

# THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

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## PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL CRISIS

Mrs. E. G. WHITE

The great crisis is just before us. To meet its trials and temptations, and to perform its duties, will require persevering faith. But we may triumph gloriously; not one watching, praying, believing soul will be ensnared by the enemy.

In the time of trial before us, God's pledge of security will be placed upon those who have kept the word of His patience. . . . The Lion of Judah, so terrible to the rejectors of His grace, will be the Lamb of God to the obedient and faithful. The pillar of cloud which speaks wrath and terror to the transgressor of God's law, is light and mercy and deliverance to those who have kept His commandments. The arm strong to smite the rebellious, will be strong to deliver the loyal. Every faithful one will surely be gathered. "He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matt. 24: 31.

Brethren, to whom the truths of God's word have been opened, what part will you act in the closing scenes of this world's history? Are you awake to these solemn realities? Do you realize the grand work of preparation that is going on in heaven and on earth? Let all who have received the light, who have had the opportunity of reading and hearing the prophecy, take heed to those things that are written therein; "for the time is at hand." Let none now tamper with sin, the source of every misery in our world. No longer remain in lethargy and stupid indifference. Let not the destiny of your soul hang upon an uncertainty. Know that you are fully on the Lord's side. Let the inquiry go forth from sincere hearts and trembling lips, "Who shall be able to stand?" Have you, in these last precious hours of probation, been putting the very best material into your character-building? Have you been purifying your souls from every stain? Have you followed the light? Have you works corresponding to your profession of faith?

Is the softening, subduing influence of the grace of God working upon you? Have you hearts that can feel, eyes that can see, ears that can hear? Is it in vain that the declaration of eternal truth has been made concerning the nations of the earth? They are under condemnation, preparing for the judgments of God; and in this day, which is big with eternal results, the people chosen to be the depositaries of momentous truth ought to be abiding in Christ. Are you letting your light shine to illumine the nations that are perishing in their sins? Do you realize that you are to stand in defense of God's commandments before those who are treading them underfoot?

It is possible to be a partial, formal believer, and yet be found wanting, and lose eternal life. It is possible to practice some of the Bible injunctions, and be regarded as a Christian, and yet perish because you lack qualifications essential to Christian character. If you neglect or treat with indifference the warnings that God has given, if you cherish or excuse sin, you are sealing your soul's destiny. You will be weighed in the balance, and found wanting. Grace, peace, and pardon will be forever withdrawn; Jesus will have passed by, never again to come within reach of your prayers and entreaties. While mercy lingers, while the Saviour is making intercession, let us make thorough work for eternity.

## CALAMITIES

1. Will the confidence of men in the stability of earthly things be shaken in the days immediately preceding the coming of Christ?

"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21:26.

2. What will cause this fearful looking forward to the future?

"Storms, earthquakes, whirlwinds, fire, and the sword will spread desolation everywhere, until men's hearts shall fail them for fear, and for looking after those things which shall come upon the earth."—"Testimonies," Vol. IV, p. 53.

3. Will there be only an occasional calamity?

"God cannot forbear much longer. Already His judgments are beginning to fall in some places, and soon His signal of displeasure will be felt in other places. There will be a series of events revealing that God is master of the situation."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 96.

4. What was said concerning the commencement of this "series of events" in a testimony published in 1909?

"The Lord is coming very soon, and we are entering into scenes of calamity. Satanic agencies, though unseen, are working to destroy human life."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 62.

5. What is God's purpose in permitting these calamities?

"In the calamities that are now befalling immense buildings and large portions of cities, God is showing us what will come upon the whole earth."—"Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 83.

6. Is this His only purpose?

"As I hear of the terrible calamities that from week to week are taking place, I ask myself, What do these things mean? The most awful disasters are following one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of seemingly disorganized, unregulated forces, but in them God's purpose may be read. They are one of the means by which he seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger."—"Testimonies," Vol. VIII, p. 252.

7. What message do these calamities bring to those who are trampling upon God's law?

"Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 136.

8. What is their message to God's people?

"The coming of Christ is nearer than when we first believed. The great controversy is nearing its end. The judgments of God are in the land. They speak in solemn warning, saying, 'Be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.'"—"Testimonies," Vol. VIII, p. 252.

9. What is the relation of these calamities to the close of probation?

"Storms, earthquakes, whirlwinds, fire, and the sword will spread desolation everywhere. . . . You know not how small a space is between you and eternity. You know not how soon your probation may close."—"Testimonies," Vol. IV, p. 53.

10. What does Christ expect of His people at this time?

"Jesus wept over Jerusalem, because of the guilt and obstinacy of His chosen people. He weeps also over the hard-heartedness of those who, professing to be co-workers with Him, are content to do nothing."—"Testimonies," Vol. VIII, p. 32.

11. What is the admonition as we enter into these "scenes of calamity"?

"The Lord is coming very soon, and we are entering into scenes of calamity. . . . Let us work now as we have never worked before. We are exhorted to 'be instant in season, out of season.' 2 Tim. 4:2. We are to make openings for the presentation of the truth. We are to improve every opportunity of drawing souls to Christ."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, pp. 62, 63.



A young teacher in Colombia

## NARCISA

Narcisa, the young woman in the picture on this page, is teaching school near Carillo in the beautiful valley of the Sinu river. The children there would have been without educational opportunities had she not gone. We could establish similar schools, profitably, in at least five other places in the Sinu valley, where the people have asked our mission to send them consecrated teachers to teach their children the way of life as well as the common branches. Also in other parts of this mission, people are waiting for us to establish schools where their children can secure a Christian education. Many of these schools would be nearly self-supporting; but we have no funds with which to bring teachers from other countries.

