themselves for His work. It is not for the honor of God that men should enter into His work till they are prepared to do it in a manner that He can approve.

God gave to Isaiah a vision of heavenly glory. When he had seen it, he cried out, “Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the

King, the Lord of hosts." Isaiah 6:5. Whereupon one of the seraphim took a live coal from off the altar, and laid it upon his lips, and said, "Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

Then he heard the Lord make this inquiry, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And thus he records his response: "Then said I, Here am I; send me." And the Lord then bade him go forth to fulfill his solemn commission. This teaches us a great lesson. Before men go out to work for God, they must have His work first wrought within themselves. When the live coal from the altar had been laid upon the lips of Isaiah, his iniquity was purged. Then he could speak for God, for he had something to say, and he was fitted to say it in a manner that God could accept.

God does not want men to go out to labor for Him till they have had their iniquity taken away. No man can lead others to Christ till he has first become personally acquainted with Him. When our hearts are right in His sight, our motives will be pure before Him. We shall not then seek our own worldly interest, the praise of men, nor our own ease and convenience, but shall seek only the honor which comes from God, and for this will cheerfully bear burdens and make sacrifices without one word of complaint. God will regard what men do, with such motives as these. He will not accept that which is done from other motives.

It is no light thing to work for God. The sacredness of the work cannot be overestimated. God will not be trifled with. He sees through all disguises, and He detects the most secret motives of the heart. The action is valued according to the motive which prompts it. Those who name the name of Christ must depart from all iniquity. They must not bear the vessels of the Lord without being themselves clean in His sight. Who is then sufficient for these things?—J. N. Andrews, in "The True Missionary," published in 1874, fifty years ago.

ANTILLIAN UNION MISSION

J. A. LELAND - - - - - Superintendent
A. P. CHRISTIANSEN - - - - - Secy.-Treas.
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ENCOURAGING WORDS FROM CUBA

Recently I had the privilege of baptizing four persons in Havana; others are in the baptismal class, and we hope

these will soon be ready to follow their Lord in this sacred rite. In Santo Domingo we baptized six individuals. The Lord is greatly blessing the efforts of our workers in Cuba. A few weeks ago Elder Pedro Cruz had the privilege of baptizing seven in Cruces. In other places, also, believers are waiting for the privilege of being baptized. We feel quite encouraged as we see the interest that is manifested in many places. We wish that we had more consecrated workers to follow up the providential openings in this field.

In our school in Bartle we have a nice class of earnest young men and women who are preparing themselves for usefulness in the Lord's work. We have many more young people who should be in our school, and we hope a way may be opened to them to obtain a Christian education.

C. V. ACHENBACH.

AZTEC UNION MISSION

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WITH THE COLPORTEURS

The following excerpts from the letters of two of our field leaders show that the better class of people are being reached by our literature. It is needless to say that few of this class could be reached by the public efforts of our ministers.

"We visited the Palace in Cordoba, Mexico, and the Lord blessed us with sixteen orders, including one from the President Municipal. Ten men paid advance deposits on their orders and the rest asked Brother Ortego to call in the afternoon of the same day for their deposits. Two or three of the Palace officials already possessed a copy of "Practical Guide," but they greatly helped us by heartily recommending the book to their friends."

"We are starting our "Nuestro Siglo" campaign here in Puebla, Mexico. Brother Cecilio Sanches and I called on the Municipal Palace and found that the president had previously purchased a copy of "Patriarchs and Prophets," and "Nuestro Siglo." We made an appointment with him to meet with the councilmen."

With about thirty-five colporteurs working in Mexico alone and enjoying fair success, the outlook for the colporteur work in this union is very good. I

trust you will continue to pray for the success of our colporteurs.

J. B. NELSON.

NEW OPENINGS IN SALVADOR

Recently the Lord opened the way for us to hold meetings in Armenia—a town of about six thousand inhabitants. For two weeks now we have held evening meetings, and some meetings before the regular series. There are sixty to seventy-five in attendance; and one night there were over a hundred. There are about fourteen now who are keeping the Sabbath and about forty expressed their desire to obey. Really the Lord is working in a wonderful way. There are other openings which I believe would be just as productive as this, if we only had the men and means. We plan on holding perhaps two more series similar to the present one, during the dry season.

