

THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

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No. 10

Our Present Opportunities

Obstacles to the advancement of the work of God will appear; but fear not. To the omnipotence of the King of kings, our covenant-keeping God unites the gentleness and care of a tender shepherd. Nothing can stand in His way. His power is absolute, and it is the pledge of the sure fulfilment of His promises to His people. He can remove all obstructions to the advancement of His work. He has means for the removal of every difficulty, that those who serve Him and respect the means He employs may be delivered. His goodness and love are infinite, and His covenant is unalterable.

The plans of the enemies of His work may seem to be firm and well established, but He can overthrow the strongest of these plans, and in His own time and way He will do this, when He sees that our faith has been sufficiently tested, and that we are drawing near to Him, and making Him our counselor.

In the darkest days, when appearances seem so forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day. His understanding will be placed at their service, that they may not err in the carrying out of His purposes.

There is to be no despondency in God's service. Our faith is to endure the pressure brought to bear upon it. God is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the strength they need. He will more than fulfil the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him. He will give them the wisdom that their varied necessities demand.

Said the tried apostle Paul: "He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor. 12: 9, 10.

O my brethren, hold the beginning of your confidence firm unto the end. The light of God's truth is not to be dimmed. It is to shine amidst the darkness of error that enshrouds our world. The word of God is to be opened to those in the high places of the earth, as well as to those in the more lowly.

The church of Christ is God's agency for the proclamation of truth; she is empowered by Him to do a special work; and if she is loyal to God, obedient to His commandments, there will dwell within her the excellence of divine power. If she will honor the Lord God of Israel, there is no power that can stand against her. If she will be true to her allegiance, the forces of the enemy will be no more able to overpower her than is the chaff to resist the whirlwind.

There is before the church the dawn of a bright, glorious day, if she will put on the robe of Christ's righteousness, withdrawing from all allegiance to the world. . . .

God calls upon His faithful ones, who believe in Him, to talk courage to those who are unbelieving and hopeless. May the Lord help us to help one another, and to prove Him by living faith.—*Testimonies, Vol. VIII, pp. 10-12.*

WHOLLY FOLLOW THE LORD

1. Why did the Lord promise Caleb that he and his children should inherit the land of Canaan?

"Because he hath wholly followed the Lord." Deut. 1:36.

2. What other characteristic of Caleb is mentioned?

"But My servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed Me fully, him will I bring into the land wherewith I went; and his seed shall possess it." Num. 14:24.

3. What spirit enables us to follow wholly the Lord?

"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Rom. 8:9.

4. How did Peter follow his Lord?

"But Peter followed Him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end." Matt. 26:38.

5. What did this half-hearted following lead Peter to do?

Read Matt. 26:70, 72, 74.

6. What is the message to the faithful Calebs of today?

"While the doubting ones talk of impossibilities, while they tremble at the thought of high walls and strong giants, let the faithful Calebs, who have 'another spirit,' come to the front."—*"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 380.*

7. What is God's purpose in having them come to the front?

"The truth of God, which bringeth salvation, will go forth to the people, if ministers and professed believers will not hedge up its way, as did the unfaithful spies."—*Id. p. 380.*

8. What admonition comes to us in this "testimony" concerning allowing selfish interests to crowd out missionary activity?

"Something must be done to warn the world; and let no voice be heard that will encourage selfish interests to the neglect of missionary fields."—*Id. pp. 380, 381.*

9. How do angels regard the soul-winning efforts of some?

"All heaven is interested in our work, and angels of God are ashamed of our weak efforts."—*Id. p. 381.*

10. What is the promise to those who "wholly follow" the Lord in this life?

"These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth." Rev. 14:4.

C. E. WOOD.

GUARD YOUR HEALTH NO. 2

(Part of a talk given at the medical meeting during the West Caribbean Conference session.)

Some may come to us and wish to know why we do not eat flesh foods. What answer do we give them? In the very beginning God gave a diet that did not have flesh foods in it. Not until after the flood, when all green foods had been destroyed, did He give permission for the use of flesh as a food. Flesh was never the best article of diet.

In later years when the children of Israel longed for the fleshpots of Egypt, the Lord permitted them to have their own desires, but He put upon them certain restrictions which lessened the

evil effects. For instance, He prohibited the use of swine's flesh, and from the meats that were permitted for food, the fat and the blood were to be strictly eliminated. How do people like their flesh foods prepared today? They want the fat and the blood, do they not?—Yes, the very center of the poison.

The Israelites suffered from their perverted appetites. Their indulgence brought leanness to their souls. Do we know what we are eating when we eat flesh foods? No, if we could see the meat and realize the condition of the cattle from which some of it was taken, many of us would turn away in disgust. We wish to gain strength from our food. But how do animals that are used for food gain their strength? Do they eat

FOUR POINTS FOR CHRISTIANS

One day a missionary had a friendly visit with the famous Indian, Mahatma Gandhi. He said:

"Mahatma Gandhi, I am very anxious to see Christianity naturalized in India, so that it shall be no longer a foreign thing, identified with a foreign people and a foreign government, but a part of the national life of India, and contributing its power to India's uplift and redemption. What would you suggest that we do to make this possible?"

Mahatma Gandhi very gravely and thoughtfully replied: "I would suggest, first, that all of you Christians, missionaries and all, must begin to live more like Jesus Christ;

"Second, I would suggest that you practice your religion without adulterating it or toning it down;

"Third, I would suggest that you put your emphasis upon love, for love is the center and soul of Christianity;

"Fourth, I would suggest . . . a more sympathetic approach to the people."

meat? No, they get their nourishment from nature's pantry, out on the open meadow. Why should not man get his grains and vegetables first-handed, undiluted with the poisons that are accumulated in the body of the animal? Let us all come back to nature's food and see how much better we will feel!