E. W. THURBER.

Barranquilla, Colombia.

## EVIL SPIRITS STILL SUBJECT

In harmony with the request of the Antillian Union committee, the writer visited Haiti and Santo Domingo during the month of February, and had the opportunity of noting the progress of the work in these island fields.

Haiti is the only island of the Antillian group which has two distinct language areas, and it is an interesting experience to pass from one side of a river where the French is spoken, to the other side where you hear the Spanish language. But God is no respecter of nationalities; and we found that the Third Angel's Message is making re-

markable progress on both sides of the boundary line. Brother Peter Nygaard has been appointed superintendent of the Santo Domingo Mission, until other arrangements can be made; and Brother John de Caenel will act as temporary superintendent of the Haitian Mission.

The church in Santo Domingo City has been organized into eight missionary bands for aggressive service. Brother Damian de la Cruz, the leader of one of these bands, has been studying with a man who is a government employee. This man has become so interested in the truth that he has placed benches in his house and opened it for public services, in order that his neighbors and friends may have an opportunity of hearing the truth. At the time of my visit this entire family were deciding to obey. The other bands of the church are holding similar meetings. The members of this church sold \$75.00 worth of small books and papers during the month of January. The Santo Domingo Mission almost doubled its 1926 Harvest Ingathering receipts in the 1927 campaign; and the believers are pressing forward with confidence that they will reach a still higher goal this year.

The progress of the laymen's movement in Haiti is indicated by two items of the Home Missionary report for the fourth quarter of 1927. The membership given is 1,050, and the number reporting missionary work, 1,176. This indicates that all the members of the church are reporting, and also 126 who are in baptismal classes. For this same quarter, 102 were added to the church as the result of personal work.

We witnessed other evidences of the Holy Spirit's power in the services of the various churches which we attended. During the services in Santo Domingo and Haiti, fifty responded to the call to repentance. In one meeting the leading lawyer of the city was the first to express his determination to turn to the Lord.

Where the Lord is working so decidedly, we would expect to see the opposition of the enemy; and Pastor Isaac recently met this opposition in a very tangible form. Devil worship is openly practised in Haiti; and in the town where Brother Isaac was located, the devotees of this worship were endeavoring to attract a young girl to their place of meeting. This girl, while at the home of Brother Isaac, became suddenly possessed with great fear; and Brother Isaac advised her to remain at his house that night.

Soon after they retired, Sister Isaac heard the girl sobbing; and, arising, she saw her walking toward the window, which had opened mysteriously without any visible agency. The girl appeared to be struggling with an unseen foe. Sister Isaac hastily called her husband. By this time the girl had reached the

window, and it seemed that some one was lifting her and drawing her out through the window, for her feet were not resting on the floor.

Pastor Isaac reached the window just in time to save her, and he found that he had to exert great force to release her. In doing so he received a heavy blow which felled him to the floor; but he retained his hold of the girl, who continued to struggle violently. Finally, he cried, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her." In a few moments the girl relaxed and was quiet.

A short time after this, while Brother and Sister Isaac and the girl were talking of the power of Satan and his angels, the girl again became suddenly possessed with the evil spirit, and this time Brother Isaac could scarcely restrain her. He was again thrown to the floor, but again he found help and deliverance in the name of Jesus. We are living in the time when Satan is to work with "all power" and when any one of us may be called upon to meet a similar experience. Let us remember that there is power in the name of Jesus to meet any experience or temptation.

The outlook is bright for a forward movement in Haiti and Santo Domingo, and for a great ingathering of souls.

C. E. WOOD.

*Balboa, Canal Zone.*

### BROTHER BECKFORD'S CONVERSION

Brother Beckford's conversion was due to no man's labors, but to the direct work of the Holy Spirit upon his heart.

Brother Beckford is about 85 years old. He cannot read, and is now nearly deaf. Once when very ill in the hospital and given up to die, he found his Saviour. He confessed his sins, gave his heart to God, and vowed that if he should recover, he would live to prepare for eternity.

After the Lord restored him, he received a strong impression to join a church, and that he should seek for the right church. He had always heard people condemn the Seventh-day Adventist church, and, being unable to read, he could not judge for himself. He was impressed, however, that that was the church he ought to join.

Upon inquiry, he received some encouragement from a man who believed, but who had not obeyed the truth. The next Sabbath he walked six miles to the nearest Seventh-day Adventist church, and, soon he felt confident that he had come to the right place. The next Sabbath people tried to dissuade him from going to church; but he was convinced that he had found the right church, and would not turn back. Soon he was bap-

tized, and today is a faithful member.

JOHN J. SMITH.

*Bocas del Toro, Panama.*

### THEIR PENETRATING GAZE

[Extracts from a letter]

There is a big work started in the city of Vera Cruz; and the little company that we have had there for years suddenly has grown into an organized church. Some of its members went out into the suburbs and started a Sabbath school, which is now larger in numbers than its mother; and this Sabbath school has started another company in a village farther out. It certainly is a good example of the laymen's activity.

Although in need of more instruction themselves, they are so full of zeal that they can not keep quiet, but tell everyone they meet about what they know. I never saw anything like it before. A sister, going to market to buy food for the day, will tell the man that sells her carrots that Jesus is coming soon. Then as she goes to buy beans from another, she tells him the same story; and if the sellers of beans and carrots are interested, they are invited to attend the meetings, which are also in charge of a layman.