We are glad to report a baptism of sixteen near La Loma school in the country. Ten of these live near the school, and the rest live near San Vicente. Notwithstanding the work of the enemy against our little school, prejudice is breaking down and the interest is growing. Including our little branch school near La Loma we concluded the school year with twenty-five students from the neighborhood. At the beginning of our school work the people were afraid of us and we could get only one or two students. Now we have a promise of about fifty Indian boys and girls from the neighborhood for this year.

We have three colporteurs in the field and it looks as though our sales this year will pass the \$4,000 mark.

We are encouraged to go forward despite the seeming hardships, knowing this is the Lord's work. On the whole the people seem to be so indifferent and careless regarding eternal things. But we are witnessing for the truth and the Lord is giving us some precious souls. I do not doubt but that the Spirit of the Lord is being rapidly withdrawn from the earth and being placed upon the Lord's people, and that the work will soon be finished.

Pray for us here that the Lord may guide us in every detail and that when the end comes, we will have done our duty in Salvador. ELLIS P. HOWARD.

GUATEMALA

Just two weeks after arriving in Guatemala with my family I had to leave them and proceed to Mexico to attend an institute for the prospective colporteurs of the Union school in Mexico

City. An attack of malaria lengthened my stay there so I have not yet had time to visit the colporteurs in this field.

Sometime ago, on account of a delayed trip to San Salvador, I had the privilege of visiting some of the isolated believers in the northern part of the country in and near Puerto Barrios. Our church school teacher accompanied me as far as Cayuga where we have two families of believers. The teacher came to give instruction during her vacation to the Van Tuyl family of nine children. We found this family of good courage and doing all in their power to let their light shine through the Sabbath school and Bible studies with interested Indians. Three East Indian boys will soon be ready for baptism and give promise of becoming loyal workers.

I also visited Brother Brewster and family. They are of good courage and endeavoring to be true to the Lord. They handed me their tithes and offerings, which though not large, represented faithfulness and sacrifice.

At Puerto Barrios I found four courageous members. One sister who has been ill for several months said she missed the good meetings she used to enjoy at Panama. I assured her that the brethren would visit her more often. Another sister is doing missionary work among her neighbors and friends, taking care of their sick and incidentally giving them the message of the soon coming Lord. I was fortunate in finding her at home.

I was also able to arrange for an ex-colporteur of Salvador to enter the book work again. We are now laying plans for at least four men to make a campaign with Practical Guide in Spanish over the entire country for the second time. We are hopeful and confident that their success will be similar to the results seen in Mexico and Spain; for the book was welcomed by many the first time it was sold.

My next visit will be to San Salvador where I expect to help the colporteurs and assist the church in the Harvest Ingathering campaign.

H. A. B. ROBINSON.

GOD'S HAND IN MEXICO

Brother Juan Jimenez was the first man to accept the message in the Tehuantepec peninsula. One day while walking in a small town on the peninsula, he was attracted to a small piece of paper in the street. He picked it up and found on it the words of Matthew 24:27, where the Saviour tells His disciples that "as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even

unto the west; so shall the coming of the son of man be." He had never heard anything like this before, and for some reason he wanted to know more about it. He showed the piece of paper to his friends; and they, too, became interested; but none of them knew any more on the subject than he did.

So they waited and kept the piece of paper, hoping that sometime they might learn more about the Master's coming. About a year after they found the text, the wife of Brother Jimenez took sick and he sent to Mexico City for medicine. When the bottle arrived, they found, to their surprise that it was wrapped in paper just like the one from which their treasured piece had been torn.

The paper was a copy of *El Mensajero de la Verdad* published in Mexico City. Soon these eager seekers for truth were in communication with our office there; and in due time, after reading and studying with the living preacher, a church was raised up, and the cornerstone of our work was laid on the isthmus of Tehuantepec.

F. M. OWEN.

"AFTER MANY DAYS"

Ermerejildo Ramirez is the father of a family of ten children, living in Paraiso, a place not many miles from San Salvador, the capital of Salvador. To reach it we traveled part of the way over a road which is worn down to about ten or twelve feet, then climbed a steep, rocky hill. But once on top of the hill it is indeed a "Paraisa," (paradise).

