

# INTER-AMERICAN MESSENGER

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## GENERAL CONFERENCE REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

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At the regular session of the General Conference held in 1922, action was taken authorizing the organization of the Inter-American Division. The delegates representing the various conferences and mission fields in the territory now embraced in this division met, and the preliminary steps necessary to effect the complete organization were taken.

Within the territory of this division, which stretches over an area 5,000 miles in length and 1,500 miles in width, are twelve republics and a number of colonial possessions in the West Indies and the Guianas. The population of the territory is 40,391,418. The leading languages are the Spanish, English, French, and Dutch. Besides these there are perhaps 250,000 people who speak some of the East Indian languages, and many thousands who speak Chinese. In addition there is the vast aboriginal Indian population,

speaking many different languages,—how many we have no way of knowing. These are found in nearly all the Spanish fields in our territory. While for many years a state of unrest has existed in the Latin American republics, and in some of these countries a state of active revolution has prevailed much of the time, today the situation is much more promising. At present the Lord is holding the winds of strife, that the sealing message may accomplish its work of making “ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Although at present in one part of our division we are experiencing unlooked-for perplexities, we believe that even this in the end will redound to the glory of God and the furtherance of this cause.

### RELIGIOUSLY

Religiously, the people of this territory are dominantly Catholic, except in a few of the islands where British influence has prevailed and the people have learned to respect the Bible. However, in nearly if not quite all these Catholic countries, potent influences are now in operation designed

to break the power of Rome, and to bring the blessings of religious as well as civil liberty to the people who for centuries have struggled under the blighting influence of Romanism.

### THE JOY OF SERVICE

Although the god of this world is working with unwonted power in his efforts to hold the people in absolute bondage, to keep them in perpetual night, with not one ray of light to guide their faltering steps up the rugged heights into the realm of eternal day, our hearts are filled with inexpressible joy as we see in every part of this field repeated evidences of the fact that the God of all grace—the Omnipotent One—is still seated upon His eternal throne, and that with infinite compassion He is bringing complete and glorious deliverance to thousands of captives.

There is no joy that ever comes to the heart of fallen man, except the related joy of personal deliverance,—comparable to the joy of the one who, under the direction and through the power of his blessed Saviour, is enabled to bring deliverance to the cap-



Inter-American Delegation in attendance at the General Conference.

tives that are ready to die, and to lead them safely out into the glorious light of this message. This is the inestimable reward that is constantly coming to our devoted missionaries. It is this that sustains their fainting spirits in the hours of darkness and severe trial. It is this that holds them to their task when the way seems hard that enables them cheerfully to give all for the cross and the crown. They know the deepest meaning of those memorable words of Dr. Duff of Calcutta, India:

"The advancement of the missionary cause is not only our duty and responsibility, but it is an enjoyment which those who have once tasted would not exchange for all the treasures of the Indian mines, for all the laurels of civic success, and for all the glittering splendor of coronets. It is a joy rich as heaven, pure as the Godhead, lasting as eternity."

In many parts of our field our workers are constantly exposed to perils that are very real; many times it has been clearly manifest that divine interposition alone has preserved their lives; but such experiences are common to our missionaries, and they learn to trust implicitly the One whose assurance, "Lo, I am with you always," is also to them very real. Never once has this blessed promise failed of complete fulfillment.

#### PRESENT ORGANIZATION

On account of the widely scattered territory of our division, and of the fact that previous to its organization, through the years since the work began in this field,—embracing several local fields,—no form of organization that has been attempted has proved permanently successful, it necessarily has taken some time to bring all these different fields together into one general organization, working harmoniously and efficiently through its several union missions. We believe that now this task has been accomplished; and with one united purpose, with unbounded confidence in the triumph of the message in every part of the field, with hearts that are eager to undertake new conquests for God in the vast unentered portions of our territory, calling into active, sympathetic cooperation every force at our command, we all joyfully look forward to the future of our work in this division.

#### GROWTH

We now have three organized local conferences, three union missions, and twenty local missions. There are 265 churches, with a membership of 9,829.

This shows a net increase for the quadrennial period of sixty-two churches and 2,460 members. During this time there were 4,330 baptized.

Colombia was opened as a mission field in 1923, and at the close of the year a small church of eighteen members was organized. We now have that great and prosperous state divided into four separate mission fields, with the prospect of very encouraging growth. Quite recently our first effort in behalf of the people of French Guiana was made by sending a colporteur into that colony.

#### FINANCES

During the quadrennial period just closed we received from this field \$343,104.57 in tithe. This shows an increase over the previous period of \$95,097.81. The mission offerings during the last four years were \$213,664.61, an increase over the preceding period of \$100,146.54. The mission offerings were equal to 62.2 per cent of the tithe. For home mission work \$16,485.33 was contributed, showing a gain of \$11,774.76. For local church work, \$31,667.76 was raised, making an increase of \$21,531.55. The total contributions, including tithes and all offerings reported, amounted to \$605,941.17, an increase over the preceding quadrennial period of \$229,579.56. This increase in receipts from the division is only \$19,662.08 less than the regular appropriation to the division by the General Conference in 1925. The per capita tithe during this four-year period has run as follows: \$8.62, \$9.77, \$10.09, and \$11.30. The per capita offerings were \$7.13, \$8.56, \$9.03, and \$9.13. It will be observed that the per capita offerings very nearly equal the per capita tithe. The weekly offerings to missions were 13.7 cents, 16.4 cents, 17.3 cents, and 17.5 cents.

