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CHARACTER BUILDING

By Mrs. E. G. WHITE

"Character-building is the most important work ever entrusted to human beings; and never before was its diligent study so important as now."—*Education*, p. 225.

"It is necessary that every individual member build upon the rock Christ Jesus. A storm is arising that will wrench and test the spiritual foundation of every one to the utmost. Therefore avoid the sand-bed; hunt for the rock. Dig deep; lay your foundation sure. Build, oh, build for eternity! Build with tears, with heart-felt prayers. Let every one of you, from henceforth, make your life beautiful by good works."—*Testimonies*, Vol. V, pp. 129, 130.

"It is necessary for you to watch for the weak points in your character, to restrain wrong tendencies, and to strengthen and develop noble faculties that have not been properly exercised. The world will never know the work secretly going on between the soul and God, nor the inward bitterness of spirit, the self-loathing, and the constant efforts to control self; but many of the world will be able to appreciate the result of these efforts. They will see Christ revealed in your daily life. You will be a living epistle, known and read of all men, and will possess a symmetrical character, nobly developed."—*Id.* Vol. IV, p. 376.

"The Lord is willing to help us, to strengthen and bless us; but we must pass through the refining process until all the impurities in our character are burned away. Every member of the church will be subjected to the furnace, not to consume, but to purify."—*Id.* Vol. V, p. 485.

"But Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. A noble, all-round character is not inherited. It does not come to us by accident. A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 331.

"Each one will have a close struggle to overcome sin in his own heart. This is at times a very painful and discouraging work; because, as we see the deformities in our character, we keep looking at them, when we should look to Jesus, and put on the robe of His righteousness. Every one who enters the pearly gates of the city of God will enter there as a conqueror, and his greatest conquest will have been the conquest of self."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, pp. 182 183.

A CALL TO GREATER ENDEAVOR

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. 1:16.

The fact that the gospel is the power of God working in behalf of every believer to accomplish his complete salvation was that which lifted it to its exalted place in the mind of the great apostle Paul and made him its righteously proud advocate.

"For the grace of God has displayed itself with healing power to all mankind, training us to renounce ungodliness and all the pleasures of this world, and to live sober, upright, and pious lives at the present time, in expectation of the fulfillment of our blessed hope—the appearing in glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to purchase our freedom from all iniquity, and to purify for Himself a people who should be specially His own, zealous for doing good works." Titus 2:11-14, *Weymouth's Translation*.

Just as in the natural world, so in the spiritual world. In the former, God's power is ceaselessly employed in upholding, guiding, and preserving the orderly revolutions of the planets about their centers; it fills the earth with food for man, and clothes it with beauty, making glad the heart of the creatures God has made. Likewise in the spiritual world His power is constantly at work protecting, restraining, wooing; yes, and tenderly appealing to the sinner to turn from his evil way that he may live. And this benign influence is exercised over the life so long as the Holy Spirit is not resisted till He leaves the object of His tender solicitude to perish with the evil from which he refuses to be separated. In behalf of the obedient subjects of His kingdom the power of God is ever active, guiding, upholding, and working out His gracious purpose in each and every life; purifying, beautifying, glorifying, till the transformed soul, though all unconscious of the marvelous change that has been wrought in its behalf through the silent and ceaseless working of this mighty agency—the Holy Spirit—has been prepared for the finishing touch of immortality.

God is thus ceaselessly working through each member just so far as he submits to His gracious will. But it is His will that now, just before Jesus comes, the earth shall be "lightened with His glory." Rev. 18:1. And as He is constantly working for us, so He expects that we will ever, always work for Him.

"As the Head of the church, Christ is authoritatively calling upon every one who claims to believe on Him to follow His example of self-denial and self-sacrifice in working for the conversion

of those whom Satan and his vast army are exerting every power to destroy. *God's people are called upon to rally without delay under the blood-stained banner of Christ Jesus.*" Vol. VII, p. 30.

"A distinct work is assigned to every Christian." *"Christian Service,"* p. 9.

"The priceless treasure is placed in earthen vessels. Through men His blessings are to be conveyed to the world. Through them His glory is to shine forth into the darkness of sin. In loving ministry they are to meet the sinful and the needy, and lead them to the cross, and in all their work they are to ascribe glory, honor, and praise to Him who is above all and over all." *"Acts of the Apostles,"* p. 330.

Our great General is now calling upon every Christian soldier to rally without delay under His banner. He is mobilizing His forces. To every one a specific task is assigned. From every life in this army the glory of God is to shine forth in clear distinct rays, lighting the pathway of sinners and leading them to the cross of Calvary.

Every one who truly knows the joys of redeeming love, who has heard the Master saying, "Come unto Me and drink," is constantly imbibing those life-giving, soul-healing waters till they become within him "rivers of living water" flowing out to bless others. This is not a beautiful theory, but a living experience. It is the natural outworking of the new life from above that the truly converted soul has received.