This brother, Ermerejildo Ramirez, owns his land on which grows a very large variety of lovely tropical fruits. The climate also is delightful, being about twenty-five hundred feet above sea level. He is quite well-to-do in lands; and has been a leader in his community. Five of his married sons are living near him. He has the same characteristic determination that was found in many of his Indian forefathers who roved the hills of Salvador centuries before the Spanish race inhabited the country.

Light at last has broken in upon this man to brighten his home and give him hope of eternal life. Some twenty years ago a consecrated missionary, amid difficulties, began to spread the light of the gospel in Salvador. He builded better than he knew, for now results begin to appear,—though perhaps not just as he had planned.. With Ermerejildo he left a little book which clearly set forth

man's obligation to obey the law of God and to keep the Sabbath of the commandment from creation to all eternity. And then after giving such clear reasoning, it attempted in a sentence to change the obligation of the Sabbath to another day.

For many years, while Ermerejildo had puzzled over these chapters and their seeming contradiction, he had lived up to all the light he knew. About three years ago a visitor, who had accepted the Word of God as his sole guide, came to Ermerejildo's home; he began to talk on salvation by faith and the connection the law sustains to this subject. A friendly argument ensued, then Ermerejildo remembered the first part of the teachings of this book. With joy he accepted them fully and now he is keeping all the commandments of God by faith in Christ.

Salvador, though the smallest of all the Central American countries, is not to be despised; in comparison to the others she is quite well advanced in educational and medical lines. It is the desire of her officials and citizens to see their country make good progress in every way. A liberal form of government is sustained and missionaries have little complaint to make as to freedom in teaching the gospel.

Although smallest of all the republics, it is the most thickly settled; and one will find literally hundreds upon hundreds of small towns and villages scattered throughout its territory. Some of these are almost purely Indian villages. A good percentage of the people can read and write; and they are very intelligent, notwithstanding the fact that superstition and ignorance in regard to religious matters prevail. The minds of many are open to receive light, and we could not wish for a better time than today in which to reach them with the Word of God. Who is willing to save the lost in Salvador? E. P. HOWARD.

Elder Winter from California is now on his way to take charge of one of the Mexican missions.

Elder Lorntz and family from Iowa, left Nov. 22 for Honduras to take leadership there. Elder Beddoe leaves Honduras to take over the work in the Central Mexican Mission.

Doctor Hummel, a Loma Linda graduate is now in Mexico City and has opened a free dispensary in connection with our Union school. We hope to see two or three more self-supporting doctors and nurses in our union soon.

Brother Pohle and wife are doing good work in Guatemala, Brother Martin writes.

D. A. PARSONS.

CARIBBEAN UNION MISSION

W. E. BAXTER *Superintendent*
 C. E. KNIGHT *Secy.-Treas.*
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VENEZUELA

I spent about three weeks in Venezuela and enjoyed a pleasant visit with the workers over there. I found Brother and Sister Baxter of the best of courage and getting on nicely in their work. Brother Steeves seems to be a very earnest young man, and I think will develop into a capable leader for the colporteur work in that field. They launched the Harvest Ingathering Campaign while I was there; and I was surprised to see how liberally the people gave to this good work.

I spent most of my time with Elder Baxter in the campaign, but was unable to do very much myself, not knowing the language. In seven hours and a half Brother Baxter brought in \$149.00 This lacks one dollar of averaging \$20.00 per hour for the time spent in the field. I spent some time with Brother Steeves in the campaign, and the Lord went before us in a special way. We received no large gifts, but very few turned us away without giving something. We worked among the smaller shops, and the gifts averaged from one to five dollars.

I am confident that hundreds of dollars could be raised in Venezuela in the Harvest Ingathering work if there were a few foreign workers who could devote their time to it. Elder Baxter had to leave for the Fall Council, and Brother Steeves is planning to leave soon to help some colporteurs. The believers, however, are doing their best under the conditions; and feel confident that they will reach their \$1000.00 goal. The church in Caracas was divided up into three bands with a goal of \$220.00 each. You will be interested in their little device of three ships sailing across the church. One of these was over two-thirds of the way when I left, and I feel confident that all will anchor safely in the harbour by the end of the campaign.