When it is remembered that about 72 per cent of our constituency are extremely poor, that the wage they receive for their labor is a mere pittance, amounting to only a few cents a day, this gain reveals a degree of devotion to this cause that is most hopeful.

The spirit of personal sacrifice that enters into the lives of the people who embrace this faith is well illustrated in the following excerpt from a letter by one of our ministers, describing the erection of a church building on one of the islands:

"Should you see fifty-four women and children climbing a rocky hill and carrying their trays of sand a distance of three quarters of a mile, while the

few men who can help build are working hard, digging, hauling sledges laden with stones, you could better grasp the situation."

It is our expectation, and shall be our constant endeavor, to enlarge the scope of our influence, carrying the message also into the homes of the wealthy, enlisting at least some of them in our ranks in every field.

As we extend our work in the prosperous Spanish countries, we confidently expect this division will become in every way more and more a source of strength and power in the closing work of the message. Through the help of the One in whom we trust, you shall not be disappointed.

#### FORCE OF WORKERS

We have fifty-nine ordained ministers in this field, thirty-seven licensed ministers, 134 licensed missionaries, 125 colporteurs,—making a total of 355 laborers. We are grateful to God for this loyal, true-hearted, consecrated company of workers, foreign and native, all of whom are united in heart and soul under our great Leader. I am quite well acquainted with the entire company of workers, except possibly some of the colporteurs, and I believe that their lives have been wholly dedicated to God for service, that they have withdrawn from all allegiance to the world, and are earnestly seeking more and more of the Spirit's power in their labors. With unbounded confidence in the message they are bearing to the world, they constitute a force that, though small, is, under God, absolutely invincible. However, considering the magnitude of the work before us, our numbers are altogether inadequate, and this will require an addition to our small force.

#### FORCE DEPLETED BY DEATH

In the early part of this quadrennial period one of our most faithful and successful colporteurs, Brother Raphael Lopez, while engaged in his regular duties, far back in the high Andes Mountains, was waylaid by four assassins, who, from ambush, with ruthless cruelty, shot fourteen bullets into his body, and then rushed upon him and thrust a long dagger into his heart. We are glad to say, to the credit of the Venezuelan government, that their agents vigorously pursued the assassins till two were killed, one was captured and sentenced to life imprisonment,—the extreme penalty in that country,—and only one escaped punishment.

Brother Lopez now peacefully sleeps

on the field of his last labors, his grave in the village cemetery being marked by a suitable headstone. Since his death a large harvest of fruit coming directly from his seed-sowing is being reaped. He is among the blessed dead who rest from their labors while their works follow them.

After a long period of great suffering Sister Annie Edmed, wife of Elder H. J. Edmed, president of the South Caribbean Conference, peacefully fell asleep in Jesus, Feb. 13, 1924. For many years Sister Edmed stood nobly by the side of her husband, while together they gave all that life holds dear for the sake of the One who gave His life on Calvary for them.

Another devoted toiler in the Master's vineyard, Sister Amy Walters, of Panama City, fell at her post of duty July 29, 1925.

We hold in grateful and affectionate memory these faithful warriors who fell in the heat of the conflict. These, with others who fought on the same field but are now resting, we confidently believe will soon come forth to their eternal reward. Having before us the example of their heroic services on the field of conflict, of their fortitude in the endurance of suffering, of their triumphant faith in the darkest hour, of their patient submission to the will of God in the face of death, we gladly renew our consecration of all to the completion of the task so nobly begun.

#### OUR PUBLISHING WORK

About forty years ago a copy of the *Signs of the Times*, sent out from New York City, found its way into the hands of an honest-hearted man in British Guiana; and from this small beginning a little company of Sabbath keepers was soon gathered in Georgetown. This was quickly followed by another group of believers raised up in Barbadoes through the influence of the same lot of papers. Our literature has been the pioneer agency in almost, if not quite, every field in our division; and it continues to be a strong factor as an aggressive agency as well as a help in building up and strengthening the work already established.

Although we have had no one in the division to take the supervision of this department of our work, a measure of success has attended the efforts put forth. The literature sales for the last two quadrennial periods are reported as follows: For the years 1918-21 \$449,844.60; and from 1922-25, \$613,303.20. In 1920 the record sales were reported as amounting to \$185,505.70.

which is \$66,444.20 more than the record year for the last quadrennial period; and yet this last period shows a gain over the former of \$63,458.60. We are truly grateful to our collaborators in the union and local fields whose faithful, untiring efforts, many times amid perils that were very real, have made such a good report possible.