In "Home Physician," page 286, the question is asked: "Will the food elements in a vegetarian diet give sufficient material to keep the body in good working order?" Numerous endurance tests have been carried on in recent years to determine whether it really is possible; and enough has been done to prove, without question, that the vegetarian diet is a safe one from all standpoints. In the Yale University there are records which prove that the tests are in favor of the vegetarians.

Have any of you tried to hold your arms straight out from your body for

a long time? You know how tired it makes you. This test was used by an equal number of flesh eaters and vegetarians. Which side do you think won? Let me read you the report: "Flesh eaters held their arms out ten minutes and the vegetarians thirty-nine minutes or almost four times as long."

This is only one of the many records that can be mentioned, and it is a record from a worldly institution. How much more should we as Christians strive to obtain this strength and use it whole-heartedly in the Lord's work. So, although many have the impression that meat is the one article that will give the body strength, we see clearly that this is not true. Many have tried out the strictly vegetarian diet, and found it very satisfactory in all respects, and have enjoyed better health for having adhered to it.

After selecting the food that is best for us, let us not mix it with worry over whether it will agree with us. If we ask the blessing of the Lord upon it, we have no cause to worry. But study to improve your diet. Learn from time to time how to make better selections and better combinations. And after having done your best to provide food "to the glory of God" always eat with cheerfulness, and see how much better the food will taste.

We should be careful not to form the habit of nibbling between meals, as there is nothing that tends toward loss of appetite and sick stomach more than this pernicious habit.

MRS. J. A. LELAND, JR.

ANTILLIAN UNION MISSION

Josefina 56, Havana, Cuba

J. A. LELAND Superintendent
N. L. TAYLOR Secy.-Treas.

NEWS FROM BAHAMA

In June the writer spent about a week with a small church on Crooked Island. This earnest group of believers have a nice little church where they hold their services each week. We had some good meetings. Some who are not Adventists attended. A number will soon be ready for baptism. While there I called at every Seventh-day Adventist home and sold more than \$10 worth of books.

I next visited Stevens, Long Island, where Brother G. W. Lawrence is working hard to finish the church building which was partially destroyed by the hurricane last summer. It will soon be ready for dedication. We baptized three adults. Others are being instructed and we trust they will be ready for baptism at a later date.

I was away on this trip nearly four weeks. The limited diet and sleeping out on the open deck seemed to do me good, for I gained five pounds in weight.

The work is moving on nicely in Nassau. Our Sabbath school offerings are running above two pounds, ten shillings each Sabbath, and the Thirteenth Sabbath offering was about 24 pounds.

W. E. BIDWELL.

GAINS IN HAITI

I have made a trip to Port au Prince, where I found the young people's society making good progress. It is led by one of the students of Vaudreuil. This society promises to become a very good one. During Big Week the members showed an enthusiasm worthy to be followed.

In the neighborhood of Port au Prince, we dedicated a little church which was built by the brethren of that city. This was a happy occasion, and we took the opportunity to present the message to a large number of visitors. Among them was a very influential man who said that he wanted to give this message to his friends where he lived, so that soon a little church like that could be built in his neighborhood. Our brethren of Port au Prince, who are ever at work, are going to visit that place, and with the help of God, we may before long have a few believers there.

God is working in a marvelous way in the southern part, and even in all the island, we feel the Spirit of God at work. You would have been glad to see the zeal manifested during Big Week. Some set themselves to work with splendid courage. Many churches asked for more books, having sold all that were sent them at first. I think we shall have sold around 600 books during this Big Week. To God be all the glory.

The first quarter of 1927 was the best in the history of our Sabbath school offerings in Haiti; and I think it also was the best in tithes received. Our brethren in Haiti are coming to the front, and taking part in this closing work.

A little army of ten colporteurs is canvassing. The two leaders, who went with the colporteurs, will try to take subscriptions for our papers. We are very thankful to see the canvassing work started again. J. A. DE CAENEL.

"When in faith we take hold of His strength, He will change, wonderfully change, the most hopeless, discouraging outlook."—*Test.* Vol. VIII, p. 12.

NEEDING A PLACE OF WORSHIP

The following incident illustrates the truth that our Heavenly Father has a thousand ways of working we know not of and that if we are willing to co-operate with Him great results will follow. It also demonstrates that He is interested in every detail of our efforts to advance His work.

Brother J. H. Stockhausen, leader of Belfield church (Jamaica), has had a great burden to establish a suitable house of worship as a monument to the truth in his district. Ever since the truth was established there through the labors of his son, Pastor A. C. Stockhausen, the only place of worship has been what was formerly his coach house.

TEST YOUR PRAYERS

A prayer that is not the real wish of the heart is not a prayer, but only a form of words. It mocks God by pretending a wish that does not exist.

If I pray honestly to be saved from sin and its doom, I will seek earnestly to avoid all known sin in heart and life. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

When I pray for myself, am I doing all in my power to learn God's will and to do it?

When I pray for my children, am I doing all in my power by example and teaching to answer my own prayer?

When I pray for my church, am I doing all I can by attendance and support to answer my own prayer?

When I pray for missions, am I doing all in my power to promote and support missions?

When I pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," am I seeking to do God's will, in my own heart and life, as it is done in heaven?