C. B. SUTTON.

WEST CARIBBEAN TRAINING SCHOOL

On the west bank of the Panama Canal, in the village of Las Cascadas, fifteen miles from the Pacific ocean and thirty-three miles from the Atlantic, is located the West Caribbean Training School, which now will soon begin its fifth year. Here on the great "Cross-

roads" of the world pass the ships of all nations. As many as twenty-three in one day, as many as 460 in a month pass through the canal. The school property is leased from the Canal Commission and includes thirteen buildings and seventy-five acres of land bordering the canal.

The students come largely from the West Caribbean Conference, which is a part of the Inter-American Division. Some of the students make their way in school by work, others earn scholarships during the vacation. The enrollment for 1924 was ninety-three not including the church school. The work is growing and gaining prestige with government officials.

It is proposed to develop a school carrying twelve grades of work for ambitious young people desiring an education. In addition to the academic work, a useful line of trades is conducted in an educational way; and, besides this, it is expected that the farm will produce most of the foodstuff used by the school. The desire is to train Christian workers to engage in school, colporteur, and gospel service in a practical way among the native people of the nearby countries.

F. W. HALLADAY.

CONFERENCE SESSION

Beginning January the 29th to February the 8th, 1925 there will take place in Las Cascadas the fourteenth biennial session of the West Caribbean conference. At that time officers will be elected for the next biennial term, and other business pertaining to the conference work that should come before that meeting will be transacted.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for its organization, and one additional delegate for each fifteen members who shall be duly elected by the church and given delegate's credentials. The plan of the conference for the delegation is as follows:

All duly accredited delegates from the churches will be furnished with board and room during the conference session. All persons coming to stay during the Conference session should bring bedding with them. The traveling expenses to and from the conference is to be borne by the church that is sending the delegates. We shall be glad to correspond with our brethren with reference to the coming conference session, and shall be glad to answer any questions pertaining thereto.

All of our brethren and sisters throughout the conference are invited to attend, and we hope that a large number will

be able to do so. Provisions for the accommodation of those who are not delegates will be made at a very modest sum so that the expense of coming to the conference and attending the session, probably will not exceed the expense that you would have by remaining at home.

We plan to make this fourteenth session of the conference the best that we have had in this field; and to this end we ask our brethren to remember us and the conference work at the throne of grace, that God may abundantly bless the efforts and plans that will be put forth for the advancement of this cause and truth. Plan to be there on the day of the beginning of our conference meeting so that there will be no delay in getting our work started, in order that we may get through with all business that may come before us as a body.

W. R. POHLE, *President*,
 FRED HUTCHINSON, *Secretary*.

ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL THIS YEAR? WHERE?

At the West Caribbean Training School at Las Cascadas you will find the "Door of Opportunity" open to you if you desire an education. The school year begins Monday, the 9th of February, 1925.

If you have a will to prepare yourself for life's duties and a place in the finishing of the Lord's work, write to the West Caribbean Training School, Obispo, Canal Zone.

CHRIST WANTS THE BEST

Christ wants the best. He in the far-off ages
 Once claimed the firstling of the flock, the finest
 of the wheat,
 And still He asks His own, with gentlest pleading,
 'To lay their highest hopes and brightest talents
 at His feet:
 He'll not forget the feeblest service, humblest
 love;
 He only asks that of our store, we give to Him
 The best we have.

Christ gives the best. He takes the hearts we
 offer,
 And fills them with His glorious beauty, joy,
 and peace,
 And in His service, as we're growing stronger,
 The calls to grand achievements still increase.
 The richest gifts for us on earth, or in the heav-
 ens above,
 Are hid in Christ. In Jesus we receive
 The best we have.

And is our best too much? O friends, let us
 remember
 How once our Lord poured out His soul for us.
 And in the prime of His mysterious manhood
 Gave up His precious life upon the cross;
 The Lord of lords, by whom the worlds were
 made,
 Through bitter grief and tears gave us
 The best He had.

—Selected.

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"EL CENTINELA" FOR FEBRUARY

J. Berger Johnson, editor of *O Atalaia*, our Portuguese magazine published in Brazil, contributes a most helpful article discussing "The Conflict Between Capital and Labor," which is the topic of the cover page, in two colors.