Under the experienced and inspirational leadership of Brother J. A. P. Green, who has just joined our force at the division office, we hope for far greater things in this department in the future. We are not unmindful of the splendid assistance rendered this field by the Pacific Press Publishing Association through its main office, and especially by the publishing house at Cristobal, Canal Zone. We believe that with a more efficient organization of our work the capacity of this institution will soon be taxed to its utmost.

#### THE SABBATH SCHOOL WORK

During the quadrennial period covered by this report this important department has made very commendable progress. From 279 schools at the beginning of the period, the number has grown to 424 at its close. During the last four years 195 Sabbath schools have been organized. The membership has grown from 8,269 to 13,171, showing a gain of 4,902, or 62.7 per cent. The offerings for the period have increased \$52,957.90, or 84.7 per cent.

We regard the Sabbath school as a powerful factor in the work of evangelization, and are laboring energetically to make it still more effective. It is marvelous to see what is being accomplished in the training of new converts to the faith through this agency. There is no part of the world where the Sabbath school is not a very important factor in our work; but the darker the lands in which we labor, the greater the necessity of just such thorough, systematic, detailed instruction in the Word of God, in organized, united labor for those who know the way of life, and for the multitudes who still sit in darkness.

#### OUR EDUCATIONAL WORK

Our educational work in this division began in Jamaica, where we have a fairly well-equipped fourteen-grade school in an ideal location. The school has an excellent farm, consisting of 171 acres, thirty acres of which is under cultivation, while the rest, aside from the school campus, is used for pasturage. Several industries are in active operation. These include agriculture,

dairying, cabinet-making, sheet-metal working, baking, and tailoring. Although the school has been in operation only about eight years, there are now ten or eleven former students engaged in the work. One was sent to the Bahamas, three are now in Honduras, two are in the West Caribbean Conference, and four or five are employed in Jamaica. The spiritual interests are of high character.

The West Caribbean Training School is located in the Canal Zone, with about fifty acres of leasehold land, and buildings to accommodate about 140 boarding students, besides providing space for the chapel, class-rooms, and several industries. There are at present 132 students enrolled. A large percentage of the students are from Seventh-day Adventist homes, but a number, who were non-Sabbath keepers when they enrolled, have yielded to the prevailing influence of the Holy Spirit, until fifty are now in the baptismal class. There is a Spanish department in this school, and the prospects seem favorable for it to become larger than the English department. The industrial features consist of agriculture, carpentry, broom-making, plumbing, and sewing.

We have three small training schools for the Spanish; one in the Aztec Union, one in Cuba, and one in Porto Rico; also one for the French, in Haiti.

Our school and mission school work is yet in its infancy. This line of our work has not been developed as its importance demands. We have thirty-seven schools, forty-three teachers, and 1,377 pupils enrolled. As rapidly as we can train teachers for such work and as funds will permit, new schools will be started. There is no more urgent call for help than in this line of work.

Our hope for the future of our work in this field lies in the training of a large number of consecrated young men and women in our denominational training schools in the field. In every line of our work we need laborers who were born in the tropics, whose mother tongue is the vernacular of the people, who know their people as no foreigner can know them, and who are accustomed to climatic conditions that are often fatal to a foreigner. To make this possible, we need funds for the creation of industries in our schools that will enable the students to earn a large share of their expenses while in training for service. Unexpected success has attended the efforts of one our workers in Jamaica in soliciting gifts from the wealthy for the installation of indus-

trial equipment in the West Indian Training School. We hope that this experience may help us to solve, at least in part, the problem of establishing industrial plants in other schools.

#### OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WORK

This phase of work has experienced encouraging growth during the last four years. Beginning with seventy-nine societies and a membership of 1,662 at the close of 1921, the number of societies had increased by the end of 1925 to 190, with a membership of 3,907. All the various lines of work in the department have been blessed with a corresponding increase. From my experience with the young people of Inter-America, it appears to me that they are as responsive to earnest efforts in their behalf as any in any other part of the world where I have labored. They have been almost wholly deprived of the many advantages so freely extended to the young people in more favored lands, and yet they escape many of the perilous snares laid by the enemy to entrap those who are in some ways more highly favored.

#### OUR MEDICAL WORK

This department of our work is in the earliest stages of development. As yet we have no institution where we can train our young people healthwise or in the treatment of the sick, except as we give them a few rudiments in our schools. Dispensary work has been opened in Salvador, with remarkable results for the brief time it has been in operation. Its success is abundantly demonstrated, and it is our hope to see many small institutions doing a like work in all parts of our field.

The way seems now to be opening before us in Cuba, where a beginning was very difficult. Dr. Harold Leland has been successful in passing the severe medical examination required, and is now opening medical work in a small way, with the prospect of rapid development.

Since the return of Dr. Charles Cave from Scotland, about eighteen months ago, where he qualified for practice in British countries, he has been seriously ill; but we hope he may soon be able to take up the work he loves so dearly and for which he has sacrificed so much.

