

# INTER-AMERICAN MESSENGER

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No. 10

## West Caribbean Training School

August 24 marked the close of a very successful school year at the West Caribbean Training School. In the years covering the history of the institution, there has grown up for the school a reputation of presenting entertainments frequently which are enjoyed by the members of the school and the neighbors and visiting friends without. The work of the past year was punctuated less frequently than usual by these programs with the direct result that more strenuous class work could be carried forward and the closing week of the school year could be given over entirely to exercises of this character.

Among the events leading up to the commencement exercises proper were the entertainment of the senior class at the principal's home; a program rendered by the expression class; the entertainment of the seniors by the juniors; the entertainment of the two groups of young people by Elder and Mrs. Halladay; a debate and other items presented on one evening; and a full evening's program rendered by the music department. The final three were the class exercises, the baccalaureate sermon and the commencement proper.

The busy activities of the school particularly for all the older students seem to reach a climax in the last ten days of the school year. Some were completing the final tests while others were preparing the decorations which included an arch containing the class motto. Since this was the first graduation

from the academic course many of the activities were entirely new to seniors, juniors and others concerned.

The school has entertaining quarters for American and native visitors and these were taxed to their capacity by the friends of the school. Not only did those visiting represent parents or those immediately from the Adventist membership, but there were many visitors from Panama including photographers, club-house secretaries and other business men. One man who is a graduate of the Tuskege Institute founded by Booker T. Washington classified the class exercises in the first rank with those he had heard rendered in the States.

The commencement address given by Elder W. R. Pohle was well rendered

and expressions of appreciation were volunteered by many from outside.

The class consisted of nine young people most of whom have been attending the school from the first year of its operation. For these closing exercises, the class colors, green and gold, were artistically arranged in the decoration of the chapel. On the standards for the arch and stretched across the front of the rostrum near the floor was a background of green with the nine names of the graduates properly spaced and presented in gold lettering. This unique feature with the motto "We press toward the mark" embodied a simple but very effective feature of the decoration. Ferns and other potted plants were placed in profusion about the rostrum, adding a very decided tropical

touch to the decoration. On Sabbath after the highly appreciated baccalaureate sermon by Elder C. E. Wood, the platform was cleared and a choir of more than thirty voices rendered the immortal Hallelujah chorus accompanied by the piano teacher Miss Leona Seibold.

As a fitting close for the year's activities, ten young people from the student body were given public examination as a feature of the last Sabbath's exercises and were buried in baptism at the pool the same afternoon. These ten were the second group baptized in the present year, bringing the number up to twenty-eight.

As these nine graduates leave the school not to return, the pray-



THE CLASS OF 1926

(First group to be graduated from the twelfth grade)

Back row: J. Buchanan, R. Brooks, W. Archbold, R. Rodriguez,  
D. Haughton, A. Bailey.

Front Row: Linda Austin, Selma Luzey, Jennie Archbold.

ers of all go with them, and I feel certain that the readers of the MESSENGER bid them God's speed in their endeavor to fill their places in service for the Master. C. L. STONE, *Principal*.

### INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

April the 25th, the division workers sailed from Cristobal, Canal Zone, for New York. Upon arriving in the States a short time was spent in Washington, and from there we went on to our union and division meetings, which were held at Wabash Valley Sanitarium, Lafayette, Indiana. This institution is pleasantly located on the banks of the Wabash river and our delegates present at the meetings were entertained very hospitably by the Sanitarium family.

During the first week the Antillian, Aztec, and Caribbean unions held their annual committee meetings, at which time study was given to the budgets for 1927, besides the many other problems in connection with the work in these union fields. The annual division meeting convened the second week. In addition to the representatives present from the different mission fields of the Inter-American Division, we were favored by the presence of the following brethren from the General Conference: Elders C. H. Watson, B. E. Beddoe, W. E. Howell, C. W. Irvin, N. Z. Town, J. A. Stevens, and Brother J. J. Ireland.

On account of the far-flung territory of some of the unions it was thought advisable, after careful study, to organize another union conference. The fields comprising the Guiana Mission, Leeward Islands Mission, and the South Caribbean Conference Union. The mission fields of the Guianas and the Leeward Islands are to be organized into conferences before the end of the year.

To the Caribbean Union are added the fields of Honduras and Guatemala-Salvador which were formerly a part of the Aztec Union Mission. It is very probable that the headquarters for the Caribbean Union Mission will be located at San Jose, Costa Rica. Elder W. E. Baxter will still have charge of the work in this union. Elder M. A. Hollister, president of the Kansas Conference in the States, has accepted the call to the presidency of the East Caribbean Union with headquarters at Port of Spain, Trinidad. We believe, with the organization of this new union, it will help to facilitate the work in such a way that more effective service can be rendered in the different fields.

Our division business not all having been attended to, sessions were called at different times during the General Con-

ference, in Milwaukee, and the work was finished after the close of this meeting. It will be of interest to the readers of the MESSENGER to know that several new recruits were called at the time of the conference, and a list of thirty-five was in the hands of the General Conference Committee for workers with their families to come forward to the different fields of the Inter-American Division.