In "East and West Are Alike," Frederick Lee calls attention to some striking similarities, the labor question included.

"The League of Death," by Nels D. Anderson, is a forceful allegory well worth reading in this day of many leagues.

Robert B. Thurber discusses a new plan to end war in "Mammon and Mars."

Two health articles: "The Best Doctor: Nature," by Harry W. Miller, M. D., and "Do you Eat Enough Vegetables and Fruits?" by R. Manning Clarke, M. D. "The Seven Vital Elements," by R. F. Cottrell, continuing his series on "The Vitamines of Religion."

And don't forget our new *Children's Page*, begun last month. The story this month is "The Parrot Policeman."

On the opposite page is the Home Department, with the second article on "The welfare of the Child," besides other helpful matter.

Elsewhere in this issue appears the "Meditations for the Month," arranged by Ernest Lloyd; as also the pages of Current Mention, As Others See It, and News Notes.

And it's all edited for the Spanish-speaking peoples who live in this part of the world. Will you help them to get a chance to read it?

PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Another year of opportunity has opened before us. What will its record be? Shall it be a year of advance and triumph in Inter-America? "Our General, who never makes a mistake, says to us, 'Advance.' . . . Our watchword is to be, Onward, ever onward. The angels of God will go before us to prepare the way." Surely we can give but one answer to the above questions. The Lord helping us, we will advance and strengthen the work this year.

We believe there is a oneness of purpose in the hearts of all our people to attempt greater things for God than ever before. We feel sure this is true of those connected with the work of the Publishing Department. "We are fast approaching the end. The printing and circulation of the books and papers that contain the truth for this time are to be our work." (C. E., p. 97.)

"From our books and papers bright beams of light are to shine forth to enlighten the world in regard to present truth." (Vol. 8, p. 87.)

We read in *Colporteur Evangelist*: "If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures." P. 80. It should be the constant effort of every colporteur leader, tract society secretary, and superintendent to make this very important feature of our gospel work a greater power for good each succeeding month. And the ministerial brethren can encourage an increasingly large number of believers to rightly appreciate the great value of our literature, and the importance of scattering it everywhere. Indeed, it is "the very work that needs most to be done."

During 1925 Bookmen's Conventions will be held in Inter-America, and in these meetings very earnest study will be given to various phases of our publishing interests. We must push forward and definitely accomplish far more than ever before in the circulation of the literature containing the message for this time. We can increase the number of well-trained, consecrated colporteurs; we must plan for them to reach a still larger proportion of the entire population in Inter-America. Let us join hands round the field in a combined effort to place the message in printed form in every open door within the division territory.

THE COLPORTEUR AND HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"You would have been interested," writes Brother C. B. Sutton, "in the publishing department meeting at the South Caribbean Conference session. We had about sixteen colporteurs on one side of the platform, and on the other side we had all who had accepted the truth through the printed page. Among these were ministers, a doctor, the president of the conference, the conference secretary, and a number of other influential people.

"One interesting feature: A colporteur had sold *Our Day* to a man who owned a large estate in Antigua, and he and his wife were there as the result of this book being placed in the home. We had this man and his wife and the colporteur stand up so all the people could see the fruit of the printed page. Another colporteur had brought four into the truth, and two of them were present.

"We had a large chart showing the number of the books placed in the homes. *Our Lord's Return* headed the list, with 11,268 copies; *Steps to Christ* came second, with 9,911. I wish that time and space would permit me to give the whole list, but the total number placed in the homes from 1918 to 1924 was 119,475. This means that thousands of individuals in the South Caribbean conference have had the privilege of reading the last warning message."

The sale of literature to our tract societies during December was heavier than any other month of 1924, being in all \$18,437.40. This was almost double the value of the sales for the last month of 1923, and was, in fact, practically one-fifth the value of the total record for 1924* (\$96,000). This good increase at the last

of the year brought us within \$36,000 of attaining the record for 1923. Some may remember at the close of October the shortage was over \$53,000. Quite naturally, we feel pleased to see the improvement.