E. E. ANDROSS.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

"ARE YOU A TWO-PLUS MAN?"

Almost everywhere I looked in London, I faced the question: "Are you a two-plus man?" Sandwich men carried it up and down the avenues in bright flashing letters, while from the jostling busses glared the same question in flaming letters.

"What does it mean?" I asked one of my London friends.

"I don't know," he replied, "but in school two-plus is not as good a grade as one-minus."



Professor Mangold's house after the storm.

And so the question kept growing in my mind in the atmosphere of that suggestion. A number of times I asked myself: Am I a two-plus worker? Then I thought of you, dear young people in Inter-America. In God's great record book for this year what grades is the Master Teacher giving you? In your home life how do you stand? In your efforts for self-improvement, what progress have you made? In your missionary endeavors, what have you done? I am asking myself the same questions.

Have we really done our very best this year? Can we look up into the face of our blessed Master and say, "In so far as I have understood it, I have finished the work that Thou gavest me to do in 1928"? Can He give us a grade "1" for having done our best? or must His pen drop us down to "two-plus"?

Do your best, your very best,
And do it every day;
It's the moments unimproved
That drag us down today;
Don't be a two-plus worker,
Be a class "1" all the way.

MRS. E. E. ANDROSS.

ANTILLIAN UNION MISSION

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EXPERIENCES AT AIBONITO DURING HURRICANE

The hurricane which swept over Porto Rico on September 12 and 13 will long be remembered as one of the most destructive storms that have ever visited this island.

The first night of the storm the wind was very strong and we feared for the safety of the school buildings. There was a great amount of rain, which caused the streams to rise very rapidly; but we had no fear of inundation on account of the elevation of our school buildings.

The following morning the hurricane continued, but the wind did not blow with the same intensity; and then about nine o'clock it began to get worse and worse and soon some of the roofs of our buildings were taken off. The young men were compelled to look for a place of refuge in the new concrete building. They carried their suitcases and clothing through the terrible rain storm as if they were escaping from a great danger. My family and I remained in the building in order not to expose ourselves to the storm. Brother Taylor, who was with us auditing the school books, and Pastor Borrowdale gathered the students together in the concrete building.

The intensity of the hurricane increased, reaching a velocity of one hundred and sixty miles an hour—accord-

ing to the information given by the newspapers. The roof of the concrete building was torn off by the fury of the wind, and students, teachers, and Brethren Taylor and Borrowdale were obliged to find refuge in the basement of the same building. My family and I could not possibly leave the house then, because the hurricane had increased to such an extent that any individual who ventured outside would have been blown away. Our roof, rafters and all, was soon torn from the house, and a section of it measuring fifteen by twenty feet was found one-half mile away after the storm.

It was then that the children began to cry, pleading that they be carried to the new building. We endeavored to quiet their fears by singing hymns and by prayer. We remembered the promises of God, and though the fury of the storm increased every moment, we felt the peace of God in our hearts.

At last the hurricane subsided, and Pastor Borrowdale and some of the students, anxious to know how we had fared, came over to see us. We had great reason to rejoice when we found that not even one had been hurt during the violent storm.

The following day we visited the nearby village, but could scarcely recognize the place. Trees two feet in diameter had been broken or torn up by the roots. We found many of the houses of the village without roofs, and others, which had been the pride of their owners, were now heaps of ruin.

The injured people were taken to the hospital by the dozens. One of our girls from the school offered herself as nurse and was able to render appreciated service. Soon the hospital was so filled that it could not receive any more patients.

Fathers and mothers were buried with their children beneath the ruins of their houses. At one place eighteen people were buried beneath a wall where they had taken shelter, thinking that such a very large wall would withstand the hurricane.

Surely the judgments of God are falling upon this sin-cursed world. May the Lord help us to prepare for the things that are yet to come to pass; and to remember the words of Christ in Luke 13:1-5. We are seeing the fulfillment of the prediction of the servant of the Lord that hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters will greatly increase in number and in destructiveness before the end. The day will soon come when God will pour out His final judgments upon those who have rejected His mercy. The present judgments are signs which tell us to be ready for the terrible crisis which will soon burst upon the world.

H. MANGOLD.

Aibonito, Porto Rico.

EFFECTS OF HURRICANE IN PORTO RICO

The following paragraphs from a letter written by Brother N. L. Taylor, who was at Aibonito during the hurricane, give a very vivid picture of the experiences through which teachers and students of the school passed during that terrible storm:

"We had an interesting time during the hurricane, I assure you. I never saw such a storm before. I thought that the one in Cuba two years ago was a bad one, but this was much worse. It is claimed that the wind reached a velocity of 190 miles an hour, and I do not doubt it at all.