From the States I went into Mexico, spending two weeks in Mexico City where I did the auditing of the Aztec Union for the year 1925, also the Mexican Mission and the Imprenta La Verdad up to the time the books were turned over by the union treasurer, C. V. Williams. Notwithstanding the changes the brethren have had to make in the Aztec Union on account of existing conditions there, still the work goes forward; and they report that every change has been for the advancement of the work of God in that field.

Leaving Mexico City, I returned to the division headquarters, after an absence of fourteen weeks, by the way of Vera Cruz and Havana, Cuba. While in Havana it was my privilege to call at the Cuban Mission headquarters and to spend a little time in the office of Dr. H. G. Leland, who reports that since securing his license in Cuba and opening his office, he has been meeting with success. We wish many more of our doctors were located in the different fields of the division.

It would seem that with the advance steps which have been taken throughout the field that we should see much accomplished for the Master during the remaining months of this year.

F. L. HARRISON.

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF GENERAL INTEREST ADOPTED DURING THE ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION COMMITTEE

MAY 11 TO JUNE 15

At the time of our Division Meeting quite a few actions were taken regarding our work in general throughout the division. We have thought it would be interesting to our people to read these, so we are putting them into the MESSENGER. The first one is "Gratitude to God" for His blessings and protecting care that has been over the work and workers. We believe that all of our people will wish to join in the re-dedication of their lives more fully to God to help in His work.

### Gratitude to God

Whereas the good Lord has held His protecting hand over His workers in the Inter-American Division during the past year, and has abundantly blessed with an increase of souls brought into the Truth, as also in the amount of tithes and offerings,

Resolved that we hereby express our sincere gratitude to Him for these blessings and mercies, and that we re-dedicate our lives to Him for the speedy finishing of the work in this division, and in all the world in this generation.

### Tithes

Whereas the tithing system is God's plan for providing for the sustenance of His ministers and servants, and whereas the greatest blessings are bound up with the faithful following out of this system,

Voted we recommend (a) That a definite effort be made in all our fields to arouse the constituency to faithfulness in the matter of tithe paying, emphasizing the fact that tithe paying is as sacred an obligation as Sabbath keeping;

(b) That all our workers, but especially leaders of churches and companies, be admonished to cooperate with the leader of the field in placing before the members of our churches their responsibility with regard to this sacred duty;

(c) That superintendents and local church leaders make definite efforts to reclaim the careless and indifferent members by means of personal visits and prayers;

(d) That the officers of our churches set a noble example to their flocks in the matter of tithe paying, and that no member who withholds the Lord's tithe be invited to occupy an official position in the church;

(e) That a reminder chart, recording the weekly income of tithe in diagram fashion, be exhibited in each church in a conspicuous place;

(f) That candidates for baptism receive early and careful instruction with reference to the sacred obligation of tithe paying and that they be expected to comply with this obligation along with Sabbath keeping and other requirements before they are admitted to the rite of baptism; and

(g) That our tract societies and institutions, such as schools, sanitariums, etc., be encourage to return to the conference treasurer a tithe of their net profits.

Voted that we recommend the goals for offerings for 1927 be as follows:

Goals for Offerings for 1927

(a) Ant. Un.	Aztec Un.	Carib. Un.
Cuba .50	Guatemala .15	Venezuela .20
Haiti .10	Honduras .20	Colombia .20
S. Domingo .30	Sonora .20	S. Carib. .15
Jamaica .15	Tehuantepec .15	Leeward I. .15
Bahamas .10	Central .15	Br. Guiana .12
P. Rico .45	Yucatan .20	W. Carib. .18
	Gulf .15	
	Occidental .15	
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Aver. .26 2-3	.17	.16 2-3

(b) That for all our foreign workers the goal shall be .60 cts. per week per member.

(c) That the division treasurer include in statistical reports the standing of each field so that members may know that Sabbath Schools are expected to raise half the mission goals.

Week of Sacrifice

Whereas the Week of Sacrifice has brought great blessings to those who in past years have taken part in it, we

Recommend (a) That as leaders of the different fields in this division, we pledge our cooperation in the Week of Sacrifice plan;

(b) That, in order to secure more liberal offerings on this occasion, the Week of Sacrifice be removed from its proximity to the Week of Prayer and the Annual Offering, and the 13th Sabbath offering in December, to a more convenient time in the year; and that we suggest that the offering for 1927 be taken on the occasion of the Midsummer offering;

(c) That leaders in churches encourage their members to prepare for a liberal offering by preparing for it systematically beforehand, week by week and month by month, following the plan recommended by Paul in 1 Cor. 16: 1, 2.

Home Missionary Department

Whereas definite instruction has been given to us that "the work of God in this earth will never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers;" and realizing that those who are leading our church members need to catch a clearer vision of the Lord's plan for the finishing of the work, and to receive instruction concerning the most successful methods of carrying forward this work, therefore, we

Recommend that Home Missionary Conventions be held in each union of the Inter-American Division.