Business for the first few days in 1925 has been very satisfying. Freight orders have come from Cuba, Salvador, South Caribbean, Venezuela, West Caribbean, and the Lesser Antilles Mission. The last named territory comprises the newest field in Inter-America, having just been set off from the South Caribbean Conference. The shipment of books to be sent to St. Johns, Antigua Island (the new Mission headquarters) in a few days, is the first we have ever sent to that part of the field from this point, by freight.

While these remarks about new business would be more appropriate in connection with our next month's sales report, we know you will be pleased to hear of the brisk way the 1925 business is starting. We have set our aim high for 1925. It will take \$200,000 worth of books and tracts to reach the mark we have set here. Are there those out in the field who can see any possibility of accomplishing so much in 1925?

Brother F. W. Steeves has a practical goal that he is holding before his colporteurs. He is urging them to work toward a goal of one book a day for each day of the year. That of course sounds small, but it isn't

part of the plan that when one book has been sold the colporteur will stop work for the balance of that day. Such an average in a field like Venezuela is heavier than it would be in some other territory, for much time is necessarily spent in traveling, yet the average of one book a day is to be maintained just the same. Brother Steeves expects, moreover, that his men will handle small books and *El Centinela* along with the large books. Then, too, he hopes to have at least six full-time men in the field. The success of such plans will make the sale of literature in Venezuela during 1925 many times as heavy as for the year just ended.



"EL CENTINELA"
CIRCULATION BY MONTHS 1924

January	18,469	July	11,748
February	12,355	August	*4,102
March	13,015	September	11,174
April	12,973	October	11,282
May	17,434	November	10,458
June	13,058	December	10,699
Total 1924	146,707	Total 1923	118,705
Monthly average	12,225	Monthly average	9,892
Gain 1924, Total		28,002	
Gain 1924, Aver.		2,333	

*Harvest Ingathering issue sent to subscribers only. Quantities reported previously.

You will enjoy reviewing the record of monthly sales of *El Centinela* for all of 1924, so we include the report in this issue of the MESSENGER, in addition to the detailed report for the December issue, shown below.

"EL CENTINELA" CIRCULATION
DECEMBER 1924

Cuba	4,932		
Dominicana	301		
Porto Rico	499		
<i>Antillian Union</i>	5,682		
Guatemala	203		
Honduras	179		
Mexico	1,939		
Salvador	483		
<i>Aztec Union</i>	2,804		
Colombia	805		
West Caribbean	337		
Venezuela	332		
<i>Caribbean Union</i>	1,474		
INTER-AMERICA	9,960		
Arizona	66		
California	23		
Central California	51		
South California	231		
S. E. California	24		
South Texas	208		
Misc. States	72		
<i>United States</i>	675	675	
<i>Philippines</i>		32	
<i>Misc. Foreign</i>		32	
TOTAL, Dec. 1924—	10,699		
TOTAL, Dec. 1923—	12,079		
Decrease	1,380		

SALES REPORT, BY UNIONS, DECEMBER, 1924

CENTRAL AMERICAN BRANCH, PACIFIC PRESS PUBLISHING ASSN.

	Subscription	Trade	Educa.	Tracts	Total
Antillian Union	1,074.50	189.40	6.00	79.25	1,349.45
Aztec Union	15,161.00	273.30	...	72.00	15,506.30
Caribbean Union	1,347.55	217.30	1.60	14.90	1,581.65
Total, December, 1924	17,583.65	680.00	7.60	166.15	18,437.40
Total, December, 1923	8,847.40	417.10	36.55	165.65	9,466.70
Increases	8,736.25	262.90	28.95	.50	8,970.70
			(Less)		