Dr. Nelson has been doing excellent work in Nicaragua, also Dr. Hummel in Mexico City. We would welcome other consecrated physicians who sincerely desire to help in finishing the proclamation of this message in the

earth. The need for such help is very urgent, and the opportunities for service are unlimited. This call for help is not confined to physicians alone; consecrated nurses with a training in our institutions could render invaluable service in many parts of our field. Where our budgets will not allow us to take such workers on our pay roll, we will gladly co-operate in every possible way to help them locate in fields where the opportunities for self-support are most promising.

#### HOME MISSIONARY WORK

Since the beginning of 1926 Elder C. E. Wood, formerly president of the Jamaica Conference, has been our divisional secretary for this department. Till then we had no one who could give his undivided attention to this work, hence it was impossible to promote its interests as should have been done. And yet much has been accomplished as the result of local and union leadership. The spirit of earnest labor for God has come upon our people in many parts of the field, and much fruit has been reaped as the result of their untiring efforts. In some instances our lay brethren have walked regularly each week many miles to conduct services and explain the truth to the people in villages, thus raising up companies of believers. In one case two brethren walked twenty-one miles to a village on each Friday, returning the following Monday, making forty-two miles for the trip. Finding the interest very great, in two instances, they remained throughout the whole week with the people, thus, though they were very poor, sacrificing their own temporal interests for the sake of the people. At the end of six weeks sixteen persons were keeping the Sabbath, and a fairly good temporary church building had been erected and paid for by the people. We expect, with the blessing of God, to see great things accomplished as our own people are trained for more efficient service, and all unite in making the salvation of the lost their first business.

#### UNENTERED FIELDS

While this message has been sounding in some parts of this field for a quarter of a century and more, there are still vast fields of unentered territory. It is true that very earnest efforts have been put forth in some parts of our Spanish-speaking fields, and with good results; yet there are multiplied millions speaking this language who never yet have heard the faintest sound of this sweet story of salvation. We

have only touched the fringe of the vast Spanish field.

The centuries of heathen environment, latterly under the subtle guise of Catholicism, have left their blighting influence on the people. But here the wondrous law of grace is seen to be operative: "As sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 5:21. Unmistakably, the Lord has prepared the hearts of thousands of this people for this message; and now one of our greatest problems is to find workers to instruct the hundreds of companies, large and small, and isolated individuals and families scattered over the vast area, from the northern boundary of the Aztec Union to the eastern boundary of Venezuela, including also the Spanish West Indies, who are pleading with us to send them help. All through these fields a rich harvest awaits the coming of faithful reapers.

#### THE INDIAN WORK

Within the bounds of the same territory, save the island fields, is to be found a still greater task, and one that we can hardly say we have yet touched; and that is the work of carrying this message to the millions of aboriginal Indians speaking many different tongues. In some parts, this work may be accomplished with the Spanish language as a medium of communication; but in most parts the vernacular of the people must be mastered by the missionary, and in numerous parts the Bible must yet be given to them in their own tongue.

"About twenty distinct groups of related languages, technically known as linguistic stocks, were found in Mexico and Central America. Some of these stocks occupied small areas and showed little in the way of dialectic variation. A few stocks stretched over wide territories, and were divided into many mutually unintelligible tongues, which in turn were subdivided into well-defined dialects. Several entire stocks are now extinct, and others are rapidly approaching extinction through the substitution of Spanish. A number of languages, however, are still spoken by hundreds of thousands of natives. . . . The Mexican language is still spoken by a million or more natives, and is divided into a number of dialects. . . . The second most important linguistic stock is the Mayan, now spoken by over half a million people."—*"Ancient Civilization of Mexico," pp. 31-34 (1922).*

## THE INDIAN WORK IN MEXICO

The Yaqui Indians, a savage tribe in the northwestern part of the Aztec Union which for years has been a fierce antagonist of the white race, have repeatedly, through their chiefs, urged us to establish work among them, assuring us protection.

The superintendent of the Sonora Mission, embracing a large Indian territory and including the Yaquis, writes of gathering the first fruits from this tribe. He says:

"This coming year we must have two mission stations for the Yaqui Indians, one on the El Fuente River, and one in the Huicholo country, both of which are populous districts."

These will open a large country where there are great numbers of uncivilized Indians. In relating an experience while on a recent visit to the Indians, the superintendent says:

"One young man came to the Sabbath meeting from a distance of six miles. He had learned that the seventh day is the Sabbath; and as he had decided to keep it, he told the six peons who were working for him to come Sunday, if they desired, otherwise he would employ others. I never met a more earnest people in my life. They kept me studying the Bible with them for hours, and the interest never waned. Then they followed me to town for further study at night. This whole unentered country is ripe for the message. We must make mighty efforts for them. They are in a peaceful part of the country, and are a wonderful people."

We have one medical missionary now under appointment for work among the Yaquis. He is engaged in the study of the language.

Farther to the south we have many believers from various Indian tribes, and a number of churches. We have no more loyal or devoted, self-sacrificing people anywhere than these Indians. No more precious fruit can be found anywhere than that which is fast ripening in this field; and judging from recent experiences, and every tangible evidence, I believe it may be gathered in great abundance.