The other day as we were coming home, a native brother who was with me began talking to the street car conductor. The conductor and others were talking about corporations not paying the laborers enough, when this brother said, "Well, and do you not know that

nine o'clock when I had a drink of hot *atole* (rice gruel). My tongue cleaved to the roof of my mouth, and would not work any more, so one of the sisters took pity on me, and made me a cup of *atole*. After drinking it I was refreshed a bit. I had not eaten since morning. When I entered the hall again a few minutes later, there were more people who wanted to know about tithes and offerings, the investigative judgment, the first resurrection, the 144,000 and the seal of God, the millennium, the new Jerusalem, the tree of life, the river of life, the new earth and how we are going to spend the Sabbath there.

Well, these people do not know much beside the facts that Jesus is coming soon, and that they should keep all of the ten commandments so as to be ready to meet Him. They also know it is wrong to use strong drink, tea, coffee, and tobacco. Some of the more advanced have been baptized.

I never saw anything like the hunger and thirst that these people have for the truth. There is no formality, but an earnest, quiet, attention. All eyes are centered on the speaker, with an eager intentness that seems to penetrate one. Those people certainly want the truth. I have had old men beg me, with tears in their eyes, for a school; but I have never before seen so large a company of men, women, and children, so quiet and still and eager.

O. C. BARRETT.

*Orizaba, Mexico.*

### LED BY A DREAM

Sister Pilar Rivera of Naguabo, Porto Rico, was a worldly woman and an open enemy to the Adventist faith, which her mother had embraced. One day she fell seriously ill and was about to undergo a major operation. While she was lying in her bed, feeling her life strength ebbing slowly away and doubting of the issue of the operation she fell asleep and dreamed.

In her dream she saw a kind man beckoning her to come along with him. She followed her guide until the road became so straight that she wondered how ever she might continue the journey. At last they reached the river bank. A trunk, thrown across, led to the other side. Her guide bade her step on the trunk; he led the way. The trunk grew narrower until it seemed as thin as a thread. But her guide held her and they reached the other shore in safety. Immediately, the guide took the Bible and began to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

At this instance, the dream ended, and Pilar lay on her bed of pain, wondering what it all meant. Presently she called her husband and said: "Martin, I am going to be a Christian."



Some of our Missionary Volunteers in the Bahamas

the Saviour is coming soon to settle all this?" The conductor did not know. The brother drew out his Bible, read some scriptures, and invited him to the meetings. He was there the next Sabbath.

These people are fired with a holy zeal; but what can we do to instruct them? We are doing all we can, but we need more workers. We certainly need the "right arm of the message." A man could enter as a doctor or another medical worker; and he could do the work that is so necessary.

Yesterday I started to preach in the afternoon and kept it up until eleven-thirty last night. My only rest was at

"Don't be silly, Pilar," he replied, "you have never been a religious woman; be careful now that you do not make a fool of yourself."

"Well, Martin, I feel that God wants me, and I am going to be a Christian."

From the time she had made that resolution she began to feel better and it was not very long before she was up and well—and that without submitting to the dreaded operation.

She now began to read a little book that had been in her house for some time. It was "Christ our Saviour." How the simple story of Jesus appealed to that heart once hardened by the world, but now softened by God's Holy Spirit! Her desires to serve God became confirmed and she began to reach out earnestly for more light. She began to pray the Lord's prayer—the only prayer she knew.

A desire for fellowship sprang up in her heart and she wrote a letter to the Adventist church where her mother attended. But, for some reason, her letter was not answered. Pilar waited patiently, but became very perplexed, when in a dream she saw the same man that had led her across the river. This time he led her to a house that seemed to be dedicated to God's service. There were chairs and a desk and on the wall hung Bible pictures. The man now stepped into the desk as before, he took the Bible and began to preach Jesus.

This was her second dream, and she truly believed that God was trying to show her the way. She went to a neighboring town and looked up the Protestant church. But she left dissatisfied, saying that that was not the church shown her in her dream. She did not give up, however, and eventually she found her way to the house where the Adventists met. At once she recognized her surroundings; the desk and the Sabbath school pictures hanging on the wall; and as Brother Marrero stepped into the desk, she knew indeed that this was the place to which God had pointed her in the dream.

Like the eunuch of old, she returned to her own town, rejoicing. She was the first and only Adventist in the district of Naguabo, but she is no longer alone. Soon nine others stepped out into the blessed light, as a result of the faithful testimony sounded by our sister. Her husband too, although not yet an Adventist, has left worldly associations and has quit the vices that go with them. Her daughter, a bright young girl who is in the fourth year in high school, plans to enter our training school at Aibonito next year, and her friend, another young girl in the fourth year in high school, who is preparing to teach, expects to accompany her. Little Luiz, Sister Pilar's twelve-year-old boy

in the seventh grade, is an excellent little Sabbath school secretary to the home department that is conducted in Sister Pilar's home.

When the writer first visited Sister Pilar's home, she called her friends and neighbors for a night meeting. Many came and the rooms were crowded. With deep and sustained interest the people listened to God's last message. Winning the heart of Sister Pilar, the Lord has won the key to many other hearts. She is an ardent missionary and has strong convictions. We feel, somehow, that the little town of Naguabo will soon have its own church dedicated to the proclamation of the Third Angel's Message.

HENRY E. BAASCH.

*Santurce, Porto Rico.*

#### WHAT HAVE WE DONE TODAY?

We shall do so much in the years to come,  
But what have we done today?  
We shall give our gold in a princely sum,  
But what did we give today?  
We shall lift the heart and dry the tear,  
We shall plant a hope in the place of fear,  
We shall speak the words of love and cheer;  
But what did we speak today?