Inasmuch as the Lord is calling every church member to service for the finishing of the work and these members need the inspiration of a missionary or-

ganization, which will plan and outline work for them, therefore, we

Recommend that a missionary committee be organized in all of our churches, in accordance with the recommendations of the General Conference Home Missionary Department; and

Whereas many of our church members are uninformed concerning the instruction the Lord has given regarding the laymen's movement, and concerning the Home Missionary plans which are being successfully used in other parts of the field, therefore, we

Recommend that the Inter-American Division provide this literature for the upbuilding of the Home Missionary organization.

Inasmuch as financial conditions are not favorable for a uniform date for the Harvest Ingathering campaign in the division, therefore, we

Recommend that the various fields conduct their campaigns in the months of February and March, or September and October, according to existing conditions.

Whereas there are possibilities before us of greatly increasing our Harvest Ingathering receipts, therefore, we

Recommend the adoption of the following plans, which have proved successful:

(a) The use of loose-leaf solicitor's books by our workers in order to segregate the larger donations from the smaller.

(b) Securing influential names to head the list.

(c) Team work in calling upon influential firms.

(d) Same workers call on same people each year.

(e) Letter of introduction.

Harvest Ingathering Goals for 1927

Voted that the goals for 1927 be as follows:

Conference and Mission Goals

Santo Domingo	\$1,000.00
Haiti	1,000.00
Leeward Islands	1,000.00
Porto Rico	3,500.00
Cuba	5,000.00
Honduras	600.00
South Caribbean	5,000.00
Guatemala	500.00
West Caribbean	6,000.00
Jamaica	3,500.00
Central Mexico	350.00
Venezuela	500.00
Colombia	2,000.00
Guiana	1,000.00
Sonora	400.00
Yucatan	50.00
Bahamas	100.00
Gulf	100.00

Tehuantepec	200.00
Curacao	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,300.00</b>

Orders for Big Week Literature

Voted we recommend that orders for Big Week literature from churches and individuals be handled as far as possible on the same cash basis as the orders for other literature.

Subscription Book Prices

Voted that we re-affirm action with reference to the increase of the prices of the subscription books, which reads as follows:

"That all the colporteurs be educated to sell the large books, in harmony with the recommendation made at the Caribbean Union meeting;" and

"Whereas the fields have extremely high freight and custom duties, and charges peculiar to these Latin lands, and as a result of this the aggregate expense of carrying on business is 16.5% of the net business, exclusive of salaries, thus leaving no earnings for building up a working capital,

"We recommend (1) increasing the prices of subscription books sufficiently to enable the publishing house to allow the tract societies 65% instead of 60% as at present.

(2) Closely adhering to the General Conference financial policy of making collections.

(3) Keeping colporteurs and churches constantly informed as to their exact standing by simple statements or the Statement-Invoice plan.

(4) Reducing stocks as far as is consistent with the needs of the field.

(5) Relieving the tract society during the period of building up its working capital of every possible financial burden."

Temperance "El Centinela"

Voted we recommend that at least one issue of *El Centinela* per year be dedicated to the cause of temperance, and three other special numbers be issued during the year.

"El Centinela" Circulation

Whereas the Spirit of Prophecy has admonished us in these words, "Let us now by the wise use of periodicals and books preach the Word with determined energy, that the world may understand the message that Christ gave to John on the Isle of Patmos," and

Whereas in spite of the many difficulties that stand in the way of the circulation of the *Centinela* some are increasing their sales,

Voted we recommend that a definite effort be put forth in all parts of the

field to double the present circulation.  
*Preparation of Manuscript for Spanish "Testimonies"*

In view of the urgent need of our rapidly increasing Spanish-speaking membership of a more thorough knowledge of the teachings of the Spirit of Prophecy, and

In view of the inability of these members to get this knowledge until more of the Testimonies and other writings of Sister White are translated into the Spanish language,

*Voted* that we favor the plan of the E. G. White Estate Trustees to prepare manuscripts for publication of a five volume set of selections from the Testimonies, and that on behalf of our Spanish-speaking constituency we express our appreciation of what is being undertaken along this line.

#### *Ministerial Reading Course*

*Whereas* the Ministerial Reading Course is proving a great blessing to those who are taking it, therefore,

*Voted* we recommend that all our ordained and licentiate workers enlist as members of the Association, and that steps be taken to provide Spanish books for the native workers.

#### *"Liberty" Magazine for Inter-American Division*

*Whereas* the Sunday law movement is assuming continually increasing proportions in all countries in the Inter-American Division, therefore,

*Resolved* that we encourage each union to devise plans whereby the "Liberty" magazine may be supplied to all legislators and to editors of the leading periodicals in the territory of the Inter-American Division.

#### *Spanish "Messenger"*

*Voted* that we recommend a Spanish paper to be issued from the division; this to be as nearly a duplicate of the English as may seem advisable.

#### *Investment Fund*

*Voted* (a) that we encourage our Sabbath school members to bring in their investment fund money to the church week by week, and have it deposited there;

(b) and that it be made clear to the churches that the money derived from the Investment Fund is not to be used in enlarging the offerings given on the 13th Sabbath.