Recently Elder E. P. Howard, superintendent of the Guatemala-Salvador Mission, made a preliminary visit to the Indians of Guatemala, where there are said to be 1,250,000 pure-blood Indians, the majority of whom speak the Quiché language, or a similar dialect understood by those who speak the Quiché and the Mam languages. About

200,000 of these Indians have the Bible, or parts of it, in their language, and 2,000 have professed Protestantism. Brother Howard writes:

"These Indians belong to the great Quiché tribe of Guatemala, and strange to say, I found several words they were using practically the same as the Aymaras of Lake Titicaca."

Here seems to be a wonderful field of opportunity that is completely opened before us, with everything that we could desire inviting us to enter and take possession. Catholicism in its worst form is in possession at present, but the people are independent, and, at least in some parts, they seem to be dissatisfied with the priests, and long for something better. We must enter this great field at once; the pillar of cloud is rising, and in all its majesty and glory is moving on before.

## THE TALAMANCANS OF PANAMA APPEAL FOR HELP

We now pass on through Central America far to the southwest, leaving behind us many tribes of Indians, each one of which must hear this message, and that soon. We come to the Talamancans, a tribe dwelling in Panama, a peaceful people, with many of the characteristics of the Mayas of Yucatan. Some of our people in the Bocas del Toro district became acquainted with a chief of this tribe, who urgently requested that a Bible teacher be sent to his people. He received the promise that at some favorable time such a teacher would be sent to them. Rejoicing in the expectation that his request would soon be granted, he returned to his home.

Several months later he came to inquire why his request had not been granted. The brethren could only reply that as yet we had no teacher to send to them or money for his support; but they hoped that soon we could send one. The chief reminded them of their promise to send one at a favorable time. Soon after his return, the chief, seeing the weather was favorable, gathered his people in a large valley where they supposed the teacher would pass on his way to them. At night they kept large bonfires burning so the teacher would not pass by without finding them. After four or five days of anxious vigils their supply of food was exhausted and regretfully, sorrowfully, they returned to their homes in the mountains without having greeted their long-looked-for teacher. Later, when the weather again was favorable, they repeated this ex-

perience. This they did several times, each time, however, with the same disappointment. How long? O, how long shall we keep them vainly waiting?

## THE "DAVIS" INDIANS OF GUIANA

Far to the East, past the Chibchas of Colombia, who anciently had a relatively high degree of civilization, not stopping at still other tribes of that great country, beyond the Orinocos of Venezuela, we come to the Caribs in the wilds of British Guiana. Here in 1911 Elder O. E. Davis laid down his life that he might proclaim the good news of salvation to these children of the forest. After having labored undoubtedly far beyond his strength, he was unable to resist an attack of the dreaded blackwater fever. He died alone among his Indian converts, having no experienced hands to minister to him in this trying hour. They had learned to love him, and now with sad hearts they laid his body to rest in their quiet uplands. Fourteen years passed by before the fervid appeals of these lonely brethren, far removed from civilization, in a well-nigh inaccessible region, were answered by the visit of Brethren W. E. Baxter and C. B. Sutton in October, 1925.

The experience of these brethren is one of the most thrilling stories I have ever read in the annals of mission history. It can be told most effectively by the brethren who, in the providence of God, have been spared to relate it to us at this Conference. You will pardon me, however, I am sure, if I anticipate their story enough to say that after all these long years of waiting, cut off entirely from all help save that which came from God direct, these poor untutored Indians had kept the fires of love for the infinite Father, and for His incomparable Son who died to save them, burning brightly upon the altars of their hearts. Notwithstanding the fact that their chief and native spiritual guide—Jeremiah—fell asleep in Jesus not long after Brother Davis died, still they hopefully waited, and prayed, and longed for the coming of the "Davis man," or the "God man," in harmony with the promise left them by their dying missionary.

Now the people scattered over the territory far beyond the bounds of Brother Davis' early influence, have learned of the heaven-sent message, and earnestly appeal to us that the same sweet story be taught to them. Can we deny this appeal? And yet at present we have but one family under appointment for that work, which

should have the help of at least two or three families at once. We can find the added help as soon as the necessary money for their support and for the erection of suitable homes can be provided.

Surely the Lord has set His hand to recover the remnant of His people from these scattered, torn, and bleeding Indian nations who through the centuries have suffered such indignities at the hands of the professed representatives of our compassionate and loving Saviour. The time has come for His true character to be revealed to this long-suffering people by His true representatives, for His honor and glory to be vindicated, and His ever-blessed name to be exalted.