When I pray, "Thy kingdom come," am I allowing that kingdom full sway in my own heart and doing what I can to extend it in the world?—Selected.

For some time he has been planning for their harvest festival to help raise funds for a new church building; and in doing his bit, among other things, he decided to give the proceeds from all the cocos sold from his property in the meantime. Usually the demand is small; but not so in this case. People began to come for them from far and near. The result from this item alone was over four pounds.

It is quite evident that the Belfield church has bright prospects and is entitled to speedy consideration in the matter of a suitable house of worship. May God bless Brother J. H. Stockhausen, the leader, and his associates in the good work they are doing.

F. O. RATHBUN.

CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION MISSION

Apartado 1059, San José, Costa Rica.

W. E. BAXTER - - - - - Superintendent
A. P. CHRISTIANSEN - - - - - Secy. Treas.

OUR HOME MISSIONARY WORK

At the close of another two-year period, we view our West Caribbean field from the Home Missionary standpoint, and thank our Maker for the power of the gospel, and for the privilege of being workers together with Him. The record of missionary work done by our members during the biennial period stands as a great monument proclaiming territory regained for Prince Emmanuel. Stories of soul-winning service, as thrilling as those of Apostolic days, come to us from our field. The very spirit of God's last message leads our members to labor for others.

Companies of believers in our conference are rejoicing today in the hope of Christ's soon return, wholly as the result of work done by our lay members. In one case, God used some of our laymen of Colon to bring the light to a soul in darkness. After this person was won to God, the Spirit and power of this message led him to work for his neighbors in Nombre de Dios, Panama, and today eight Sabbath keepers are his reward.

Some of our brethren in the province of Chiriqui began preaching in a village home. Stones were thrown at the house, and their lives were endangered. However, today, we see in Chiriqui great advancement. The church and companies are growing, and the members are busy spreading the message.

Every phase of activity promoted by the Home Missionary department has only one purpose—saving of souls. "Souls above Goals" is our slogan. Whether it be in day-by-day witnessing for Christ, or in the special opportunities offered during our campaigns, our people are watching for souls "as they that must give an account."

The Bible is our chief soul-winning agency; and hundreds are becoming proficient in giving Bible readings in the homes of the people. Our reports show 5,937 Bible readings and gospel meetings held during the last biennial period.

Second in importance, as a soul-winning agency, is our wonderful missionary literature. Our tracts, papers and books will search out people who will accept the truth gladly. Our statistics show that 39,984 papers and tracts not including the regular colporteurs' sales, were distributed.

Remembering that our Lord "devoted

more time to healing the sick than to preaching," our believers have given 11,000 hours to helpful ministry in behalf of the suffering and needy. In the spirit of the Master, they soothe the aching brow and perform many little acts of Christian helpfulness. There were 2,338 treatments given.

The correspondence method is an excellent one in giving truth to those far away. Through a missionary letter many have received the light. Our people wrote 2,241 missionary letters; and many of them followed up their work systematically, giving the various phases of our message. While 1,402 garments were given to clothe the needy, \$1,200 worth of food was provided for unfortunate people. It is a truly wonderful story of loving and earnest service; but not half can be told within the space of this brief report. Only the judgment can reveal the story in its infinite detail.

We feel grateful for the hearty cooperation of the other departments, and especially of the conference workers. But, above all, we thank God for the blessings received and results achieved. We have moved forward but the final triumph demands a deeper spiritual preparation. This is the greatest of all needs. The future of our work is full of infinite possibilities. Over and over again, in prophetic vision, the servant of God saw the believers going forth with their faces lighted up with holy consecration as they bore witness of the truth. May the Lord help us to hasten the day of His coming. A. V. LARSON.

FORTY-SEVEN NEW BELIEVERS

A meeting of the workres of the Honduras Mission was held on the island of Utila, June 25 to July 3. In some respects this was the most remarkable meeting of its kind that the writer has had the privilege of attending.

The evening meetings were of an evangelistic nature; and the results were truly encouraging. Night after night, men and women came forward until forty-seven had taken their stand for the Lord, and for the definite truth for this time. Among this number were the mayor of the town and his wife. The membership of the Utila church is twenty-five. If these new converts remain faithful, the membership will be increased to seventy-two. The governor of the Bay Islands attended most of the meetings, and appeared to be greatly interested. Pastor L. N. Olsen and E. C. Henriques remained in Utila at the close of the meeting to prepare these candidates for baptism.

Sister Lula Gregory, wife of Dr. A. L.

Gregory, and daughter of the late Elder J. O. Corliss, added great strength to the meeting by her remarkable gift of translating. The speakers did not pause after each few sentences, as is usual, but spoke without pausing, and Sister Gregory passed on the message verbatim to the Spanish people in the congregation. To translate in this way, for four or five hours each day, for ten days is not an easy task.

The workers present from outside of Honduras were Pastor W. E. Baxter, superintendent of the Central American Union Mission, Pastor C. E. Sutton, field missionary secretary of the union, and writer, representing the Inter-American Division.

The membership of the Honduras Mission is largely English; and the great problem of the Spanish work remains yet to be solved; but Pastor Lorntz, the superintendent of the mission, has lined up his forces so that four of the English laborers are engaged in Spanish work. The prospects are bright for a forward movement in soul-winning in the Honduras Mission.