We shall be so kind in the after while,  
But what have we been today?  
We shall bring each lonely life a smile,  
But what have we brought today?  
We shall give to truth a grander birth,  
And to steadfast faith a deeper worth,  
We shall feed the hungry sons of earth;  
But whom have we fed today?

We shall reap such joys in the by and by,  
But what have we sown today?  
We shall build us mansions in the sky,  
But what have we built today?  
'Tis sweet in idle dreams to bask,  
But here and now do we do our task?  
Yes, this is the thing our souls must ask,  
"What have we done today?"

—Nixon Waterman.

#### Our School in Trinidad

"Nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children and young people. The church should arouse, and manifest a deep interest in this work; for now as never before, Satan and his host are determined to enlist the youth under the black banner that leads to ruin and death.

"God has appointed the church as a watchman, to have a jealous care over the youth and children, and as a sentinel to see the approach of the enemy and give warning of danger. But the church does not realize the situation. She is sleeping on guard. In this time of peril, fathers and mothers must arouse and work as for life, or many of the youth will be forever lost.

"While we should put forth earnest efforts for the masses of the people around us, and push the work into foreign fields, no amount of labor in this line can excuse us for neglecting the education of our children and youth."—"Counsels to Teachers," p. 165.

"Upon fathers and mothers devolves the responsibility of giving a Christian education to the children intrusted to them. In no case are they to let any line of business so absorb mind and time and talents, that their children are allowed to drift until they are separated far

from God."—"Fundamentals of Christian Education," p. 545.

From these paragraphs we can see that the Lord places the work of training the children and young people second to no other. In these last days, when Satan is bidding high for our young people, when his flattering allurements are on every hand, it is high time that we be aroused to our duty as guardians of the youth in our midst.

The Lord also has made very clear to us the object of education. It is to "restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul."—"Education," p. 15, 16. "The great object to be secured should be the proper development of character, that the individual may be fitted rightly to discharge the duties of the present life, and to enter at last upon the future, immortal life."—"Testimonies," Vol. IV, p. 418.

In harmony with this instruction our schools give a threefold training of hand and heart and head. Either without the other two would fail of the high ideal God has set before us.

Our new school in the Maracas Valley, Trinidad, is being built upon this plan. The manual labor, which the student must perform to support himself while he gains an education, will build firmness and stability into his character, and will fit him to bear, manfully, the responsibilities that will come to him later in life. The morning and evening worship, the Sabbath services, the Bible Year, and Morning Watch, the association with Christian students and teachers, will all help him to develop spiritually. At the same time he will be carrying on his school work and developing his mental powers.

We have now organized the regular night school work for our students, beginning the first week in January. The work is carried on for an hour each evening by Miss Williams and Mrs. Hamilton. Owing to lack of space we are conducting the work in one large class. We plan to give good reviews in each of the common branches. The students are showing a lively interest in this work and are thus being prepared for the regular classes to begin in April. Beside our boarding students, fourteen young people from the village attend regularly, making forty-four in all.

The main path to the estate is being widened into a good graded road, over which we may haul our produce and logs with the lorry. The boys, under Professor Hamilton's direction, have built a strong concrete bridge over the creek at the first crossing, and a good rock ford at the second. We plan to extend the road to the second garden as soon as possible. Last week Professor Boyd and some of the boys planted both

gardens with several varieties of fresh seeds from the States. The pigeon peas, which were already growing on the estate, are bearing a good crop now, and nearly every day several large baskets full are brought to the kitchen. These make a welcome addition to the bill of fare of the students in our boarding department.

The school lorry is kept busy these days hauling logs and lumber for the building. Once each week Professor Boyd or Professor Hamilton makes a trip to Sangre Grande to haul logs to the railroad track. When the cars of logs arrive at Port-of-Spain, they haul them to the sawmill, and after they are sawed, the lumber is brought out to the building spot. Already we have on the ground about 10,000 feet of timber from Sangre Grande; and there are about 100 squared logs there now, ready to be brought down. At present Brother David from Port-of-Spain, and his son, Lionel, who plans to enter school soon, are working in the crown lands, adjoining the school estate, to get timber for the building. We are also buying small quantities of lumber from Maracas Valley, whenever it is available.

Professor Boyd and the boys are working hard every day on the sixty-foot wing of the girls' building. The basement story is framed, the concrete is poured for the walls, and the boys are now working on the main floor. The building will be solid and substantial, for all this framework is of heavy mora timber. The young men are showing a splendid spirit of courage as they handle these heavy pieces, for though the work is hard and goes slowly, they work cheerfully and willingly. As the building grows, they are beginning to realize the pleasure of seeing "something attempted, something done."

We are all anxiously watching this building grow, for at present all our available space is filled to the limit, and we need the additional room for the students who have been accepted and are waiting to come. Every post brings applications from earnest young people who are anxious to take advantage of the opportunities at last placed within their reach. Already our enrolment, besides the students from Trinidad, represents Antigua, St. Lucia, Grenada, Demarara, Tobago, and Barbados.

Sometime ago several of our brethren, who are carpenters, promised to give a week's work each, to the school. Previously we have not been in a position to accept this work, but our building is now at the place we should be glad for such help. Nearly every Sunday we have visitors from various parts of the island, who come to see the school and the students. We are always glad to see them come whenever they can.

We are all of good courage and working hard, and day by day we have evi-

dence that the Lord is blessing our efforts.

Mrs. R. S. J. HAMILTON.

St. Joseph, Trinidad.



**"BUT IT SHALL NOT COME NIGH THEE"**

A few months ago I made a trip to Barcajal to deliver some books. The train I was supposed to take leaves Guadalajara for Mexico City in the afternoon. When we left, we noticed quite a movement of troops; and we knew that the way would be dangerous on account of the recent attacks of rebels in that vicinity. When the convoy started off, I sent up my prayer to God, as is my custom. The train was crowded. The car in which I rode was so crowded that some of the seats each held five passengers.