#### A GREAT TASK

According to the best statistics obtainable, we have within the bounds of our division fully twice as many aboriginal Indians as are to be found in all the rest of the Western Hemisphere. The burden to carry the truth to this people is now resting heavily upon our hearts. We believe that the way is fully prepared, that the time has fully come for this tremendous task to be undertaken. Our dear people in the homeland, so richly endowed both spiritually and temporally, must carry upon their hearts a heavier burden for this poor benighted people at their very doors. We are sure their hearts will respond to the audible, and also the mute but eloquent, appeals of these millions, whose brothers in the flesh to the south have responded, and are still responding by the thousands to the earnest efforts of our missionaries, and have suffered persecution even unto death for the faith they love better than life.

#### OUR NEEDS

We are very grateful for the help of consecrated, efficient workers and for financial help sent forward to our division, for the sympathetic cooperation of our brethren of the General Conference but we need more to help us with these great tasks; we need larger appropriations to enable us to press into the many open doors throughout our field; we need the importunate prayers of our people everywhere; we need and must have above all else the constant companionship of our great Leader, the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, in all our ministry. With this, success is assured.

#### MANY FINDING DELIVERANCE

Here in Haiti our hearts are daily impressed with the marvelous advancement of the work. Vividly we see that the gospel is indeed "the power of God unto salvation." Satan is being forced to cede heart after heart to its penetrating, purifying influence. In many instances his wrath and his threatenings are terrible as he gives up souls over whom he has held control for many years. At Morne St. -Esprit, (Mountain of the Holy Spirit) for example, souls are being pulled from his clutch by tremendous manifestations of the power and right of God.



#### INTER-AMERICA WAITING

[May be sung to the music of 64 in "Christ in Song," repeating the second stanza as a chorus.]

Inter-America is waiting,  
See her drooping fields today;  
Precious grain around is wasting;  
Will God's workers still delay?

Precious Saviour, keep us faithful,  
Gath'ring many souls for Thee.  
May we each deserve Thy "Well done,"  
When at last Thy face we see.

Help us gather from the islands  
Honest hearts with constant care;  
May we find the lost in Aztec,  
Who at last Thy joys will share.

Roaming long the Southern border,  
Hundreds blindly grope for Thee.  
Help us lead them to their Saviour,  
That they, too, may welcome Thee.

May Thy angels go before us,  
And we follow where they lead.  
Teach us how, O blessed Saviour,  
To reach all who mutely plead.

Break hte wall of heathenism  
Let imprisoned hearts go free.  
Shield Thy workers from all dangers,  
As they toil for men and Thee.



I was over there on a visit not long ago and met two men and women rejoicing — so happy — in the first peace of heart and quiet of mind that they had ever known. All their lives they had served Satan through the power of evil spirits and their false gods. Year after year they had spent all their earnings to satisfy the fiendish demands of these spirits and gods; they had submitted untellable mental and bodily tortures in search of peace and security for soul and body; and many, I am told, had eaten coals of fire and broken glass while possessed with these evil spirits.

To give you some idea of their former struggle and painful lives, and their joy after finding relief in Jesus, I will

tell you very briefly the story of one family. They have a nice little farm which by their faithful labor is well able to provide for their needs and comforts. But, though they worked diligently and hard the year round they were unable, before their conversion, to properly clothe themselves. Their earnings were practically all spent on their gods, not joyfully and willingly, but in the greatest fear and in efforts to ward off their horrible threatenings. They were obliged to make feasts for these gods that required great numbers of chickens, goats, and pigs.

On one occasion the father was commanded to go to town and buy three complete outfits of clothing for a man. He did this, and when he presented them to the person designated, he was commanded to go at once and buy three more complete outfits, which he did, only to receive a new command to go and buy three more. It is very easy to recite these things; but to tell you the soul struggles and hardships it cost this poor family, I cannot.

When converted, though hard working, the family was not sufficiently clothed to be able to come to church. They tell of passing through many experiences which I will not relate here and which to us seem very strange, but to them, I assure you, they were very real and caused them much agony of body and spirit. But I can say that since they found Jesus, He is just as real to them as their false gods ever were; and O, what joy and peace and happiness is theirs! Today they make free-will offerings to God and are well fed and clothed.

The believers at Morne St. Esprit are true missionaries. They get on their horses, mules, and donkeys, or go afoot, and travel for miles about the country, telling the story of their deliverance; and the power of the Word attends their efforts; for Sister Mercier, who has charge of our work in that section, writes me that nearly every Sabbath there are new faces at the meetings and new decisions for Jesus.

Once those who have served the evil spirits take their stand with God's people the spirits lose their power over them completely; though they have been servants of Satan for many years. And however strong the chains of alliance have been, once they decide definitely for the truth, God's right of possession remains forever indisputable. These souls know that they have passed from death unto life. There is no question in their minds, and what joy it brings!

W. P. ELLIOTT.



ECHOES FROM HONDURAS

We have twenty-four Sabbath schools with a membership of over 500. We are glad to report two new schools added to our number. One was organized in the latter part of last year and the other one in the early part of 1925.

We are doing what we can in this field to bring the Sabbath schools up to a higher standard, making use of the *Sabbath School Worker*, the Picture Roll, and *Our Little Friend*, in English, also using the *Auxiliar*.

MRS. NINA M. PHILLIPS.