#### *13th Sabbath Overflow for Inter-America*

*Whereas* the General Conference plans to have the Inter-American Division receive the overflow from the 13th Sab-

bath offering of the second quarter of 1927,

*Voted* that a vote of thanks be sent to the General Conference in appreciation of their interest in this field.

#### *Missionary Volunteer Department*

*Voted* that we conduct Reading Courses consisting of books that will be simple and easily understood, as well as cheaper in price than the ones that are usually found in our Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses. These courses to be known as the Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses for the Inter-American Division.

#### *Spanish Missionary Volunteer Reading Course 1927*

*Voted* (a) that the Spanish M. V. Reading Course for the Inter-American Division for 1927 consist of "Testimonios Selectos" and *El Monitor* for one year.

(b) That the English senior M. V. Reading Course for 1927 consist of "Christian Experience and Teachings," and the *Youth's Instructor* for one year.

(c) that the English junior Reading Course for 1927 consist of "Stories Mother Told," and *Our Little Friend* for one year.

#### *Junior Standard of Attainment*

*Whereas* the present Junior Standard of Attainment Manual in English does not suit the particular conditions in this division,

*Voted* we recommend the revision and completion of that leaflet by adding the answers to the one hundred questions on Denominational History, thus making that study more simple and attractive for our juniors.

#### *M. V. Goal for 1927*

*Voted* we recommend that the Missionary Volunteer Division goal for 1927 be as follows:

- 5000 M. V. members by December 31, 1927
- 3000 M. W. observers
- 600 B. Y. certificates
- 250 Standard of Attainment certificates
- 350 Reading Course certificates
- 3000 Pocket Leaguers
- 300 Conversions

#### *Census*

*Voted* we recommend that a census of the children and young people in each field of the division be taken; to be completed not later than May 1, 1927.

#### *Spanish Denominational History Text-Book*

*Whereas* the need is great for a simple textbook in Spanish (on Denominational History) for the use of those

of our Spanish constituency who wish to study for the Standard of Attainment,

*Voted* (a) that the Denominational textbook of one hundred twenty-five questions and answers which has been prepared by Sister Mary Robertson-Edmed be translated into Spanish and adapted to our needs as soon as possible.

(b) that a list of questions and texts in Bible Doctrines be included, thus making the booklet a text book in Standard of Attainment work.

#### *Reading Matter for Spanish Children*

*Whereas* there is a great famine for proper reading matter for the younger children in the homes of our Spanish believers,

*Voted* we recommend that the division committee give study to the problem of providing such reading matter, possibly by endeavoring to persuade our friends in South America to add one or two pages for juniors to *El Monitor*, our Spanish youth's paper.

#### *Medical Work in New Fields of Inter-America*

*Whereas* there is great need of opening up medical work in the many new fields of the Inter-American Division,

*Voted* we recommend that investigation be made concerning the possibility of securing some of the young physicians from Loma Linda and Southern California who are anxious to take up medical missionary work in foreign fields.

#### *Organization of a New Union*

*Voted* that we recommend that the Leeward Island Mission, South Caribbean Conference, and the Guiana Mission be organized into a union conference with headquarters at Trinidad; that this become effective January 1, 1927.

#### *Name for New Union*

*Voted* that the name for the new English Union comprising the Guiana, Trinidad, and Leeward conferences be the East Caribbean Union.

#### *East Caribbean Union Training School*

*Voted* that the new school to be located in the East Caribbean Union be called the East Caribbean Training School.

#### *Fields Added to Caribbean Union*

*Voted* that we recommend, for a more efficient operating plan, that the fields of Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, British Honduras, and the Bay Islands be included in the Caribbean Union and that the headquarters for the Caribbean Union be in Costa Rica or Panama.

*Change in Name of Aztec Union*

Voted that the name of the Aztec Union be changed to the Mexican Union.

F. L. HARRISON, *Secretary*.

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 ATLANTIC-COLOMBIA
 

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The work is onward in this field, with doors wide open for the advent messenger. I recently took a month's trip to visit Brother Redondo's field of labor in the Sinú region, and found many things to bring encouragement to our hearts. On my trip I wished to try for myself the sale of *El Centinela*, and sold about 100. I think I could have sold fifty more if I had them with me, for the people are ready to buy.

The Lord gave me the privilege of giving some Bible studies on the boat which runs on the Sinú. One day I was seated at the table two hours with the captain and a prominent man from Cartagena, while others looked on and listened, as we studied the Bible testimony on various points.

I found Brother Redondo and family well and of good courage. They live in Vilches, and have a hall there, but most of their meetings are held in the chapel, which also serves as a church school room, in that part of Cereté called Santa Teresa, about a kilometer distant. We held various services in both these places. In Retiro, a little village about a league distant, we held an evening service with about 150 present—practically all the population I should judge. Brother Castro, one of the two men who made the long trip to Barranquilla last year in search of our mission, now lives in Carillo, four leagues down the river. He is an enthusiastic messenger of the truth, and, although he had been there but a short time, already he has three families greatly interested. There are 14 adults in these families. One of the men, when it was known that he was accepting Protestantism, was arrested on a false charge, and placed in the stocks for three days before being released. He told me that he was happy even while in the stocks, and that he intended to follow the religion of the Bible regardless of how he might be persecuted. We held a meeting at this man's house, with about two hundred attentive listeners. Except for one meeting held by Brother Redondo years ago when he was a Presbyterian, this was the first Protestant service ever held in that town.