"The day after the hurricane Brother Borrowdale and I walked from Aibonito to Caguas, a distance of about twenty-five miles, in an effort to get to San Juan, as Brother Borrowdale was anxious about his family. The highways were full of trees, wrecked houses, and other debris. There was destruction on every hand; and dead bodies were being hauled away from the wrecked buildings along the way. It really looked as though Porto Rico was ruined.

"We were thankful to find the folks in San Juan all right. The storm was not so severe up there, but it was bad enough. I expected to find our buildings wrecked; but the church withstood the storm although it was somewhat twisted. As far as I could learn none of our people lost their lives, but a number lost their homes and all they had. I hear of two of our small churches that were destroyed, but there may have been others, as all the telephone lines were down and news came slowly.

"The only refuge we had at the school after the roof went off the new building was in the basement of that building, which we reached by climbing down from a back window of the chapel. The cement floor in the chapel which is the covering for the basement leaked, so it was about as wet there as out of doors. After the storm subsided a little, the boys brought in sheets of metal roofing which had blown off the other buildings and tacked them to the ceiling of the basement to keep the water from running on us. They brought in all of the cots they could find and lined them up along the wall under this metal ceiling. Most of the bedding was wet as was also the clothing we all had on. Miss Suche and the girls managed to prepare some hot soup for us; but before eating we had a praise meeting thanking the Lord that no one had been hurt, and that we had been protected through the hurricane, which had continued for fifteen hours. Brother Borrowdale and I slept that night on a single cot, or rather tried to. We just took our shoes off, covered up with what bedding we had, and tried to keep

warm. Several sat up all night as they had no place to sleep. With the exception of one or two of the students all were quiet and cheerful through it all.

"What the wind didn't destroy the water did, for it rained hard during the entire storm and for several hours afterwards. Pianos, books, and furniture were ruined by the water."

FAITHFUL IN PERSECUTION

While one of the ministers was preaching on the second coming of Jesus and the sinner's need of accepting Christ one evening during the general meeting last year in Cayey, one of the interior towns of Porto Rico, a young man about eighteen years of age came near to the tent with his guitar in his hand. He was on his way to a *fiesta*. The words of the speaker caused him to take a seat near the edge of the tent, where he remained throughout the meeting. When the call was made for all who desired to give their hearts to the Lord and prepare for His coming to come forward, Juan responded. After the service, with tears in his eyes, he told the writer that the message that night was from the Lord, and especially for him, for he felt the need of something better than the world was giving him.

He joined the baptismal class, and for over a year studied the message. The date for the baptism was set for the third Sabbath in June. As the time drew near, the joyful expression of Juan's countenance indicated that a great change had taken place in his life during the past year.

Juan's father and mother were Roman Catholics and very bitterly opposed to the teaching of Seventh-day Adventists. The father was one of the wealthiest merchants of the town. When he heard that his son was attending a Protestant church, and especially the Seventh-day Adventist church, he told him he would have to leave the church or leave home. He even called the priest to see if he could convince the boy that he was wrong; but the priest failed.

It seems that his father repented a little, and Juan remained with him until the time of the baptism. That Sabbath morning when he informed his father that he was going to be baptized, he was told to leave the home and never to return as long as he was determined to cling to that doctrine. This did not discourage the boy at all. He was baptized. For several months he remained away from the home until one day he decided to return to see his mother, who entreated him to remain home and help his father in the store. He worked all the week until Friday evening. The next day he told his father that he could not work on the Sabbath day. The man grabbed the boy and shook him and

threw the Young People's Missionary Volunteer secretary's book, which Juan had in his hand, to the floor and trampled upon it. (Juan had been appointed secretary of the local society.) Then he did the same with his Bible. Seizing a big iron rod he struck the boy twice and then with his fist blackened his eye. Juan stepped out in front of his father and said, "You may kill me if you wish, but I will remain true to my God forever."

Again he left home and remained with a Seventh-day Adventist family for a time. The time arrived for the opening of our preparatory school at Aibonito, where Juan had longed to be since he accepted the message. As he had no means with which to pay his expenses at the school, Brother Borrowdale, the superintendent of the mission, and the writer called upon the father. We pointed out to him the difference between the character of Juan and that of his other son, who was a drunkard. After a long conversation he consented to send Juan to the school, for he said that he was pleased to have him go where he could continue the building of his Christian character. This was an answer to our many prayers. So today Juan is in our school preparing to teach others the great message that changes people's hearts.

We solicit the prayers of God's people for our school in Porto Rico, that its students may become efficient workers in God's great cause. N. H. KINZER.

Cayey, Porto Rico.

POWER ONLY IN JESUS

The experiences of the twenty-one years that I have had in the service of the Lord have taught me that success only crowns the work that I do "through Christ"; and I have also learned to appreciate the truthfulness of the words of Jesus, "without Me ye can do nothing." As the Saviour in His humanity felt His dependence upon the Father, so, conscious of my weakness and insufficiency, I seek to have His continual presence with me. Jesus continually felt His need of communion with the Father, that He might be strengthened for the conflicts of life. In seeking to follow His example I have found that prayer is the secret of success in winning souls for the kingdom. I have found that when earnest prayer does not precede my missionary efforts, success is not attained; but I have also learned that the Lord is able "to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."