MORE ORDERS THAN EXHIBITIONS

No doubt you have read in this paper of our very encouraging institute here in Caracas. It was inspiring to me to see such a splendid spirit present in the meeting. Every colporteur showed the depest interest, and a spirit of unity and consecration prevailed throughout the entire institute. I feel sure that if the same spirit of diligence and prayer continues nothing will be able to stand before these colporteurs in their work. We have a noble band of them here in Venezuela.

We have every reason to be thankful for success in our first efforts this year. The second day after the institute closed, I left with two of the colporteurs on a little steamer that sails along the coast in the direction of Trinidad. Brother Acosta was returning to the field that he left to come to the institute, and Brother Gonzalez and I stopped off at a little port opposite from the direction where Brother Acosta was going. Brother Gonzalez has had his heart in this work for a long time and has been praying for years to get into it. He is one of the men that walked nearly 300 miles to get to the institute.

I did not think that I was taking him to very good territory, but thought it would be better for him to get the hardest on the start. However, the Lord blessed us in a most wonderful way, and in eleven days of work we were given 114 orders for "Our Day." One day in a little village we showed the book 22 times and received 23 orders. The following day we showed the book 17 times and took 18 orders. We had the delivery about half made when I came away a week ago.

Needless to say Brother Gonzalez is overflowing with enthusiasm for the book work. He is a very spiritual man and talks freely to the people of the things that pertain to their salvation. Many told us they had read "Heralds

of the Morning' and believe the message it gave.

We called on a crippled man that had sat in a wheel chair sixteen years. I talked with him a little, after he gave us his order. I told him that the day was not far off when there would be no more pain or sickness. Then he mentioned having read "Heralds of the Morning" which gave him that hope. Tears were in his eyes and he was very much affected. When we passed the house a little later, he called us and wanted to know if we would not like a deposit on the book. Surely there is a wonderful experience for the colporteur who is in touch with God. More and more I am impressed with what our colporteurs might do in giving the Message in these remote parts.

At this writing I plan to leave tomorrow with another new man who

PRAYER

Prayer is the swiftest cable known,  
 And longest, reaching to God's throne.  
 It is a flame of heaven-born light  
 To flash a clear way to our sight.  
 Prayer is the Christian's telescope  
 To scan the star-strewn sky of hope.  
 It is the prism through which we view  
 God's color scheme for me and you.  
 Prayer is the lever for each hour,  
 To move the arm of Mighty Power.  
 The drafts for all this wealth we take  
 Bear e'er this seal, "For Jesus' sake."  
 How oft we lose, unarmed by prayer!  
 No battle wanes when God is there!  
 —Worthie Harris Holden.

has been waiting for my help. We are going over on the llanos to the Southwest of Valencia. No doubt I will be away with him most all the month of March. There are others expecting my help and I have a full program until June or July. Perhaps some may say I spend too much time with the colporteurs, but it is the most effective way of keeping them encouraged. Another thing I have found is, that to become acquainted thoroughly with the lives of the colporteurs it is necessary to be with them much.

Brother Alberto Acosta reports three keeping the Sabbath over in the eastern part where he is working. This man is a real missionary. There is a Sabbath school of thirteen where he worked last year.  
 FRED W. STEEVES.

WEST CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

Up in San Jose, Costa Rica, Brother J. L. Holder reports a good interest at his meetings.

A tent effort has been conducted in Gatun, Canal Zone, by Elder Rashford and Brother Nemhard. Several persons have decided to obey the truth.

Brother Ellis, over in the Chiriqui district, reports that some of the brethren have been persecuted by a non-Protestant element, and threatened with death if they did not close the meeting. The meeting, however, continued and no one was injured. Many people in the district are interested and call for services.

During a recent visit to La Concepcion and San Andres, Brother Larson, our field missionary secretary, and I had the privilege of baptizing fifteen new believers.

At San Andres another company of 22 members was organized. Both at this place and Concepcion meetings were held in Spanish each evening during our visit.

Elder Andross reports a great interest at Panama City where he is carrying on a series of meetings. Between five and six hundred have been attending.

Looking over the financial report for the year 1925 we are encouraged to see that our tithe for 1925 exceeds 1924 by \$1,115.44, our mission offerings were \$2,024.23 more, our Harvest In-gathering amounted to \$1,037.76 more, and our local offerings were \$681.73 more than in 1924, making a total increase in all classes of funds of \$4,858.96.

Our large church building in Panama City is completed and furnished with nice comfortable pews, made in the wood-working department of the West Caribbean Training School where there are a large number of young people enrolled preparing for the work of God.

We thank God for the progress made, and with renewed courage we shall press on, knowing that the work will soon be finished.  
 W. R. POHLE.

THE WORKER'S REWARD

Even in this life the missionary reaps rich reward in the Master's service, as the following extract from a letter from Brother Julio Garcia Diaz to Brother Baxter shows:

"My beloved Brother,—  
 "Today it is five years exactly since I knew Brother Lopez and with him the 'Present Truth.' To celebrate such a happy event I made seven missionary visits, talked the truth with nine others, gave two Bible studies and preached at night, and studied the Sabbath school lesson with some of the members of the

Sabbath school. Here I am writing to you to remind you.