The owner of the theatre in Cereté offered it for an evening meeting, free of charge. We accepted, advertised well, and had not less than 600 present, who gave perfect attention to the mes-

sage of the Lord's coming and the necessity of preparing to meet Him. Probably not more than a dozen besides our people were Protestants. That whole fertile valley seems to be open to the preaching of the Word. There is no persecution, and the people invite us to hold meetings, and attend in large numbers, and give splendid attention.

We wanted to go to Tierra Alta, a long ways up the river, but the launch was not running, and I could not take two weeks or more to go on horseback, so we left this trip for another time. There are people keeping the Sabbath there, and calling for a school, and asking for baptism.

During my stay a couple who had been keeping the Sabbath were married. One thing in connection with the wedding showed the hand of the Lord. We had wanted to go to San Carlos, about four leagues away, but could not do so until the day before the wedding. On passing through Cereté we called at the house of the secretary of the municipal court. He was not at home, so we left word that we would be ready for the wedding the next morning. While we were gone that day, the judge tried to find us to tell us that we had forgotten to notify the parish priest a month in advance, as is required by law, so that the priest may dissuade Catholics from contracting a civil marriage. The next morning, when Brother Redondo went to get the judge, the latter said he could not perform the ceremony. But Brother Redondo told him that all things had been made ready, and that it would be a serious reflection on him to fail to appear, so he consented and came. If he could have found us the day before and notified us, the wedding would not have been celebrated. The following day, which was the Sabbath, it was my privilege to baptize this couple. I am sure they will make staunch Seventh-day Adventists. On my return to Barranquilla the brethren here were very glad indeed to accept these, together with Brother and Sister Castro, who had been baptized previously, as members of our church. We hope some day to organize a church in Cereté, as there are others preparing for baptism.

The same day that we went to San Carlos, a man came to the house asking for an explanation of the mark of the Beast. Brother Redondo and Brother Castro, who happened to be there, gave him explanations on the points desired, and sold him some books on our message and he went his way well pleased, and asked us to visit him. He lives several days' journey up the river.

The Catholic people of that part are very superstitious. For example, when we went up the river on the launch, my attention was called to a big ceiba tree with candles burning before it. I was told that the people believed that a saint lives in the tree, so they keep candles burning there a great deal of the time. Some time before my visit a man had passed through Cereté who called himself "The Prophet Enoch," and pretended to do miracles of healing. Within the distance of two leagues between Cereté and Mateo Gómez, we found three crosses that had been erected under trees at points where this holy man had rested in his journey. These crosses had been adorned with flowers, and candles were burned before them.

These people need the gospel, and many of them seem willing to hear. We believe that the Lord has much fruit among them, and are perplexed to know how to reach them all. The Lord is going before us, and we are of good courage.

The opportunities for school work in this Mission are limited only by the funds and teachers available. Sister Carmen Redondo has over forty enrolled in her school in Santa Teresa, mostly from Catholic homes. She is happy in her work, and thankful for the wonderful privilege of reaching the people this way with our message. In Barranquilla we started late in the year, when most of the students were already matriculated in other schools, so our attendance has been small. But we wanted to start this year, anyhow, so as to be ready for next year, and we are assured of a good attendance then. It does my heart good to see children from Catholic homes studying the Bible in our school; and they enjoy coming to the Sabbath-school. Half the attendance is non-Adventist, and only in the kingdom shall we know the full results of sowing the seed in these young hearts.

E. W. THURBER.

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 OUR TRUTH FILLED BOOKS IN  
 COLOMBIA
 

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[In a letter received at the division office, written under date of July 22 by Brother F. A. Brower, field secretary of the Central Colombia Mission, he relates an experience that he and another brother had with the printed page. We are glad to pass it on to the readers of the MESSENGER.]

"Personally I believe that the colporteur work is one of the best means of winning souls to the truth. We took orders for two thousand dollars worth of books in the eight weeks that we were gone and have delivered one thou-

sand five hundred dollars worth of them. We also took about four hundred more subscriptions for *El Centinela*, besides selling two thousand copies.

"We walked from Ibague, which is about three thousand feet above sea level, a distance of seventy-two miles over a mountain ridge that at the pass is 10,660 feet above sea level, and down into the valley below on the other side where it gets very hot. We stopped in cities, towns, villages, farms, and stations selling literature and taking orders for we had only a few magazines and small books with us. On the way back, as well as going to Cali, we rode on the train where there was one, but we had twenty five pounds of books with us to sell and deliver on the return trip.

"I can confidently say that the Lord heard our prayers and those of His people and greatly blessed in the feeble efforts that were put forth. To Him be the honor and glory.