Since the general meeting in 1926 I have been seeking a deeper Christian experience, and I have found peace to my soul. As I face the conflicts of the future I am trusting in the promise,

"Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Whatever may be our position, we have a Guide to direct our steps; whatever may be our sufferings or griefs, we have a Friend who is willing to sympathize with us. "For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." So we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

At the beginning of the year I earnestly requested the Lord to give me power to win many souls by the close of 1928. At present we have a large number in our baptismal classes and many believers who are attending our meetings. We have seen many healed in answer to prayer. Our hearts have rejoiced to see souls turning away from their idols to serve the living and true God. We have sowed the seed, and the Lord has given the increase.

A. J. JN. BAPTISTE.

Gonaïves, Haiti.

A RESURRECTED CHURCH

We have one church in Porto Rico that is deepening its channel along home missionary lines. Two years ago it was nearly dead, so far as missionary activity was concerned, but a Bible worker was sent there, and later Brother and Sister Kinzer, and it has really experienced a resurrection.

About two months ago Brother Kinzer asked me to visit the company and to thank its members for their earnestness in home missionary work. He told me that even the junior members of the young people's society were active in giving Bible Readings, visiting, and in extending invitations to the meetings. They have now a society consisting of forty-two members. I think this is fine. Most of the members of this church at Cayey are very enthusiastic. Isabel León, one of the members of the company who had to move to a rural district to work for her living, started to speak to her neighbors about her blessed hope; and I have been told that now there is a good interest at that place. One night each week our brethren go there to conduct a meeting in a cabin which they are using as a place of meeting and for their Sabbath school.

Truly this message is gripping the hearts of our brethren and sisters; and undoubtedly we have reached the time when many will establish themselves, like this sister, in new places, and the light of the message will illuminate the minds of those who are sitting in darkness, and turn their hearts toward the God of heaven.

ANTONIO MARRERO.

Ponce, Porto Rico.

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LA ACADEMIA ADVENTISTA CENTROAMERICANA

On a bright September afternoon twelve students, the teachers, and Brother and Sister Baxter assembled for the opening exercise of the second term of La Academia Adventista in San José, Costa Rica. Short addresses were given by Elder and Sister Baxter and the teachers, in which mention was made of how God had been directing in the starting of this school, of the great need of Spanish workers, and of the great possibilities before this newly born educational center in its efforts to supply this need.

Afterwards opportunity was given to the young people to speak, and, without exception, every one expressed the desire to prepare for the service of the King of kings. Since then three others have joined our family and they, too, are constrained by a similar desire.

School has now been in session for more than a month and a happy family spirit prevails. Surely, there are other young people in these Spanish countries who would like to join the army of workers in Inter-America who are proclaiming the glad tidings of a soon coming Saviour. Even now it is not too late.

W. H. WINELAND.

San José, Costa Rica.

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua, the land of frequent revolutions, has recently passed through a time of trouble which has been a great hindrance to the development of the country. Many villages were pillaged by the soldiers, and hundreds of lives were sacrificed. Skeletons, bleaching in the sun and rain, still remain upon the surface of the earth as an evidence of what revolution will do for a country. Hundreds of people fled to the other republics seeking safety and work; for this is always the result when an opposing power gains the ascendancy. Many of the non-combatant inhabitants of Bluefields and other towns knew during those stormy days, what it meant to seek shelter from the stray bullets which were flying in every direction.

We lost our church and nearly all its members at Pearl Lagoon, which is a district where one of the battles raged. All the books, charts and ordinance utensils of the church were taken away or destroyed by the soldiers who had no respect for anything which they imagined was in opposition to their religious belief.

Many of the people living near the coast are Moravians, and, while we find

a number of friendly and hospitable people among them, yet they are opposed to anything which they consider an innovation, and consequently manifest little interest in our message. Very little work has yet been done for the Indians or the Spanish people of the interior, but the Lord has a people among them who are waiting for the message.

Since coming here in July, 1927, I have baptized twenty-three, more than half of whom, however, were interested and some were keeping the Sabbath before I began work. Pray for the work in Nicaragua; for the time has surely come when the inhabitants of this world will have to decide either for or against God.

LINTON RASHFORD.

Bluefields, Nicaragua.

HONDURAS

On the wall of the mission office in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, hangs the following motto which greets the eyes of the visitor, leaving a lasting impression:

"1928 MUST BE OUR BEST YEAR" and it seems that everybody is living up to that motto.

During the recent colporteurs' institute held at San Pedro Sula Brother A. Fanselau, the field missionary secretary, had his charts on the wall and they presented figures that told of progress in that field.