C. E. WOOD.

COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA UNION

Box 143, Balboa, Canal Zone

E. E. ANDROSS - - - - - Superintendent
F. L. HARRISON - - - - - Secy.-Treas.

ONWARD IN VENEZUELA

You will be interested to know something about the progress of the work here. We have reorganized the Young

People's Society and formed a Home Missionary Society of the adult members in Caracas. They are divided into working bands and all have a real live interest in the work.

We have a Standard of Attainment class of seventeen members, the first time in the history of this church, it seems, although Camaguan has had one before and has one this year. Eleven are taking the Reading Course, and thirty-six the Bible Year. We have a very large attendance every week.

Our sales for March and April have gone away over what they were last year, for which we thank the Lord very much since Venezuela is short of workers, especially in the llanos. Brother Garcia has a large interest out in the llanos near San Fernando.

The school in Camaguan is going nicely. The new building is under construction; the wood has been cut, and the tiles are being prepared. Brother Greenidge says that this work and the money has all been furnished by the people of Camaguan and the surrounding district.

The Lord is truly blessing the work here in Venezuela. I. M. GISH.

LARGE AUDIENCES EVERYWHERE

Late in June, I left home for a trip to the Sinu region, with the intention of going up the river as far as Tierra Alta, which is more than one hundred miles beyond the last telegraph office. This proved to be a very profitable and inspiring trip. Brother Antonio Redondo and I travelled in our launch, "La Mensajera." We went first to a village, Tres Palmas, between the river and the Cienaga de Betancy. Brother Redondo has friends everywhere in our territory; and soon we had a large room at our disposal for a meeting that night. Over a hundred persons listened to the message of the Lord's coming, and of the preparation necessary to meet Him. The next day we sold literature in the town. We had good success.

Then we passed on to Tres Piedras, where we repeated the experience of the night before. The following night was also spent there, and I spoke to a congregation twice as large. The next day, Sabbath, we went a league farther to hold Sabbath school with a family of new believers. They seem to be real Adventists, and are the fruit of missionary work done by one of Brother Redondo's new converts.

Maracaibo was our next stop. This place is on the lovely Cienaga de Betancy Lake, and is beautiful, indeed, for situation. It is not surprising that this

PUT THIS IN YOUR BIBLE

Here is a table, which it would be well to cut out or copy for reference in your Bible studies:

A day's journey was about twenty-three and one-fifth miles.

A Sabbath day's journey was about an English mile.

A cubit was nearly twenty-two inches.

A hand's breadth is equal to three and five-eighths inches.

A finger's breadth is equal to one inch.

A shekel of silver was about fifty cents.

A shekel of gold was eight dollars.

A talent of silver was five hundred thirty-eight dollars and thirty cents.

A talent of gold was thirteen thousand eight hundred and nine dollars.

A piece of silver, or a penny, was thirteen cents.

A farthing was three cents.

A mite was less than a quarter of a cent.

A gerah was one cent.

An ephah, or bath, contained seven gallons and five pints.

A hin was a gallon and two pints.

An omer was six pints.

—Selected.

lake was formerly surrounded by a large Indian population. About two hundred attended our first service. Many came more than a league in canoes to attend. If we could hold a series of meetings, and extend the invitation all around the lake, we could get together a large congregation.

From Maracaibo, we went back to the river, and up to Tierra Alta, where we held meetings for twelve days. These were attended by nearly everybody in town. In fact, in all these places, our difficulty was not to get a congregation, but to find a place big enough to hold the people who came. One day we went out about a league into the country, and held a meeting with about sixty present. At the close of our series of services, about twenty signed the covenant, and many more are interested. In fact, almost the whole town sympathizes with us. One man donated a lot on which to construct a chapel, and gave us a deed to it. This is our first mission-owned property, and we hope soon to construct the first church in town. There is no Catholic church in that comparatively new town.

On returning to Cereté, we held a number of meetings in a private house, which was offered by a sympathizer, who, we hope, will be converted to the truth. These meetings were well attended, and are being continued by Brother Redondo. I certainly am thankful this mission has such a consecrated worker in that region, for it is a large parish. In Cereté we have a nice little building that provides a place for the school as well as for the Sabbath services. There are a number in that region who will be ready for baptism as soon as they are married.

A peculiar feature in connection with our work is that there are a great number of people, especially around the lake, who are keeping Saturday. Some of these were influenced by a so-called prophet, who passed that way last year, preaching the coming of Christ, the obligation of the law and of the Sabbath, and the non-use of pork. That makes our message very acceptable, in theory at least; and we hope that in many cases it will be practiced also. We praise God for the wonderful way in which the work is extending in the Atlantic-Colombia Mission.

E. W. THURBER.

“The members of the church need now to confess their backslidings, and press together. My brethren, allow nothing to come in that will separate you from one another, or from God.”
—“Test.” Vol. VIII, p. 12.

EAST CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

Box 221, Port of Spain, Trinidad

M. A. HOLLISTER - - - - - President,
ETHEL EDMED - - - - - Secy.-Treas.

BY LAUNCH IN GUIANA

The heavy and frequent rains make a sea of water or mud in all directions outside of Georgetown off from the highway. However, as we have some good and convenient launches, we are able to travel comfortably, and keep dry during the heavy rains that fall with little warning. Even the sleeping in a hammock is not so bad as I had anticipated; and by taking all the food I need along with me, and an oil or gasoline stove, I am now able to care for myself. The mosquitos were quite troublesome on the Pomeroun River, but they have not been so on the Demerara River.