"I believe there are great prospects before the man who is willing to work hard in the Master's service in this republic and especially in the Cauca valley. It seems to me that the people are quite ready to hear the message and to obey it. One elderly man told me, 'It does not make any difference to me what any man may say or what customs may prevail, I want to do only that which is right in the eyes of God.'

"We have one colporteur who loves to give Bible studies. He has a convincing power that is hard to deny and he is very well versed in the Holy Scriptures. Then there are two other men who I think will bring honor to the cause. They will soon be ready for definite colporteur work. We are waiting for the prospectuses for the book 'Patriarchs and Prophets.'

"We hope soon to see more fruits in Colombia as a result of the work that has been done here in the past."

#### MISSIONARY ACTIVITY AT THE AIBONITO TRAINING SCHOOL IN PORTO RICO

The year just passed, which followed the reorganization of the Aibonito Training School, has been characterized by an active missionary spirit. The members of the Missionary Volunteer Society have gone regularly, two and two, to the near-by town to conduct Bible studies, and to sing, pray, and visit in the homes of the people.

We had the privilege of accompanying one group to the hospital, where they visit every Sabbath, and receive a hearty welcome from those in charge

of the institution, and from the patients. After prayer, one patient said, "We enjoy your visits so much that we anxiously await your arrival every Sabbath. Our faith is being centered around that hope of eternal life." The seed which is being sown is already commencing to germinate.

Some of the students, after putting in the required time at the school, go out in the afternoon and sell our literature. This enables them to do their part in missionary work; and also to assist in defraying their school expenses.

One man of social and political standing, with some hesitation, allowed his daughter to attend our school during the past year. After visiting Aibonito, he said, "I have changed my views concerning this institution, and am convinced that it is the best private school in the island; and I am glad to have my daughter receive her training under such moral and social influences." This man is the proprietor of a widely circulated newspaper, and has published several articles, in which he highly recommends the school and our methods of teaching.

We are praying that the Lord may help us to train workers for the needy fields of Inter-America.

H. MANGOLD.

#### COLPORTEURS' EXPERIENCES IN PORTO RICO

The drought in Porto Rico, which has continued for six months, has at last been ended by a hurricane accompanied by heavy rains, which have left the country in a very bad condition; but notwithstanding these conditions the Lord is blessing the efforts of the workers in this field. The summary of the work for the first six months of this year indicates considerable gain over the first half of last year. The colporteurs are manifesting great earnestness and are striving to have the entire island of Porto Rico worked by the end of the year.

One of our colporteurs, Eduardo Acosta, a recent convert to the message, has spent the past six months in one of the hardest sections in our field. In this district even the lives of the police are constantly in danger, and there is a great prejudice against Protestants. But these obstacles have not prevented Brother Acosta from working in this territory, and the Lord has protected him in many ways, and nearly all of his books were delivered.

He relates one experience that came to him when he was obliged to spend the night in a vacant house in a sparsely

settled district. As midnight drew near a group of men surrounded the house with the intention of robbing him. They were encouraged by one of the number who said that he had seen the colporteur collecting money during the day. They called to Eduardo to open the door, and said that if he did not they would fire into the house. The house had been well barred, and he refused to open it. In the meantime they attempted to force the doors and windows by prying them open. For almost two hours they continued their efforts. Finally Eduardo knelt to pray, and it was then that they departed to return no more.

At another time, while he was traveling afoot from Añasco to the section of Moca and Aguadilla, he was obliged to cross the Culebrinas River. At the place where he had planned to cross there was no bridge, and the water was deep. When he approached this river he met a man with whom he made a bargain to be carried across the river. Before attempting to cross, the man insisted that the colporteur leave his handbag behind, stating that he would make a second trip for it. But the boy said that he could hold it in his hand without getting it wet. After discussing the matter for a few minutes the man decided to have him carry the handbag; but when he reached the middle of the stream, he threw the boy from his shoulders, and at the same time grabbed the handbag. Eduardo had his arm through the handle and held firmly to it, at the same time throwing the other arm about the man's neck. Then the man tried to drown the colporteur to free himself. He did loose himself, and when he reached the shore he ran into the near-by cane fields. The boy reached the shore safely with his handbag, which was thoroughly wet. It was this that the man was after, for he believed that it contained money or valuables.

Brother Acosta, when making his last delivery, had another experience of a similar character. Early in the morning he started afoot to make a delivery in the country. At several places along the way he noticed two men either before him or a little behind; but, thinking that they were travelers who by chance had happened to be going by the same route he was taking, he paid little attention to them.

In the afternoon, when he had delivered the last book, he returned to the road again, and was ready to commence the homeward journey, when he met the same men again. One of them asked him where he was going, and he replied by describing the direction he was planning to take. They said,

"That is also our route, so we can all go along together."