LITERATURE SALES

Year	No. Colp's.	Total Value
1926	2	\$ 519.00
1927	2	601.00
1928 (6 mos.)	4	1,278.00

The colporteurs believe in the words of the Spirit of Prophecy, "That papers and books are the Lord's means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people. In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth, the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the word alone."

A well arranged program was prepared and conducted by Brother Fanselau during the institute. One important item considered was the work on trains. It seems that the crowded trains are one of the best fields of labor. One colporteur, while riding from one station to another, took seven subscriptions for *El Centinela*. Another told us that he always manages to sell enough to pay his railroad fare.

Our colporteurs are becoming more consecrated, and their greatest burden seems to be the saving of souls. We were happy to know that every one left the colporteurs' institute with more courage, and determined to make this year the best year, not only in the sale of good books but also in soul-winning.

In company with Brother Garbutt, who is now attending our Spanish school in San José, I visited a small town called Santa Barbara. The trip by auto usually takes from eight to ten hours, but we spent two days and a half making it. The roads are very bad, in fact, in some places there are no roads at all. Then we would find ourselves at times where the road is so narrow that it takes an expert chauffeur to guide the machine through safely. Unfortunately our chauffeur was very reckless, and to make matters worse he was over confident. He assured me that no accident would happen as long as he remained at the wheel. But when we reached a spot that had recently been repaired, on a very steep hill, our heavy machine suddenly toppled over and went down the side of the hill. If it had not been for a small tree about ten inches in diameter we would have rolled down to the base, about seventy feet below. For a moment or two I did not realize what had happened; but how thankful I was to God when I saw that I had my life and that no limbs were broken. Next I heard a pitiful cry of "Save me, O, save me!" I climbed up to the top of the large truck to see what assistance I could render, and found that the auto truck was on fire. Providentially, another person came to help and we managed to put it out.

While we were fighting the fire others rescued our fellow passenger who was crying for help, and who was badly wounded in both legs.

Anxious to know if the other brethren were injured, I climbed the hill to the road, where I found Brother Lorntz, superintendent of the Honduras Mission, unconscious. He had jumped from the machine when he saw it going over and fell upon a rock, wounding his spine.

We took Brother Lorntz to a nearby village, where the chief-of-police gave us a room in the soldiers' barracks for the night. We arranged our hammocks and then tried to get some sleep. The next morning we secured another auto and went to Santa Barbara, where we remained for three days, and then returned to San Pedro Sula, the headquarters of the Honduras Mission. The doctor examined Brother Lorntz and found that no bones were broken. When I left the mission Brother Lorntz was feeling better, but still somewhat bruised and unable to walk very well; but his courage was good. Naturally the enemy does not care to see any progress in these strong Catholic fields and will do everything to end the services of those who are doing their best to advance the kingdom of God.

The work is onward in Central America, and the opportunities are great. The crying need of the hour is for

more workers. "Talk with your Elder Brother, who will complete your education, line upon line, here a little and there a little. A close connection with Him who offered Himself as a sacrifice to save a perishing world will make you acceptable workers."—*Vol. VI, p. 416.*

Balboa, C. Z. J. A. P. GREEN.

COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA UNION MISSION

Box O, Balboa, Canal Zone

H. E. BAASCH - - - Superintendent
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ITINERATING FROM BOGOTA TO MEDELLIN

After having spent nearly twelve weeks in different parts of the widely extended territory of the Central Colombia Mission, I left its beautiful valleys and picturesque mountain scenery thankful for the time I have been privileged to labor in that mission. This field is remarkably open for the advent message; people respond to it whole heartedly and we may expect to see many groups of staunch believers emerge from its population.

On my way to Medellin I remained nearly a week in Girardot waiting for a convenient opportunity to continue my journey. In Girardot we have a true sentinel of the message. Brother Cortez and his wife keep a boarding house near the station in that town which is very popular. This brother and sister do not fail to give the many travelers who visit their house from day to day an opportunity to know the truth. At least once a day—generally in the evening—a Bible study is conducted in the public dining room and all the guests are invited to attend. Tracts emphasizing the messages of the Bible studies are made available and thus the influence is extended to a wider radius. During my stay a number of friends, who have become interested through the personal labor of Brother Cortez and his wife, visited us every night. Several of these will be ready for baptism by the time Pastor Nickle, the superintendent of the mission, visits them in October. Who can measure the value of such consistent testimony? The future alone will tell.

Girardot is not a very desirable place in which to live on account of the excessive heat, accentuated by the short water supply and the uncertain electric light system of the town. The service is of the poorest kind and many times there is no light at all. It is useless to make complaint, for the company that owns the electric light plant controls the water supply of the town. If anyone refuses to pay his light bill because of poor service, he finds that the water supply is cut off. The only light that is shining constantly in that town

is "La Mesa," traveler's inn of Carlos Cortez and wife; and the living water, too, is dispensed there freely and cheerfully.