When we reached Ponsitlan, the soldiers began to place themselves at the extreme ends of the coaches. I inclined my head and lifted my heart to God. I thought of Psalms 91, where the Lord promises strength and courage to His children. In the evening about 8:25

evil. As I looked around, I saw several dead beside me.

Suddenly, I felt a terrible pain in my back, and heard something fall to the floor. I quickly placed my hand on the spot where I had felt the sharp pain but discovered that nothing serious had befallen me. Again, I praised God. As the shots came closer, I tried to hide among the bodies around me, and continued to pray to the Lord. Soon a man and woman crawled to where I was. He was carrying a five-month-old baby in his arms. I overheard the woman say to the man: "Take care of the baby, for I don't want him killed like the other three." At that minute she was shot, dying instantly, and falling over on my back.

All the passengers were calling on the idols and the saints to help them, and making promises to the virgin and to other saints. After the federal soldiers were all shot, the rebels continued on the passengers. The federal soldiers must have fought for about an hour and a half, and then for another hour and a half the rebels kept firing on the passengers. When we called to them to stop firing as there were no more soldiers, they ceased long enough to tell us that they were going to set the train on fire so we had better get out. (Our coach was already burning.)

This was another night of St. Bartholomew. Many innocent ones were murdered and the wounded burned to death as there was not sufficient time to take them out of the burning cars. The number of dead, I imagine, ranged from 270 to 290. One man lost twelve of his family—his father and mother, his wife and children. He became insane the next morning. I feel that the Lord has spared my life so that I may continue working for His cause as He says in Psalms 56:13, and by His grace I shall serve Him all my days.

CANDIDO BARRERA.

Guadalajara, Mexico.

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**MEXICAN INDIANS**

Before the time of the Mexican conquest by Cortez, there was a large Indian population scattered throughout the highlands of what is now the Republic of Mexico. The descendants of these Indians—Yaquis, Mayas, Coras, Huicholes, and Tarahumaras—are not much better civilized today than were their ancestors. The Mayas, who constitute the greater number of the Indians, live in the territory around the Maya and Fuerte rivers. There are 20,000 of them, and they are excellent farmers and cattle raisers. The women devote their time to making pots, hats, and woolen blankets. The men cultivate corn, beans, and garbanzos.

Medical missionaries would find a good opportunity to work here among



Brother Barrera, lower left. Brother H. A. B. Robinson, Mexican Union Field Missionary secretary, holding book through which a bullet passed in the train

the train stopped. We heard a terrible noise, and received a tremendous shock. Shooting began outside. Immediately the passengers threw themselves on the floor.

A few minutes after dropping down, I felt something warm on my legs, and thought I was wounded. Can you imagine my feelings? Every moment I was praying earnestly. I thought of my wife and prayed still more fervently. I thought of Psalms 23:4, which says that, although we walk in the valley of the shadow of death, we should fear no

them, as these Indians have little knowledge of how to care for their bodies properly. One man, when telling about a tooth that had hurt him for several days, said that when he could stand the pain no longer, he put a live coal on top of the tooth and shut his teeth together tightly until the fire went out. Then he said, boastfully, that the pain stopped at once, and soon he could pull the tooth out with his fingers, and that the one above it came out also because the fire burned that as well.

Eighty per cent of the children born here die because of the lack of attention at the time of birth. We are doing all we possibly can to get medical workers for this Indian country; and we trust that the Lord will help us to do what we should in order to relieve their sickness, and to tell them about the better life.

C. E. MOON.

Mexico City, Mexico.

### THE LAKE MISSION

Arriving at the station in Guadalajara, Pastor D. A. Parsons, Brother H. A. B. Robinson, and I were met by Brother and Sister E. E. Pohle. They took us to their home, where we were well entertained. Later we visited the mission headquarters, 747 Libertad, which were given to the mission by Doctor and Mrs. Swayze. In the church, which has been doing service for years, we held our colporteurs' institute. Six colporteurs were present. These were, C. A. Barrera, L. Ponce, Maria Romo de Meza, C. Ramirez and J. P. Meza, from the Lake Mission, and M. Clavel from the Sonora Mission. These colporteurs sell many books and win souls to the truth.

Brother C. A. Barrera, who has been exceptionally successful in soul-winning work, relates one of his miraculous deliverances from death in the article, "But It Shall Not Come Night Thee," in this paper. For many years he paid no attention to religion, and absolutely refused to listen to anything about religion. He did not only neglect his God, but also his family. Money came easily, and he spent it quickly, leaving his family to suffer.

A friend invited him repeatedly to attend certain meetings; finally he went for courtesy's sake. The topic discussed that night was "Spiritualism." He was sure that his friend had put the preacher wise; and he felt so angry that he was ready to fight. He said to his friend that he would never return. However, when the sermon was finished that night, he seemed very desirous to return once more; so he came the following night, expecting to hear something on the same subject; and he was ready to defend his points.

But the subject that night was altogether different. Many wonderful things

that touched his heart were presented. He noticed people looking up the texts in their Bibles; and although he had been taught that only priests could possess a Bible, and that they alone could and should read it, he resolved to get one to see if the preacher presented the truth.