Brother Carter went with me up to Bootooba and Wismar. The sad feature of the river work in that direction is the malignant fever that is in almost every family of our people; and the evident physical exhaustion, even in children, is most distressing to see. Much of this trouble comes from malnutrition, I feel sure, as there is a scarcity of eggs and milk, and proper foods for

children. I can only pray that God may have pity on the people; and, at the same time, we encourage them to use care in their living and in their eating and drinking, although methods that are practical in other lands have little effect under these conditions.

C. E. KNIGHT.

PRAY FOR LEEWARD ISLANDS

During our general meeting at St. Johns, Antigua, heart stirring appeals were made, and many were reminded of the impossibility of entering the kingdom with their little besetting sins. This led to a remarkable season of confessing and of casting sin aside. We sincerely believe that some searching work was accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

As our meetings were about to close, a request was made for further instruction; so Brother Van Putten and myself were asked to continue the meetings. This we did; and, as a result, nine persons took their stand for this truth for the first time, and all are now awaiting baptism.

“I have decided to join your church,” were the words that came to our ears on one bright sunny morning, as we approached a lady who had been attending our lectures regularly. She showed great interest, turning to the texts as we discussed them. We hope that we, some day, may have the privilege of seeing her take her stand. Remember to pray for us in the Leeward Islands.

W. R. ARCHBOLD.

ON TOBAGO ISLAND

On a missionary tour Mr. Payne and I made sometime ago we encountered many hardships. We walked through muddy, rough, and narrow roads in some places, while heavy showers made the rivers we had to cross small torrents. While in Parlatuvier, we were entertained by a sister, who is postmistress and caretaker for this district.

We planned to press on five miles farther, but owing to the inclemency of the weather we were undecided. Finally, however, we started, in company with four of the brethren. Soon the rain again came down in torrents, and the road was very muddy and slippery. I had to tie my overshoes to keep them on. Again we had several small rivers to cross, and while we were crossing one we saw a large alligator going in the opposite direction.

Finally, however, we reached our destination early in the evening, and although it was very wet and dark, the brethren held a meeting. Several visitors were present. Monday to Thurs-

HEAVEN'S REPORTING SYSTEM

Angels keep a faithful record of every man's work.—“Testimonies,” Vol. I, p. 198.

“Every act of love, every word of kindness, every prayer in behalf of the suffering and oppressed, is reported before the eternal throne; and placed on heaven's imperishable record.”—“Testimonies,” Vol. V, p. 133.

“A report is borne to heaven of every successful effort on our part to dispel the darkness, and to spread abroad the knowledge of Christ. As the deed is recounted before the Father, joy thrills through all the heavenly host.”—“Acts of the Apostles,” p. 154.

Reporting can be a blessing in more than one way. It will help and encourage others to take part in this soul-saving work; and further, it will be a blessing and encouragement to us to do still more for the Master. Many would be surprised to see how little they are doing for lost souls if they would take a pencil and paper and put down the efforts they had made during the past week or month. By reporting, we check up on ourselves; and it usually stimulates us to do more. “Examine yourselves” says the word of God. It is a splendid thing for us to examine ourselves often to see how much we are doing for those who are lost; and one good way to do this, is, prayerfully and under God, to make out a report of our missionary endeavors every week.

J. I. ROBISON.

day were spent in further instructing the candidates. Then we returned to Parlatuvier, having walked about twenty miles.

We rejoice that eleven went forward in baptism. This was my first visit to that part of the island. Pray for us that we may endure hardships as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and win many souls for Him.

MRS. NATHANIEL PAYNE.

MEXICAN UNION MISSION

Calle de Jalapa 210, Mexico, D. F., Mexico
D. A. PARSONS - - - - - Superintendent
J. G. PETTEY - - - - - Secy.-Treas.

AROUND GUADALAJARA

We surely are enjoying our work here in Mexico. I like it better here than any place I have ever been, and the climate is wonderful. Of course, things seem to go slowly. But in spite of the troublous conditions, we work along in peace. The government officials have never hindered us in any way since we came to this mission. There is one thing that gives us satisfaction, and that is that Seventh-day Adventists, whether Mexicans or Americans, are among the most peace-loving and loyal citizens to be found.

On March 19 we held our first baptism. We now have nineteen members in our mission. There are several others nearly ready for baptism, and new interests are awakening. It gives me great courage to see how the members here take an interest in their privilege of giving for the work. Some of the members are very poor. One old sister comes to church with old pieces of cloth to cover her bare feet; and yet, during Big Week, that sister, as well as several others, brought an offering of two pesos, which was our goal per church member.

Then a couple of weeks after the Big Week, came the Thirteenth Sabbath. I thought that offering would be small because of being so close to Big Week; but instead, with fifteen present Sabbath morning, we raised forty-one pesos. One brother, a carpenter, who earns a very meagre wage, asked his employer for two pesos in advance to apply on his home in the new earth. To his surprise, his employer gave him the two, and then handing him a third peso, said, "put that in for me."

A few weeks ago, the mother of a woman just accepting the message, came here on a short visit. One of our sisters, who used to be connected with the sanitarium here years ago, gave her some treatments which brought great relief. She listened to the truth with

very little interest at first; but gradually, she showed a desire to hear the Word. In a few days she had to return to the little town in the hills; but last week she surprised us by coming back, asking that we marry her son. Then all three are going back to live the truth; so we hope the Lord will open up the hearts of the people in that town to the last great message.

ERNEST POHLE.