Medellín has the distinction of being conservative to the extreme; here the Catholic tradition is held in high veneration and the clergy is basking in the glory of palmy days. In the whole of South America few communities may be found that have clung with such persistency to the old faith as have the people of Antioqueña, and particularly the people of Medellín. It is only the unshaken belief in the impending doom of "Babylon" that would induce our brethren to choose this place as a strategic center for our work. Many, indeed, have been the hardships and perplexities that Pastor and Sister Trummer have had to meet; but they are bearing the burden of the work patiently and with Christian fortitude, and the Lord is permitting them to see the fruit of their faithful labors during these trying months and years.

The chicanery to which the bearers of the gospel are exposed in such a stronghold as this must be experienced to be understood. It makes itself felt especially when it is a matter of finding a house in which to worship. Because of prejudice it is not easy to find some one who will rent a house to a Protestant. But, as God provided a manger for His dear Son, so He has helped our brethren to find a place of shelter. At the present time Brother and Sister Trummer live in a very pleasant house outside of the town. The question of the meeting place, is, however, once more in the melting pot and we are trying to get a suitable location before the next four days expire; for the landlord has raised the rent of the building we are using from \$65 to \$80 a month.

There are only twelve baptized members in the Medellín company at present; but there are ten members in the newly formed baptismal class. You may think that these figures are small, but, in proportion to the weight which the Catholic faith has with these people in Medellín, these ten are an evidence for which we feel profoundly grateful. It means much for these people to step out and profess the advent faith. We have started public meetings with an attendance of between thirty and fifty. There are always a number at the door too afraid to enter and sit down; for everyone who is seen attending the meetings is severely censured by the church.

We have a very well organized Sabbath school in Medellín. The following data may be of interest: Church membership 12; Sabbath school membership 34, of whom twenty are studying their lesson daily. They pass a weekly goal of \$4.00. Yesterday's Thirteenth Sab-

bath offering amounted to \$24.30. These figures surely manifest the love that our dear people here have for the message.

As has been stated, this field is not an easy place in which to labor, and Pastor and Sister Trummer and the members of this church need your prayers. A good foundation has been laid by the faithful work of these brethren and we look with great expectation to further developments in this field. Every one of the brethren in this company is like a brand plucked from the fire.

HENRY E. BAASCH.

Medellín, Colombia.

ATLANTIC COLOMBIA

As perhaps many of our people know, we have had for about three years a group of believers in San Juan de Cesar who have endured persecution and calumny, and have even had their lives threatened. They were not permitted to hold Sabbath school or meetings. But lately the people have come to see that our brethren and sisters are not bad people, as our enemies have said, and the persecution has ceased. In a recent letter, Brother Luis Urbina speaks of their joy in now being permitted to hold their meetings: "The Lord has blessed us greatly by giving us the privilege of holding our meetings every Sabbath. Last Sabbath two ladies attended the service, one of whom manifested an interest in the truth, and asked us for literature, which we gave her, telling her of our desire that the Lord would guide her in the study of His holy gospel."

The following experiences of Jorge Escandón will be of interest:

Some time ago he offered *El Centinela* to a very devout Catholic young man, who refused to buy, and told him to leave such foolishness and do something worthwhile in the world. But Jorge told him that he was well satisfied with the work he was doing, because the Lord had pronounced a blessing upon those who go forth proclaiming the gospel. Later the young man did buy a copy or two. He is now employed around the house of the priests. As Jorge was passing there and saw the young man, he offered him a copy of "The Marked Bible." Some time before this Jorge had sold a "Steps to Christ" to one of two young priests who were on a boat about to sail. As the young man was looking at "The Marked Bible" this same young priest came out of the house, and said, "I bought 'Steps to Christ' from you, and liked it very much, and I am sure that this book, too, is good." He bought the book, and hurried inside.

Another man to whom Jorge showed the books said that he had formerly been a very devout Catholic, but that

now he had given up all religion, and had no interest whatever in anything concerning God. However, he subscribed for *El Centinela* and bought "Great Controversy." When seen later, he said that it was the best book he had ever read, and that he was completely in harmony with its teaching; that he had learned much about our new religion; and that he thought of putting his children in our school.

At another house the colporteur found that the man was interested, but the woman was a very devoted Catholic. She had made her husband stop his subscription to the magazine. When the books were presented, she opposed so strongly that the man did not buy. At a second visit she was not there, and the man bought "Steps to Christ," "Our Saviour," "World's Hope," and another small book. Later Jorge met him in the street and he said the books had pleased both him and his wife, and he hoped that Jorge would come again with the best book he had, which he promised to buy. Before the next visit Jorge met the lady on the street and she, too, cordially invited him to call with more books. He did so, and sold them a Bible and a number of books. The man said that by the help of the Lord he would some day be a disseminator of this truth.