SALES REPORT, JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1924

Bahamas	297.50	113.50	143.50	6.00	560.50
Cuba	13,612.95	1,085.80	36.75	48.90	14,784.40
Dominicana	1,603.75	75.20	2.00	...	1,680.95
Haiti	115.10	199.90	5.50	17.50	338.00
Jamaica	4,642.35	784.80	146.05	161.25	5,734.45
Porto Rico	3,975.75	473.60	4.00	81.95	4,535.30
<i>Antillian Union</i>	24,247.40	2,732.80	335.80	317.60	27,633.60
Guatemala	2,490.55	99.55	...	64.90	2,655.00
Honduras	2,398.20	731.50	110.45	66.25	3,306.40
Mexico	30,841.50	916.45	37.20	157.95	31,955.10
Salvador	4,175.50	228.20	56.40	57.75	4,517.85
<i>Aztec Union</i>	39,905.75	1,977.70	204.05	346.85	42,434.35
Colombia	7,468.85	136.95	7.50	16.80	7,630.10
South Caribbean	5,687.70	1,597.50	8.10	41.00	7,334.30
Venezuela	1,110.95	223.40	5.20	11.25	1,350.80
West Caribbean	6,259.90	770.55	158.30	69.85	7,258.60
<i>Caribbean Union</i>	20,527.40	2,728.40	179.10	138.90	23,573.80
Total Sales, 1924	84,680.55	7,438.90	718.95	803.35	93,641.75
Total Sales, 1923	119,161.50	8,005.05	1,096.70	1,448.00	129,711.25
Decrease	34,480.95	566.15	377.75	644.65	36,069.50

STOP! LOOK!! LISTEN!!!

Stop for a moment to think what it means to be a young person whom God has chosen to be "His helping Hand" in the greatest work on earth.

Look back over the past and see where you failed to follow truly in the footprints of the ideal Missionary Volunteer, who, forgetting self, lived to bless others; and now, kindly

Listen while I tell you about our aim for 1925, as Missionary Volunteers in Inter-America. Before the year closes, we aim to have at least:—

3000 Members in our M. V. societies
150 persons become Standard of Attainment members
250 persons to complete the Bible Year
175 young people converted and baptized;
and now,

PRAY! PLAN!! WORK!!!

Pray that you fail not to do your part as God's "helping hand." Let Him use you in reaching every part of this goal—in finding the missing ones of the 3000, in seeking the lost around you, in studying to be workmen "that needeth not to be ashamed."

Plan definitely for this work. You are the Lord's "helping hand." Did your hand ever fail to do your bidding? It is ever waiting on you, ever ministering to your needs. If God's "helping hand"—which we are—is not paralyzed, or broken, or asleep,—it will be serving Him faithfully. Plan firmly and definitely that, so far as you are concerned, it shall do its appointed work.

Work as the life-saver does at sea. Remember there are many laudable ambitions for the human heart, but there is only one all-consuming passion for those who are called to be God's "helping hand," and that is a passion to save the lost for whom Christ died.

THINK!

3000 strong marching forward under the blood-stained banner! Yes, think what that will mean as they press on to deeper consecration, more thorough preparation, and better service! Can we do it? Yes, young friends, we can do it, if God can count on you and me! Yes, we can do it, if we will! Shall we not say:—"By God's help we can do it, and we will!"

GOOD NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS

A note from Europe says: "The unemployment in Germany increased our ranks of colporteurs by several hundred during the first part of this year, so that our book sales are leaping upwards. In the month of May the sales in the European Division amounted to \$60,000, of which more than half applies to Germany. This is an evidence that the people are eager to listen to the message circulated by our literature, though they have very meager incomes."

From the Far Eastern Division comes this word: "At the close of the institute at Bangkok, Siam," writes Brother V. L. Beecham, "Brother Abel and I left with some of the boys for the interior. We went to Cheng Mei, about four hundred miles to the north. It was during this trip that I became convinced of the wonderful possibilities that are before us with the printed page in Siam. The Siamese people are on the verge of a great awakening, educationally. Schools are being placed everywhere, and they eagerly take any literature they can get hold of. On this trip we had nothing with us in the Siamese language but some Scripture portions, but so eager were the people to get this that our stock was exhausted when we had but barely commenced our trip. Siam has greater possibilities in this line than any mission in the Union."

ANOTHER CHURCH

Recently we organized a church in Fajardo, Porto Rico. I believe the work there will grow. There is a lively interest in the message and our services are well attended. The members are testifying by their lives to the saving power of the message. I baptized eleven there one Sunday,—the first fruits; another fifteen will follow in this rite in about two months. We are glad for the good work of José Nogueiras at this place.

H. E. BAASCH.

AIM FOR 1925

Every believer ready for service:—

A closer walk with God!
More prayer and Bible study!
More and better service!