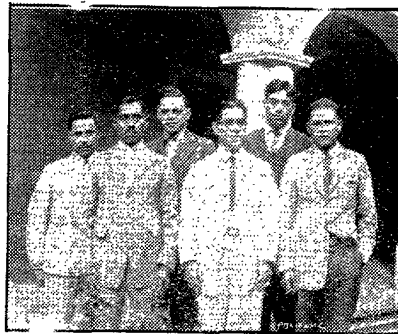
Putting \$50.00 in his pocket, he started off to the meeting, anxious to hear more, and to purchase the Word of God. He asked the pastor if he could buy the complete Bible, and if so, how much it would cost.

"From seventy-five cents and up," said the pastor.

"But, my friend," said Mr. Barrera, "I want a *complete* Bible—the best one you have."

"This one is seventy-five cents; but we can get you another that will cost \$1.50," explained the pastor.

Mr. Barrera was sure that there was



Co'porteurs attending the Lake Mission institute

a mistake somewhere. When he was told that both were complete, he said, "Well, let me have this one; and when you get the other, I will take that also." He took the Bible home and read it, and became a Seventh-day Adventist. Today he loves this message, and loves to tell it to others. He has developed into a real soul-winner.

He told us of his thrilling experience while on the Mexico City to Guadalajara express. But I shall add only a few words to the picture he gives in his article: The train was stopped and a battle between rebels and the federal soldiers began. Fifty-seven federal soldiers met their death while fighting heroically. Shooting right through the car, caused the death of many. Everybody fell to the floor of the car. Brother Barrera had one dead body to the right, another to the left, and then one fell on top of him. He wondered what would happen to him; but he kept repeating the ninetieth Psalm; and He who never slumbers, and never forgets a praying soul, sent back to the train a soldier who called out: "Arise and escape, every one who is alive." Brother Barrera grabbed his grip, and jumped out of the burning car, thanking God

for his life. Upon examining his grip, he noticed that a bullet had passed through it and had lodged itself deep in a copy of the medical book, "The Home Physician."

Brother Maises Clavel, another faithful soldier, came down from the Sonora Mission, where he is doing a marvelous work among the Chinese. Already he had taken many orders for the Chinese copy of "Our Day," and the Chinese *Signs of the Times*. Nearly always he sold "Our Day" in Spanish and a yearly subscription to the *Centinela* to the same families, as many of the Chinese have Mexican wives. He told us of a wonderful experience that he had in a town 100 kilometers from the railroad. First he regretted very much that he had taken the time to go there. When he entered the post office, they took him for a priest, treated him very kindly, and offered him food and lodging.

He had no sooner reached the lodging house than a little girl came and called him, saying that the lady had sent her to get him at once. He was a stranger, and felt sure that there must be some mistake. But he went to the home, and there met a woman filled with joy, so much so that she cried.

"You have brought *the book*, and I want another exactly like the one I possess," she said. Brother Clavel wondered what it meant, saying that he had never been to the town before, and had never seen that woman before.

"What book do you have?" he finally asked; and she brought forth one of our crisis books, "The Hope of the World," in Spanish.

"Yes, I have that book," he replied, and a smile of joy came over her face. She then brought her husband in, and Brother Clavel had to promise that he would return to study the Bible with them. He told them that the next day, being the Sabbath, he would come to study with them. He sold four large and twelve small books that Friday afternoon, and delivered them on Sunday.

When he went to the home on Sabbath, as he had promised, instead of finding the family alone, he found twenty of their friends with them. Brother Clavel says, "I studied with them all day until I got hoarse. They did not want me to go; and when I did leave, there was much crying among them."

As a thank offering for all that the Lord had done for him Brother Clavel gave \$60.00 for the Week of Sacrifice and \$20.00 for Big Week.

Brother E. E. Pohle loves the book work and often is found out in the field with the colporteurs. The colporteur work is going to make great headway in the Lake Mission. J. A. P. GREEN.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

**POWER OF PRAYER**

Prayer is the source of strength and force in the life of every Christian, regardless of all distinctions.

The devil and all his imps fear nothing but prayer and no one but a praying Christian.

The devil laughs at learning, art science, talent, brain power. He mocks at a prayerless church. He raises no objection to good works, so long as they are prayerless. He cares nothing for names, denominations or high professions, if they are prayerless.

Have you wisdom? The devil has more. Have you learning? The devil has more. Have you genius? The devil has more. Do you know your Bible? The devil knows it better. Have you a knowledge of God? The devil has a greater knowledge. Have you a strong will-power? The devil has a stronger will-power. Can you speak with tongues of men and angels? The devil excels in that.

Can you call upon God for help and strength? The devil cannot do that; he trembles in the presence of prayer; he is put to flight when a Christian draws near to God.

There is only one way by which a Christian can successfully resist and overcome the devil, and *that is by prayer.*

Prayer is the condition of every promise God has given to man.

G. D. RAFF.

*Habana, Cuba.*

**SAFEGUARDING OUR YOUTH**

"During my visits to the different churches and families in this field and other places, I have been impressed by the fact that many of our young people who have grown up in this message, are gradually drifting away. I am sure that you also have noticed the same sad condition.

"One of the chiefest reasons for the loss of so many of our young people, to my mind, is the deplorable lack of home religion in so many of our Adventist homes. In many cases the day is begun without any thought of God, and very probably ends the same way. Can not something be done to remedy this situation? As workers and church elders we ought to do our very best to show our people how better to protect their homes against the attacks of Satan."

So writes one of the leaders in Inter-America to the other workers in his field. This timely counsel is a good test tube to thrust into our own experience. What are we doing to protect the youth? What is being done in your field?

Sometime ago I received a letter from Professor Kern, our general Missionary

Volunteer secretary, in which he said:

"The European Division winter council passed some very helpful resolutions. They placed first, one on evangelism, in which it was recommended that all workers and church officers, during 1928, endeavor to become personally acquainted with every boy and girl, young man and young woman, and by a sympathetic approach, endeavor to help them in their problems and lead them to value a definite stand for Christ."