Our native members seem to have had better success this year in the Harvest Ingathering than last year. When one young man went into a small store to solicit an offering the woman said, "No, no, we don't want anything like that here." A man who was there came out and looked at the paper, and called to the woman to lend him fifty cents, as it was a very good work. She came out with the money and also looked at the paper, then gave fifty cents for herself. The daughter also came, and when she saw what the work was she gave thirty cents. Later, when our brother passed the store, the woman told him that the paper was very good, and apparently was pleased with having given a donation. E. W. THURBER.

Barranquilla, Colombia.

EAST CARIBBEAN MISSION

Box 221, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad
M. A. HOLLISTER - - - Superintendent
M. D. HOWARD - - - Secy.-Treas.

INTEREST AMONG AREKUNA INDIANS

In Brother Cott's last report he referred to a proposed visit to Acurima in search for more suitable place from which to extend the work among the Indians in the Mount Roraima district. The following quotations, from a letter recently received, describe the journey, the reception they met, and the pro-

pects from that center: (C. E. W.)

"It took us about four days to reach this location, and the journey has been of a strenuous nature as we have been doing some forced marching with a view to return to Roraima as soon as possible.

"The Lord has answered our prayers in a way exceeding our expectations, for we found an earnest company of Indians awaiting our arrival. Word had been sent on beforehand to inform neighboring Indians that we were coming, and during the two days of our stay there companies of Indians were coming in from surrounding districts. It seemed that we could not satisfy them, for we held four meetings during the Sabbath, at the last of which there were about one hundred and seventy present, and even when this meeting was over some of the Indians came again for further instruction. It was indeed a Sabbath full of great blessing for all of us. On our arrival they brought us more fruit than we could possibly handle, and when we left Sunday morning we had to give much of it back to them. There is an abundance of fruit and the Indians have a number of cows here. This section of the country is more thickly populated with Indians than is our present location.

"After passing other settlements of Indians on the trail and holding meetings with them, we arrived at Nonzerarook in the Makusi Indian country on September 4. There is a settlement of several huts here occupied by Chief Ciprian and his people, numbering some sixty persons. At this place we found some earnest seekers after the truth, including one Makusi Indian who reads and understands Portuguese and who served as a very efficient interpreter from Portuguese to the Makusi dialect while we were there. It is evident that the Lord is preparing the hearts of the Arekunas at Acurima and of the Makuris at Nonzerarook; and that we should labor at these two places while the doors are still open.

"Last Thursday we must have marched about twenty miles under a hot sun, but when we camped we were unable to sleep on account of the biting flies, so we got up and continued our journey until the early hours of the morning. Before breakfast we reached a flat rock upon which we lay down and which was as comfortable to me as a good bed. When we reached Nonzerarook we thought we were too tired to hold a meeting, but there was so much interest that we lit our lantern; and the Lord blessed us wonderfully."



"He has given us a great work to do. Let us do it with accuracy and determination. Let us show in our lives what the truth has done for us."

MONTSERRAT

The way has opened for us to secure a hall on the south side of the island, in which we can hold our meetings. This enables those who become interested in the message to meet with us on the Sabbath.

Scarcely was this company organized when I was called to Antigua to assist in the construction of the new church building in St. Johns. The interest in Montserrat became so great and the work so taxing for my wife, that I was obliged to return after the building was well under way.

The meeting at the hall continued for five weeks, and ten persons decided for the truth. As these individuals were members of other churches, an opposition naturally developed. Their ministers began organizing guilds, prayer bands, and socials, to keep their members from visiting the hall; and even threatened that whoever of their company attended our meetings would be put out of the "synagogue." Some were fearful, but others became more

affairs so that he can also keep the Sabbath.

While holding an open air meeting in one section of this island a minister of another denomination was recently interrupted and assaulted by the priest. The priest demanded that he stop preaching in his territory, and when he refused, his meeting was broken up by the singing of an unbecoming song by the priest and people. When we learned what had occurred only a few days ago, we earnestly sought the Lord and went to the same spot—for we had preached there before—and conducted a service without molestation. We praise the Lord for these evidences of His watch-care.

J. A. REID.

Montserrat, B. W. I.

MEXICAN UNION MISSION

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

INVESTMENT CHICKENS

The following paragraphs from a letter recently received from Brother O. C. Barrett tell of Melva Moon's enthusiastic interest in the "Sabbath School Investment Fund": (Melva is the five-year old daughter of Pastor C. E. Moon, superintendent of the Central Mexican Mission.)

"Mrs. Moon gave Melva a setting of eggs for the Investment Fund and lent her a setting hen to hatch them. All thirteen of the eggs hatched into husky little chicks, and all are living and thriving. Melva takes care that they are fed from morning till night; and you never saw anything respond better than those little chickens.