By this time Eduardo's suspicions were aroused, for he remembered that they had been following him all day, and probably knew that his books were all delivered and that the money was in his pockets, and he realized that they were waiting for a favorable opportunity to rob him. Seeing a house near, he told them that he had to call there. He did this to see if he could not escape from them. He proceeded to the house, and the men said that they would wait for him a little way down the road. He prayed that the Lord would help him to escape. Immediately after leaving the house he took an opposite course with the purpose of reaching the main highway. The men soon became aware of the fact that he was getting away, and they started in pursuit. The race was a close one. At the very moment that they reached the highway, the Mayaguez and Aguadilla omnibus was passing; and Eduardo, by an extraordinary effort, swung himself upon the steps of the bus while it was in rapid motion, just barely escaping the robbers' grasp.

One more experience will show that the enemy sometimes works in an underhand way. When one of our colporteurs visited a certain district where prejudice was very strong, and the people learned that he was a Protestant, he found it very difficult to deliver his books. One man, after refusing to take his book, offered the colporteur a native refreshment. He drank it with pleasure, little suspecting that it was poisoned. About three o'clock in the afternoon he met a man who expressed his surprise by saying, "Are you alive yet? I never expected to see you alive again after you drank that 'refresco.' They put three spoonfulls of 'tartago' in that drink."

I understand that the native "tartago" is a poisonous fruit and that the quantity that they gave the boy was sufficient to kill him. The colporteur declares that he never suspected it, or felt any evil effect from it.

These experiences emphasize the fact that God is faithful in fulfilling His promise: "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them."

LEO ODOM.

### BOOK WORK IN THE AZTEC UNION

While we were attending the General Conference, the men in the field went right along with their labors, with the encouragement of Brethren Ernest Pohle

in the office and Brother V. Calvo in the field. Some are helping to close out our stock of "Heralds" with good success, placing them where they have been sold before, while others are selling "Our Day" with varied experiences in the more fanatical sections of the country. A few are introducing the new book, "Home Physician," Spanish. The necessarily high price of this medical book keeps the greater percentage of the people from buying, yet many are being sold to officials and leading business people. We hope that we may soon have books which we can place in the hands of the thousands of middle and lower class people who must have the whole message.

Brother Barrera writes that he finds many who will not subscribe for "Our Day" because friends have told them that it is a Protestant publication. He told one lady who asked if it was a Protestant book that it was good for Catholics and Protestants alike, but that if she were an atheist it might be out of place in her home. She decided to give her subscription for the book.

Brother Gonzalez says he heard that a lady subscriber had planned not to take the book she ordered because it was not published by the Catholic denomination, but by praying much he was able to deliver the book "Our Day" and also to sell her three small books.

Brother Mireles is having good success in selling to officials. He sold the medical book to the general treasurer of the State, the mayor of the capital city, the penal judge, the city treasurer, the civil judge, and judge of the district. The governor ordered two books. And while Brother Mireles was trying to deliver a book in a store, the same governor happened in and asked how business was going. He also suggested that the brother visit all the officials of the State, stating that they needed such books. Then Brother Mireles took the opportunity to recommend other books we publish, mentioning "Great Controversy" and "Our Day," which the governor immediately subscribed for.

It is not often that our men get into serious difficulty, but one lost a day's work recently while he was kept in jail until the local authorities telegraphed us to learn if he was our authorized representative. Another endeavored to deliver a book to a lady subscriber but she refused to take it. She spoke in such loud tones that a number of people gathered around. Some one ordered the church bells to be rung, and this brought out a throng of people. The brother tried to calm his customer with prudent words, but in vain. The people were angry and accused our colpor-

teurs of being responsible for the scarcity of priests in the country. But fortunately they let our brethren go on their way to the next town without doing them any harm. When they reached the next town the news of the recent experience had already spread and the people said the book was known and that they would have nothing to do with it.

The Lord may be permitting these experiences to strengthen the faith of the workers; for they allow none of these experiences to discourage them in their work. We request the MESSENGER readers to remember these sacrificing workers in their prayers, that the Lord may protect them and keep them faithful until the end.

H. A. B. ROBINSON.

### STORM IN THE BAHAMAS

Eld. W. E. Bidwell, superintendent of the Bahama Mission, gives the following description of the storm which passed over his mission field recently:

"On July 18 and 19 the Bahama Islands were visited by the worst hurricane they have experienced in almost one hundred years. Nearly all the boats in these waters were either sunk or wrecked on the shore. In a number of cases all the passengers and crew were lost.

The city of Nassau seemed to be in the center of the storm, and many houses were blown down and trees uprooted. The trees that were left standing were entirely stripped of their leaves. Sister Paul Ward and her daughter, Mrs. Millie Fernandu, were on board one of the vessels that was reported lost. The wreckage of this boat was found, and also the bodies of two women passengers. Brother Paul Ward, who is the elder of Watling church, and Brother Fernandu have our sincere sympathy in this hour of their distress. Six churches and a large school house are among the public buildings that are in ruins. Our mission buildings were only slightly injured, while recently erected buildings were laid in ruins. None of our people in the city suffered more than a slight loss of property. The big whisky warehouse suffered most; and the rum-running fleet has been almost wiped out.

Our people are of good courage, and see in this experience another sign that God will not always bear with men in their sins."

"PRAYER is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power."

## NEWS ITEMS

To facilitate the work of distributing our literature in Mexico, a depository or tract society is being opened in connection with each of Mexico's six missions. Heretofore the Imprenta La Verdad, Mexico City, has been the Central office, serving the whole of Mexico.