Will not you be one of the Christian workers who will endeavor to get acquainted with every young person in the circle where you labor? Will you not, by precept, and most of all by example, draw them to Jesus?

**THE CHRISTIAN HOME**

The place to purify a stream is at its source. That is why "the uplift of humanity begins in the home."

The home is the primary unit of human society. Here life is begun, and here the ideals of life are so deeply imbedded in the young minds that it is next to impossible to eradicate them in after years. It is a "school founded by the Almighty for the discipline of human beings."

The greatest ally of the preacher is the Christian home. Ministers can do no mighty works without the assistance of parents. The father can do more for his sons by his example than can the preacher by his sermons. The mother can do more for her daughters by her godly life and instruction than the whole staff of church workers. The fundamental elements of Christianity—love, obedience, and unselfish service—are best taught in the home.

On the other hand, there is nothing that will more quickly tear down the work than failure in the homes of the church. Whatever degrades the home life, lowers the tone of the church life. "In all that pertains to God's work, the very first victories must be won in the home life."

M. E. KERN.

*Washington, D. C.*

**DO WE POTTER EVENINGS?**

How do we spend our evenings? Do we potter, or gossip, or doze, or read the newspapers, or just lounge about and wait for a respectable hour to go to bed? Young people of the world are pretty busy evenings. Many occupy

themselves with correspondence school lessons in order to get on in their business or professional careers. Others go to the dance hall, the theater, or other places of amusement.

Christian young people mostly stay away from these harmful places; but do they fill in the time with something really worth while? Do they make their evenings count in pushing on to real attainment?

We read in the Bible of a certain man out of whom an unclean spirit had been cast. After a time the spirit came back to see how things were. He found his former domicile "empty, swept, and garnished." Result: "Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

Is it not clearly taught in this parable that emptying the heart of worldly aims and activities is worse than useless unless the emptying process is followed by an infilling of excellent things?

The normal Christian life is essentially active and positive. We do not stay away from theaters merely because they are harmful. We really cannot spare the time for such things. Every wide-awake Christian is altogether too busy doing real things to bother much with the semblance of things. There is no place for them in his program.

People of the world go to these places, admittedly, to pass away the time. The Christian does not want to pass away the time any more than he wants to throw away his money.

To get the most out of our evenings, we must plan ahead for them. There should be a whole of which each evening forms a part. What is to be the pattern for our lives? What have we in mind to accomplish? What is it our desire to be and to do? For what position of usefulness do we wish to prepare ourselves?

An evening spent in reading good poetry; an evening devoted to the study of denominational history; an evening given to fresh, vital apprehension of some phase of Bible truth—how our spirits revive and our outlook broadens as we give ourselves to these worthwhile things! We are much happier thus employed than when we dawdle over newspapers or magazines or spend our time in small talk.

M. E. OLSEN.

*Washington, D. C.*

**COLPORTEUR SALES REPORT FOR 1927**

	Colp.	Hours	Orders	Value	Mag. Sales	Total Sales	Delivery
Antillian Union	39	26,603	7,069	53,687.70	4,028.53	57,716.24	41,007.95
Central Amer. Union	18	7,991	2,967	20,730.09	3,351.10	23,081.19	14,720.95
Col.-Venezuela Union	16	11,509	5,640	42,204.18	3,312.32	45,516.50	27,779.55
East Caribbean Union	12	8,071½	1,632	15,610.41	263.76	15,968.50	6,703.05
Mexican Union	17	15,509	5,111	37,069.46	3,124.28	40,183.74	25,101.67
Inter-Amer. Div.	102	69,683½	22,419	169,301.84	14,079.99	182,466.17	115,313.17

**A PORTABLE SABBATH SCHOOL**

A week ago last Sabbath, we met with the school of Tulua; however, the session was held at some distance from the usual meeting place. The whole school, which has eighteen members, accompanied us on a three-hour journey back into the mountains in order that we might have the Sabbath services in the home of a Seventh-day Adventist family in which there had been a recent illness. I wish you could have seen the little company, some on horses and the rest on foot, making that journey. On arriving, we found that several visitors had been invited, and altogether we numbered twenty-nine. I was much impressed with the interest shown by the sixteen-year-old daughter of this mountain family. It evidently is her custom to commit to memory the whole Sabbath school lesson, and I noted that she could repeat, with ease, any text that was called for. Mrs. G. C. NICKLE.  
Cali, Colombia.

**THE HOUR AND ITS NEED**

The churches, that in past ages have stood as a bulwark against the rising tide of evil, have ceased to stay its progress longer. By lowering the standard of righteousness, by robbing the law of God of its dignity, its majesty and its supreme authority over the consciences of men, the barrier against transgression has been broken down; and in vain the churches plead for respect for human enactment.

Truly, "Babylon is fallen." The glory has long since departed from the mother; and now it has as verily departed from the daughters as from the ancient temple at Jerusalem. One writer speaks of the condition of the popular churches as follows:

"The Christian church is in the midst of one of the most appalling crises in the history of Christendom. False teachers have swept over it like a devastating flood. . . . The disheartening feature of the situation is that, whereas in the past the destroyers of the faith have commonly been men of the world, outside of the churches, today they are inside, leaders in the great scholastic apostasy, and entrenched in its press, its homes, its educational institutions, and even its theological seminaries."