HOME MISSIONARY DEPT.
C. E. Wood - - - - - Secretary

BAND SERVICE

The churches that have organized their members into bands are the churches that are accomplishing things through their missionary activity. We should expect the Lord to bless this plan, for He has counselled us to work in this manner. In "Testimonies for the Church," Vol. VII, pages 21, 22, the statement is made, "In our churches let companies be formed for service. Let different ones unite in labor as fishers of men. . . . The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers. If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers."

This quotation contains instruction for our large church companies, and also for the company of two or three, and is given by "One who cannot err." This band service opens the door of opportunity to every church member. It opens the door to you, no matter how little talent you may think that you have. If you can sing, you can assist with the music in the out-door meeting or in the cottage study. If you are not musical, you can lead in prayer. If you are timid about taking part in the service, you can at least invite the people to the meeting; you can distribute literature; even your presence with the band may be instrumental in turning some soul to the Lord. You can be helpful to the workers by being patient and cheerful when the meeting does not prove as successful as you anticipated. Surely you have one talent which you can use in the Master's service.

The word "band" implies unity and pressing together. Do not let jealousy or criticism creep into your experience.

Be glad that your brother can fill the position he is occupying, and pray for him while he is speaking or leading out in the service. By developing this humble spirit you are qualifying for more efficient service.

Let the spirit of prayer accompany the band. As you stop to rest for a few minutes on the way to the place of meeting, plan to do so in some secluded spot, where you can spend a little time in prayer, that the blessing of the Lord may accompany you and that hearts may be made susceptible to the message you will bear. You will lose no time by doing this, for the Lord will surely precede and accompany you.

BIG WEEK

Because of the season when the crops are ready for market in the South Caribbean Conference, we find it necessary for the Harvest Ingathering campaign to come only a short time before Big Week; so in this field, the whole area had been very thoroughly worked for the Harvest Ingathering fund when Big Week arrived. But in order that the best results could be realized in the Big Week effort, it was necessary to visit some of the same people who had been solicited in the Harvest Ingathering campaign.

Brother Rickard and I have spent seven days in the Big Week effort and up to date we have turned in \$158.00 including one or two deposits on books yet to be delivered. If successful in making all our deliveries, we will bring the amount up to \$200.00.

D. D. FITCH.

Missionary Volunteer Department
MRS. E. E. ANDROSS - - - - - Secretary

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

In our 1925 division council the following vote was taken by representatives from every union:

"Voted, that we encourage all of our workers to take the Standard of Attainment examination."

One of our leaders has passed the test satisfactorily eight times. Many of our young people are following his good example in taking the test repeatedly that they may climb these stepping stones to greater efficiency in the Master's work. It is one of the methods provided to help us to become "workmen that needeth not to be ashamed."

In one of our fields new workers are required to take this test every year, that they may become thoroughly con-

versant with the message which they have promised to give to others. We hope every field will be on the Standard of Attainment Honor Roll before 1927 closes. The qualification for a place on that honor roll is: *Every worker a member of Attainment.*

*
TELL ME

May one who is not a church member but who is in a baptismal class be a regular young people's Missionary Volunteer member? Should anyone who is not a regular member hold office or be active in the missionary bands?

"In some churches there are young people with Christian ideals who, although not church members, are interested in missionary work and desire to help. If thought best, such persons may join the Missionary Volunteer Society as Preparatory members by signing the Preparatory Membership Pledge.

"While the Preparatory members may not hold office, they should be received cordially in the bands, and be encouraged to become regular members as soon as possible."—*Missionary Volunteers and Their Work,* pp. 135, 136.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT
J. A. P. GREEN Secretary

WITH OUR COLPORTEURS

You cannot realize what a difficult journey it is from Caracas, Venezuela, to San Cristobal. The road is over great mountain ranges. We had to go over three great peaks, the highest being more than 15,000 feet elevation. I shivered and shook so that I was afraid I would never get the auto over the dangerous road. Elder Steele remarked that it was just like going from Chicago to Los Angeles only over a much more difficult road. It is almost an every day occurrence, for autos to go over the bank in that part.

Although the trip was difficult there were many encouraging things. We met Brother Pedro Reyes in a place called La Grita, which is a little this side of where Brother Lopez was killed. I helped him deliver some "Home Physicians." Then we went on to San Cristobal where I wanted to get him started with "Ministry of Healing." Although the financial conditions are very bad over there now, the Lord helped us in the work, and we were able to get 37 orders in the week that I was with Brother Reyes.

The time spent there was very pleasant for the people received us very kindly and we met very little opposition. In the same place Brother Lamas had taken 80 subscriptions for *El Centinela*

before, and while we were there. He has many more now. It is also less than a year since Brother Pedro Gil and I sold "Home Physician" there. You can see there is much of our literature going into the homes in the part where Brother Lopez gave his life, when things were much more difficult. We can see great changes, by which the Lord is making it possible to give this message.

From this point, we faced homeward again; and at Velera, I met Brother Aponto, another colporteur. This place is at the north end of the Andes, and near the port at the south end of the Maracaibo Lake. I wished to help him get started with "Ministry of Healing" there. After a pleasant Sabbath together in that beautiful little village of the Andes, we began our work; and in two and one-half days, we were blessed with fourteen good orders. I had sold "Patriarchs and Prophets" there before; and some, because they liked that book, bought the one we now offered.

A hard day's drive from Velera brought us back to Barquisimeto, where we spent four pleasant days with Brother and Sister Cabrera. Elder Steele baptized four persons, and held meetings for the public. These meetings were well attended; and Brother Cabrera is much encouraged. I feel sure that it is possible to raise up a church there soon. At this place, I also met Brother Nicolas Hermoso, and found that he was having good success in his colporteur work.