Elder E. M. Trummer, Superintendent of the Antioquean Mission, Colombia, was a welcome visitor in Balboa and Cristobal for a week recently on his return from the General Conference to his field of labor. His family remained in the States. Elder Trummer's destination was Medellin, the third largest city in the Republic of Colombia. Here he will labor almost alone for the present, to build up an interest in the truth and develop a company of believers.

All are interested in the circulation of our Spanish monthly, *El Centinela*. Standing orders in several fields have been increased of late. Porto Rico took 1500 copies of the September issue. The standing orders into Mexico are being enlarged. The Colombia missions are ordering more, depending greatly on *El Centinela*. Good lists of subscriptions are coming from all parts of the Division. Of each of the August and September numbers 12,300 copies were printed, and this is being raised to 12,700 with the October issue to care for the increase in the demand.

The work in Colon since the arrival of Elder L. L. Hutchinson and wife has taken on new life, and the prospects are very bright for an increase in membership in the church. On Sunday nights Elder Hutchinson is carrying forward a regular series of meetings to which large numbers of persons not of our faith are coming. The church is filled at these services. He has opened Bible studies on Thursday nights especially for those who look forward to baptism. More than a hundred were in attendance last Thursday night, and each Sabbath the list of candidates for baptism is growing. The church members are cooperating heartily and are expecting some great victories for our work in Colon.

The Steamship "Montevideo" of the Spanish line leaving the Cristobal dock Tuesday night the 24th carried out probably as large a number of Seventh-day Adventist books as are usually bound on one steamer to various fields. There were four shipments being made by the Pacific Press Branch at Cristobal, these going to Venezuela, Central

Colombia, Porto Rico, and Santo Domingo. Spanish "Home Physician," Spanish "Ministry of Healing," Spanish "Contagious Diseases," and Spanish "Leaves of Autumn," were some of the leading items. There were eighteen cases of books in all with a retail value of \$7,264.75. Many of these books are going into regions where we haven't a force of workers, there to bring physical and spiritual help and open the way for people to know something of the message they represent.

Elder D. D. Fitch, President of the South Caribbean Conference, has been delayed in returning from the States to his field. He found it necessary to have some medical care and quite a heavy surgical operation. We wish him God's blessing by a speedy recovery.

## Obituaries

Mrs V. A. Bidwell, mother of the superintendent of the Bahama Mission, died at her home in Grand Marsh, Wisconsin, July 17, just twenty-two days after her son Elder W. E. Bidwell and his wife bade her good-by before returning to the mission field. We are sure that Brother and Sister Bidwell will have the sympathy of the readers of the MESSENGER in this hour of their bereavement.

## SISTER LELA PERRY ODOM

*Missionary to Porto Rico, died at the Presbyterian Hospital, Santurce, Porto Rico, on the 28th of July 1926.*

Our mission workers find themselves in deep bereavement. We have just buried our youngest and much beloved member. Sister Lela Odom, wife of Brother Leo Odom, fell asleep in Jesus after an operation performed on her on the 28th of July. She was twenty two years of age.

Like a flower of the field in the full of bloom, taken by the wind and destroyed, so death took her out of our midst in the strength of her young womanhood.

Her sojourn of less than two years among us sufficed to endear our sister to all the members of our mission—foreign and native.

It was characteristic of her that in choosing her life motto, she found it in two simple words: "for others."

Like a red strand this ideal wove itself into her life, even from her youth. When she was a little girl people would call her "the little missionary" because

of the unselfish and sweet simple services she was wont to do among the neighbors.

Left motherless at the tender age of five, it seems that Jesus laid hold upon her heart early and held it fast to the end of her short life.

At the age of fifteen she heard and embraced the Third Angel's Message. Although just a girl, she stood firm against opposition, following the voice of conscience.

Thrown largely upon her own resources and determined to obtain an education, she earned her way through school and college by canvassing. While working for herself, she was not unmindful of the struggles of other girl aspirants. She willingly lent them a helping hand in their endeavor to gain a scholarship.

It was in College that she consciously adopted for her life motto the words: "for others." This motto expressed her view; it was the angle from which she looked upon the world; it was the philosophy of her life.

In September 1924 she married, and with her husband, landed a few weeks later in the mission field.

True to herself, her life among us has been fragrant with the same sweet, unselfish spirit of service, so characteristic of her girlhood and childhood.

The young girls of our mission will never forget how patiently she toiled with them and for them to gain scholarships. The noble example set by this young life dedicated to the Master will ever remain as an eloquent testimony before our Porto Rican youths.

The printed pages scattered by her so abundantly and the many deeds of kindness sown among acquaintances, neighbors, friends, and brethren and sisters of the church, will, one day, blossom forth into a harvest, the abundance of which only the Master of the Harvest can measure.

In a very real sense the words apply to our sister who now sleeps in Jesus: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

H. E. BAASCH.

## INTER-AMERICAN MESSENGER

Editor—Mrs. E. E. ANDROSS

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