"I can never forget you. Is it possible for the marble to forget the one who carved its plain surface? Never. And so it happens with the one who carves into our hearts and places there the image of the Christ. It is true that the work is done by the Holy Spirit; but, the instrument chosen by the Lord we can never forget; never.

"(Signed) J. García."

Can you think of a richer reward here on earth than to see men and women, for whom you labor, following who's heartedly in the path of service just as Brother Julio García Díaz does?

### COSTA RICA

No part of the great harvest field seems to be more needy than is Costa Rica. It is true that there are scarcely any of the English-speaking foreigners who do not know of the message to some extent; still much more must be done for them ere we can say we did all we could to get the truth to them.

There is a mute, yet pressing call for laborers, and more especially for those who can speak the native tongue; for very little has been done for the natives. We have barely touched them with the message. There is a good beginning among the foreigners, mainly West Indians; but the growth is slow.

All conditions considered, however, the work is advancing. The tithes and offerings have increased, and so has the membership. We are engaged in the construction of a new church building, and hope soon to hold a series of meetings in it.

It was really inspiring to see the zeal manifested in the Harvest Ingathering work; and we are glad to state that we not only reached our goal, but had an overflow, which would have been greater, had more of our people taken part. We thank God for what has been done, and reconsecrate ourselves for greater service in the cause of the Master. LIN RASHFORD.

### BOQUETE

Situated in a valley with beautiful hills all around, is the little town of Boquete. Coffee is king in this part of the Panaman Republic. There are about one million trees of which half are bearing an average of two pounds to the tree. The coffee harvest lasts four months. Men, women, and children gather at Boquete from almost

every point in the province at this season; and this really makes Boquete an important center for us. If we can give the people the message as they come to Boquete every year, they will take it home with them. And who can tell the results?

I was glad to find one Sabbath keeper in Boquete and some who are interested in this blessed truth. Let us remember them at the throne of grace, and trust that we will soon have a group of believers there.

ISHMAEL ELLIS.

### THE EXTENSION FUND BIG WEEK

August 1 to 7

The Big Week campaign in support of the Extension Fund presents an opportunity to every Seventh-day Adventist for doing something definite to help finish the work. It affords a double opportunity,—that of placing truth-laden literature in the hands of the people, and of raising money for the extension of the work. It dispenses a double blessing,—a blessing to those in whose hands the literature is placed, and a blessing to those who distribute it.

The General Conference recommendations, as they apply to the Inter-American division, recommend that our lay-members be encouraged to sell at least \$1.00 worth of our literature during the Big Week, the profits to be turned over to the church treasurer to be applied on the Missions Extension Fund; that colporteurs share in the Missions Fund Big Week by giving the profits of their biggest day's sales; that conference and institutional workers join in the plan by selling literature during the Big Week, applying their entire profits to the fund, in addition to their personal income for one day; and that one or more field days be held by all our sanitariums, publishing houses, and schools during the Big Week. What a wave of missionary activity will be set in motion if all of our 9,829 members in Inter-America join in the campaign!

In 1924 we raised \$846.49 in our Big Week effort in Inter-America, and in 1925 we almost doubled the amount, the receipts being \$1,669.96. To reach our 1926 goal of \$4,000 we will have to more than double the 1925 receipts, but we can easily do it if all will do their part. It should inspire us to earnest activity to remember that Inter-America will receive \$14,000 from this fund, if we reach our goal of \$4,000.

We cannot afford to fall short of the amount.

Inter-America will benefit from the Extension Fund as follows:

Publishing—Working capital for mission depositories . . .	\$4,000
Educational—Schools in Haiti and Trinidad . . . . .	8,500
Medical—Dispensary among Indians of Northwest Mex.	1,500
	\$14,000

Success in our campaign this year will mean a great forward movement, and something definite established in these three lines of work. Next year other portions of our division will be benefited from this fund.

To those who may feel that they have no fitness for this kind of work, we would pass on the encouraging message from Volume VI of the "Testimonies," page 333: "The Lord imparts a fitness for the work to every man and woman who will co-operate with divine power. All the requisite talent, courage, perseverance, faith, and tact will come as they put the armor on." Then again, in "Desire of Ages," page 825, we read, "It is in doing Christ's work that the church has the promise of His presence." Shall we not put on the armor, claim these wonderful promises, and go forth for service on the very first day of the Big Week?

Remember the date—August 1 to 7.  
Make the Big Week *YOUR* Big Week  
C. E. Wood.

### HARVEST INGATHERING WORK

It is good to know that the Lord is with us and will give success if we trust Him. In spite of hard times, God is leading, and with such an able Leader, we are bound to achieve success.

I have concluded that the five rules following insure success in our Harvest Ingathering work:

- All interested
  - All at work
  - All with a goal
  - All determined
  - All collections turned in
- LIN RASHFORD.

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