Barquisimeto is about 200 miles from Valencia—a hard day's drive. On the way to Valencia, we met Brother Jose Tirado, another colporteur. He was beginning his work for the Big Week, and had already taken orders from the president of the state and other officials. His courage was fine. All year he has worked in very poor and very sparsely settled territory; nevertheless, he has sold books with good success, and also taken many subscriptions for *El Centinela*.

After spending a few days at headquarters in Caracas, Elder Steele and I went down to La Guaira to sell "Ministry of Healing" for Big Week. God blessed us with 44 orders. The following week, I went to Maracay with Pedro Gonzales to sell "Our Day." The Lord again gave us splendid success in taking 50 orders in a few days. In all, Brother Gonzales got 73 orders in that place.

Truly, the prospects for the work in the places we have visited are encouraging. I am sure that there are many, many places, where the truth would be heard gladly, if only we had consecrated ministers to send there to preach. One

colporteur reports that 30 adults are coming regularly to hear him, and are keeping the Sabbath as best they know. Over in the mainland near Trinidad, Brother Teodore Vasquez reports many interested persons; and Brother Alberro Acosta is going there to look after them.

This week I go to La Guaira to deliver the Big Week books. Then I must go to help one of our colporteurs and take him some more books. And on July 28 I hope to take a boat to the east to help Brother Teodore Vasquez, who has been working hard to sell books in that part. There is no end to this going; and sometimes I wonder if I shall be able to keep on at the same pace till the end of the year. I have every hope,—if my strength holds out,—to see every colporteur come out with a good record. Only two or three are behind at all.

FRED W. STEEVES.

SABBATH SCHOOL DEPT.
Mrs. E. E. ANDROSS Secretary

A WONDERFUL YEAR

By the close of 1926 there were 8,277 Sabbath schools in the world, and the membership stood at 311,476. Each Sabbath the schools dedicated \$37,753.74 to missions; and on the last Sabbath of the year, came the largest 13th Sabbath offering ever given, \$118,611.54. This meant \$18,611.54 for medical work in China. The total offerings for 1926 reached \$1,787,034.05, an increase of \$110,459.86 over those of the previous year.

During the fourth quarter, 24,559 Sabbath school members studied their lessons every day and were present and on time every Sabbath, while 3,251 completed perfect yearly records. 21,000 sets of English memory verse cards; 2,100 sets of Spanish; 600 sets of German, and 4,020 sets in various other languages, were used to help the children learn the beautiful lessons of truth.

How wonderfully the Sabbath school work has grown since the early 50's when Elder James White sat by the roadside and wrote the first set of Sabbath school lessons. Today, the Sabbath school is the largest and the most powerful educational institution in our denomination. It seeks no endowment fund, it issues no calendars; it collects no tuitions, it observes no vacations, and it celebrates no commencements. It graduates no students, but it fits those who make the most of it for efficient service in this life, and for promotion into the Sabbath school in the earth made new when Jesus comes.

THE "WORTHLESS" CHAIN

One day I picked up a bit of chain and showed it to some friends who were with me. They thought it worthless, and one said, "O, if that were gold it would not be here." However, I dropped it into my pocket.

Later, when talking with a goldsmith, I showed him this little trophy. He examined it carefully, and then said: "That is *pure gold*."

There was a good lesson in that experience for me. How often when we look at someone who has made mistakes,—perhaps he has even persecuted the church of God,—we are tempted to think that such a person is rather worthless.

However, it is well for us to remember, that in spite of all we see, there may be hidden in that very individual a noble heart which some day, may stand loyally for God, *if we do our part*.

Doubtless the members of the early Christian church thought Saul a very wicked man; and perhaps if they had expressed themselves about him, they would have said: "There is no hope of ever winning him for Christ!" Who could have dreamed that he would ever be the powerful worker he later became?

Let us learn the lesson. Count no one hardened or lost forever. Not being able to try the hearts and the reins, we should see in all men, precious souls whom our Saviour died to redeem; and we should work as He worked, who came "to seek and to save the lost."

LOUIS VERNET.

AROUND THE CIRCLE

Pastor E. E. Andross, accompanying his son, Pastor C. E. Andross, sailed for Trinidad, July 23. He went to help launch the school to be opened there for our splendid host of young people in the East Caribbean Union.

Pastor and Sister L. L. Hutchinson completed a year of evangelical work in Colon, Panama, on July 24. On that date Brother Hutchinson wrote: "Last evening I held my ninth baptismal service, which brought the total of baptisms up to 139 for the year. Besides these; seven others have been reclaimed, and fifty have come forward, and signed the covenant. The membership of the Colon church has doubled during the year."

Pastor O. C. Barrett, from Tehuantepec writes: "In twelve days we sold 100 Bibles, and our believers are now selling 800 *Centinelas* every month. When they become educated in their responsibility and stewardship, they are going to do surprising things."

In the *Field Gleanings*, from the South Caribbean Conference comes this call for prayer:

"Brother and Sister R. J. Christian are in Georgetown, British Guiana, having returned from the interior on account of the serious illness of Sister Christian. It was necessary for Indians to carry her down as she was unable to walk. The doctor has not at this writing been able to determine the nature of her illness, but thinks it probably is an extreme situation caused by malaria. We solicit your prayers that she may have a complete and speedy recovery. Brother and Sister Cott plan to go on to Mt. Roraima without waiting for Brother and Sister Christian's return."