Stronger Sabbath Schools:—

More Sabbath school members!
More daily lesson study!
More regular on-time attendance!

Stronger church and society members:—

More Morning Watch observers!
More members of Attainment!
More faithful search for the lost!

Unconditional surrender service:

In behalf of our children and youth,
In behalf of our neighbors and friends,
In behalf of the waiting millions beyond!

ENCOURAGING IMPRESSIONS

Brother H. T. Elliott, of the General Conference Missionary Volunteer Department, writes: "I have just been looking over the statistical and department reports of the Inter-American Division for the second quarter of 1924, and I am encouraged at the evidences in the Missionary Volunteer Department report of definite progress along so many different lines of missionary endeavor. It is highly inspiring to note what 2626 young people can do when they set their hearts together to help each other and to help the world that is suffering in sickness and darkness. It is quite wonderful to see how the church organization grows by leaps and bounds as fast as the message enters these countries.

"You will be interested to know that the *Review and Herald* has given a printing order for 100,000 Morning Watch Calendars for this year's issue. This is the first time we have reached the 100,000 mark, and we shall probably go considerably over it; 92,000 have already been sold."

Brother P. J. Bailey, Missionary Volunteer secretary of Jamaica, writes:

"The Morning Watch Calendars are going. Dropping into the office at Kingston on the 19th of December, I found the first shipment of 1,100 all gone and orders waiting to be filled. Even the Kingston Society had not yet had its share. The other shipment was expected at any time. I hope that the rest of the calendars have come in time to be distributed for the new year."

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER WORK IN EUROPE

Our young people's movement certainly has wonderful possibilities. It seems to us they grow larger as the years come and go. Along with the general world aim, our aim is: "The young people of Europe for Christ and Christ for the young people of Europe."

We are encouraged to see that the Missionary Volunteer work is proving a real soul winning

factor. We shall endeavor with the help of God Almighty, to make it still more so during the year before us. We have as our aim 1000 new souls won for 1925. Undoubtedly 1924 will give us about 525 when the figures are in for the fourth quarter.

The total membership of our societies which number 594 now stands close to 11,000. It ought to be 20,000, and it shall be one of our aims during the next year or two to reach that goal. There is, still a great, almost untouched field with us,—that of getting the children, or the juniors, properly organized and put to work.

One of the great problems we have to deal with in our field is the number of languages. At the present we are carrying on Missionary Volunteer work in about 32 different tongues. We are publishing the Morning Watch calendar in half of these. Many of the regular features of our Missionary Volunteer work have to be introduced yet in a number of languages. It is also our plan to start publishing a little Missionary Volunteer Department Bulletin in the very near future. STREEN RASMUSSEN.

ONE OF YOUR WORTHWHILE FRIENDS

Seventy-five years ago the *Review and Herald* first known as *Present Truth*, began its long term of faithful service. There were times in the early pioneer days when, because of shortage of funds, a paper would be missing; and the reader would find a little note on the back page of his favorite journal, saying: "Funds exhausted. No paper next week." But this herald of the third angel's message lived on and prospered; and is still cheering hearts in all parts of the world with the sureties of the message and with storics of its rapid march to final triumph.

Sometime ago, Pastor W. A. Spicer, our general conference president, wrote: "Every Seventh-day Adventist who reads the English language ought surely to have the privilege of reading the REVIEW... Nowhere else than in these columns can one keep pace with the onward movement of the message."

DIVISION NEWS NOTES

Pastor H. U. Stevens, superintendent of the Inca Union Mission, was a welcome visitor a few days last month on his return from the Autumn Council. He was accompanied by Pastor William Guthrie, president of the Lake Union conference, who is making a tour of South America at the request of the General Conference committee, to attend important general meetings in the different centers of the South American division. The Colon church greatly enjoyed having these brethren meet with them at one of the evening meetings during the Week of Prayer.

Dr. and Mrs. O. I. Cutler, who have been staying at the division headquarters for several months while Dr. Cutler has been serving as an interne in the Panama City hospital, have gone to Bluefields, Nicaragua, where they are uniting with Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Nelson in dispensary and hospital work being conducted there. We wish these earnest young people abundant success in their work which will have an influence for good in all eastern Nicaragua.

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