The last invitation of mercy, that is to be given with "great power," and is to lighten the earth with its glory, announces the fall of Babylon, and calls upon God's people to come out of her. The time has come for this last call to be given. No human wisdom or intellectual power will suffice for this crisis hour. Nothing but the wisdom that cometh from above, and the power of the Holy Ghost will enable one to stand true to his Master in such a time as this.

The true church of God at all this time above all others must withdraw from all allegiance to the world; she must stand loyally in defense of God's downtrodden law; she must exalt its majesty and show forth its glory. Her life must be radiant with the righteousness of Christ. The pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will distinguish her from all the fallen churches as she holds aloft the banner bearing the inscription, "The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

As through all past ages, God preserved a faithful few who loyally maintained His honor;

"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." Christ drew a sharp line between the proper functions of church and state.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."—*First Amendment, U. S. Constitution.*

James Madison, the author of the First Amendment, interpreted it thus: "Religion is not in the purview of human government. Religion is essentially distinct from government, and exempt from its cognizance. A connection between them is injurious to both."

"There is not a shadow of right in the general government to intermeddle with religion. Its least interference with it would be a most flagrant usurpation."—*James Madison, in Elliot's Debates on the Constitution, Vol. III, p. 330.*

"The proper object of government is to protect all persons in the enjoyment of their religious as well as civil rights, and not to determine for any whether they shall esteem one day above another, or esteem all days alike holy."—*U. S. Senate Report on Sunday Mails, January, 1829.*

Paul said: "One man esteemeth one day above another; another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Rom. 14:5.

The observance of Sabbath days is wholly a matter of conscience, and not of state regulation.

Sunday laws do not prevent criminal acts on Sunday. They only prohibit what is honorable and legitimate on other days. They protect a day, and are therefore religious.

The Lord's day belongs to the Lord, and not to Caesar.

No spiritual and civil matters should be mixed in civil government.

Religion by law has always been a blight upon civilization and a curse to Christianity.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSOCIATION.  
Washington, D. C.

so in these last hours of human probation, He has separated the remnant church from all the world. This church, though composed of weak, erring mortals gathered from nearly every nation on earth,—mortals who are in constant peril, being exposed to the fierce assaults of the enemy who is marshaling all his forces in a determined effort to destroy them,—is endeavoring earnestly to fulfil all the requirements of Holy Writ. For her, God is effecting "wonderful things; counsels of old time, promises immutably true." Soon the last promise will be faithfully confirmed by the return of her glorious Lord.  
E. E. ANDROSS.  
Balboa, Canal Zone.

**DIVISION MEETINGS**

The Bookmen's, Home Missionary, and Secretary-treasurers' meetings will be held in the chapel of the Inter-American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist headquarters at Balboa, Canal Zone, on the following dates:

Secretary-treasurers' meeting May 24 and 25. First meeting at 8:00 A. M.

Bookmen's and Home Missionary convention, May 26 to June 5.

The following are invited to attend the meetings by action of the Inter-American Division committee.

"Division and union conference officials, and union conference and mission Field Missionary and Home Missionary secretaries, local conference and mission Field Missionary and Home Missionary secretaries and Book and Bible House secretaries."

Those who are to attend the above meetings will be notified from the union office.

Elder H. H. Hall, Elder E. F. Hackman and a representative from the Treasury Department of the General Conference in Washington, D. C., are expected to be in attendance at these meetings.

E. E. ANDROSS, *President.*  
F. L. HARRISON, *Secretary.*

**DIVISION COUNCIL**

The Inter-American Division committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to meet at the division headquarters at Balboa, Canal Zone, June 6 to 16, for its annual council.

The first meeting is called at 2:00 P. M.

All the members of the division committee are requested to be present at the first meeting.

E. E. ANDROSS, *President.*  
F. L. HARRISON, *Secretary.*

**COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA UNION COMMITTEE MEETING**

A meeting of the Colombia-Venezuela Union Mission committee of Seventh-day Adventists is called to meet at the Inter-American Division headquarters at Balboa, Canal Zone, May 22 and 23. Members of the Colombia-Venezuela Union Mission committee are requested to be present for the first meeting.

E. E. ANDROSS, *Superintendent.*  
F. L. HARRISON, *Secretary.*

We are very pleased to pass out to our brethren and sisters, through the MESSENGER, a statement showing a comparison of the tithe and mission funds received in 1926 and 1927. It also gives the baptisms and membership.

As we have compared the reports coming in from the different unions, we have been encouraged to note that the division totals show a substantial increase.

A large portion of the mission funds have come into the cause through the medium of the Sabbath school. We sincerely trust that each of our believers in the Inter-American Division fields will plan definitely on giving, systematically, a certain amount each Sabbath, as far as possible.

We wish to thank you very much for your faithfulness which has made possible this report.  
F. L. HARRISON,  
*Secretary-treasurer.*

**COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF STATISTICS IN THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION**

	Tithe		Mission Funds		Baptisms		Membership	
	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927
Antillian Union	47,241.53	48,718.33	28,213.51	29,927.96	243	620	4,705	5,165
Can. Amer. Union	23,853.92	29,005.26	14,634.07	19,560.26	234	365	1,650	2,052
Col. Venezuela U.	5,336.70	7,487.50	4,224.05	5,126.40	44	76	223	276
E. Caribbean Union	17,980.23	22,230.78	13,681.42	15,150.45	304	462	3,006	3,416
Mexican Union	8,610.00	8,492.28	5,060.03	6,599.46	199	338	772	713
Division Totals	103,022.38	115,934.15	65,813.08	76,364.53	1,023	1,861	10,356	11,622
Gains		12,911.77		10,551.45		838		1,266

**INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER**

Editor—Mrs. E. E. ANDROSS

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