Brother Babcock sends this word from Curaçao: "We now have two Sabbath school classes in Spanish and two in English. Our attendance on Sunday nights is from thirty to forty, with quite a crowd listening from the outside." He then explained that, according to reports, the priests had intimidated the interested Catholics so they feared to enter the room where the services were held.

Brother and Sister H. E. Baasch and little David have gone to England on their well

earned furlough. Writing from London, June 30, Brother Baasch said:

"Yesterday morning we were privileged to witness a most wonderful natural phenomenon. It was a total eclipse of the sun. We were close enough to the totality area to obtain a magnificent view of the spectacle. It occurred at 5:20. The summer sun was already well on its way. The sky was clear; but suddenly, the black disk of the moon began to encroach upon the face of the sun. Little by little she bit into the silvery orb until all was covered except a thin rim at the left.

"Upon looking on that awe inspiring drama in the heavens, people fell on their knees, and cried: 'My God, my God.' We did not see the corona, but those who were privileged to see it, being at favorable places in the totality area, say that it was of surpassing loveliness and grandeur. What will men say when the glories of the very heavens are unveiled before mortal eyes?"

The July issue of *The Jamaica Visitor* gave August 17 as the date for the opening of another school year in the West Indian Training College. From this institution many earnest young people have gone forth into the Master's service in the past. Once again her doors swing open to receive the young people who have caught the vision of service, and of the need of a preparation for it, and who, through weary days have struggled on to secure means for obtaining a Christian education. Let us not fail to pray for their success, nor for God's special blessing in behalf of the teachers upon whom rests the chief responsibility of training each prospective future worker who this year shall study in the West Indian Training College "to show himself approved unto God."

Professor Glen S. Ray, who has been in charge of the Spanish Department of the school in the Canal Zone, sailed from Cristobal August 17, for San Jose, Costa Rica. Professor Ray has been called to the principalship of La Academia Adventista Centroamericana to be opened October 12. Let all help to make this new school a success by their prayers, and by personal efforts encouraging young people to make the most of this opportunity to prepare for the Master's service.

THREE LEPERS DIE

Speaking of the lepers brings a cloud over the past few weeks, for it has fallen to us to lay three of those dear believers to rest. Brother Christian was the first to die. He was a man in the prime of life, but smitten with this most terrible affliction. His loyalty to the truth, and his love for Jesus, remained steadfast to the end. When he knew his life was ebbing slowly away, he handed to his companions the sum of \$81.60, requesting that it be devoted to giving the truth to his people in China.

Brother Williams soon followed. He was a still younger man, who had faithfully held up the Lord's banner during a lingering illness. He showed in his trust and resignation that the valley of the shadow of death had no terrors for him; and he passed quietly into his last sleep. But he sleeps in Jesus.

Then Brother Hart followed. He had been the leader for a long time; and was ever helping the little isolated flock to be faithful in Christian living, in the patient continuance in well doing, in faithfully using the Lord's gifts, and returning to Him His own. He was alert, and carried a burden to be a blessing to all. Now he is missing, but we find comfort in two assurances: He, too, is resting from his affliction; and soon all three of these will awaken to live in health and happiness in a life which never will end.

H. J. EDMED.

A BOOK FOR YOU

A copy of the book, "El Año Con La Biblia," has come to our office. It is a splendid little volume. Those who have had it in English, have long wished that our Spanish believers could also have the use of it in their Bible study. It will shed additional light upon many pages in that best of all good books—the Bible. The price is \$1.00.

Two other Spanish books of special value to those who desire to know our message better that they may become stronger soul winners, are "Norma de Eficiencia," 65c., and "Movimiento Adventista," \$1.25. Order through your home missionary secretary.

GIVES A PONY AND TRAP FOR MISSIONS

Pastor E. G. Whittaker, president of the Tasmanian Conference, in writing to this office on June 16, states:

"You will be pleased to know that one of our good isolated folk gave us a pony and trap for the Week of Prayer offering. The following letter was sent in reference to the gift: 'While the turnout has been lying idle for about two months, it has occurred to me that as a Christian I ought to give it to the Lord to help send the precious word of life to those hungering and thirsting for it in mission lands. I long to do something, or make some sacrifice for Christ, who suffered so much to bring salvation to a world of sinners. Will you then accept this gift as ambassadors for God? No doubt you could find a ready sale for it in Hobart.'"

—Australasian Union Record.

OUR HARVEST INGATHERING CAMPAIGN

The Harvest Ingathering goal for the Inter-American Division for 1927 is \$32,300. Most of our conferences and missions are planning on holding their Harvest Ingathering campaign during October and November.

Our records show that \$21,119.38 was raised during 1925 and \$21,242.48 during 1926. Some of our fields show a splendid gain in 1926 over 1925, while others have fallen far short. The South Caribbean Conference set their 1927 goal at \$5,000, which is more than they have reached in any previous year. The last word from Brother Benjamin Yip, treasurer, states: "Ingathering receipts have reached \$4,983.07; only \$16.93 more to reach the goal!"

In addition to our regular appropriations for this division, the General Conference releases the amount raised in Harvest Ingathering in this division for the work in this field.

The Harvest Ingathering proves a real blessing to all who take part in it, in that it affords each one the opportunity of getting out, and giving the truth to their friends and neighbors, leaving literature with them, and getting them more interested by contributing of their funds for the support of the gospel.

"Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the *wealth* of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought." Isa. 60:11.

F. L. HARRISON, Treasurer.

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Editor—MRS. E. E. ANDROSS

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