"They have had their experiences, though. One time the weasels commenced eating some of the other little chickens' heads off; but before they commenced on the "Investment" chickens, as Melva calls them, Mrs. Moon began to put them in a safe place at night. One night there were two of the little fellows missing, and Melva enlisted her mother's help in hunting for them, but all to no avail. So Melva did what seemed to her the next best thing; she prayed that Jesus would take care of the chickens. Next morning they found them close to a weasel hole in the hen house but safe and sound.

"Another experience which threatened disaster to Melva's prospective contribution to the Investment Fund happened the other day. A torrential rain storm came up suddenly that there was no time to get the chickens under shelter. Melva's screams, when she saw their peril, summoned her father's aid. The rain already made deep puddles in the patio, but Brother Moon succeeded in gathering up all the chickens, some of which were almost submerged with



Melva Moon with her "Investment" Chickens

decided for the truth. Persons who have grown gray in the neighborhood expressed their surprise at the unusual experience of having their ministers visit them; but they were convinced that it was due to the preaching of the Seventh-day Adventists. A former school teacher, who has attended the meetings, has fully decided to obey the Lord; and September 8, when he kept his first Sabbath, was a day of great rejoicing for him. When he was ready to start for the morning service, his mother said, "Are you really in earnest about this matter?" He answered her so promptly in the affirmative that she said, "Well, God bless you."

During my last visit to Dominica we had very interesting meetings, and baptized three. A lady whose husband is the manager of a farm, is now awaiting baptism. The husband is arranging his

water and gasping their last. Mrs. Moon put them on the warm hearth of the stove, and in a little while they jumped up just as chipper as ever.

"I am sending a picture of Melva with the old mother hen and six or seven of the little ones. After trying to persuade those chickens to come out of the tall grass to be photographed, Brother Moon and I know how to sympathize with the moving picture people who take pictures of wild animals in the jungle. This explains why you will not be able to count thirteen."

A GOLD MINE

This summer, while I was at the Junior Camps in California, one day during the Girls' Camp and once during the Boys' Camp we hiked down the canyon about two and a half miles to a gold mine, to show the Juniors how men get gold. Let me sort of combine the two days' experiences.

It wasn't a big gold mine, with a mill and a large gang of workers. It was a little placer mine, with just one lone miner living in a little house by the side of the river. The mine, however, was near the top of the hill behind the camp. The genial and obliging miner took us up the steep trail to the diggings on the hillside. He answered all sorts of questions from the boys and their leaders as to how he located the vein, etc., and then proceeded to demonstrate the process of finding gold.

First he dug out some of the gold-bearing gravel, then dumped loads of it into a machine called a dry washer, which, turned by a hand crank, sifted out the stones and blew out the dirt, leaving finally a residue of dark sand. This he dumped into a miner's pan, and with all the company trooping after him trudged down hill to the river side, where he worked the pan in the water, floating out the sand little by little, and at last pointed out to the boys a gleam of gold remaining in the bottom. Finally there was nothing left but the gold, and the miner picked it up on the blade of his knife.

"Oh!" "Ah!" "Aw!" groaned the boys, gazing at the tiny flakes; "how much is it worth?"

"About three cents," said the miner. "A man may work all the time at digging and panning, and make on the average maybe a dollar a day. Once in a while he may find a nugget. The largest one I ever found was this." And he exhibited a watch charm made of an irregular chunk of gold. "It's worth about five dollars."

"Couldn't you make more money at farming, or fishing, or making automobiles, or something?" asked the boys.

"Maybe," said the miner; "but then, you see, I love mining and I like to work to find gold."

Those Junior boys and girls tramped back to camp with a new experience and doubtless with various thoughts in their heads. But I venture to say that none of them were pondering the thought that was uppermost in my mind. And that was this:

These boys and girls are themselves precious gold, the homes in which they live are the mines, and the fathers and mothers are the miners. Now it takes some knowledge of mining to find gold. You know, I wouldn't be of much use in a gold mine, because I know next to nothing about it. I couldn't locate a vein of gold, and I should be very awkward and inefficient in the process of panning. It would take some training to make me a successful gold miner.

And it takes some training to make us fathers and mothers successful miners of the gold of character in our chil-

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

Are you making definite plans concerning your personal Thirteenth Sabbath offering on December 29; and are you using your influence in emphasizing to others the importance of making this an unusually substantial offering?

Inter-America will receive the overflow this quarter, and very much needs this assistance in order to answer some of the urgent calls which continue to sound from our great unentered Spanish and Indian territories.

dren. "Never will education accomplish all that it might and should accomplish, until the importance of the parents' work is fully recognized and they receive a training for its sacred responsibilities." *"Education,"* page 276. Parents now have the opportunity to receive such help in the Parents' Training Course of the Home Commission (General Conference, Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.), which will be glad to send full information.

Perhaps, parents, you could make more money at farming, or fishing, or making automobiles, or something; but then, I hope, you love mining and like to work to find gold.

ARTHUR W. SPALDING.

"Through conflict the spiritual life is strengthened. Trials well borne will develop steadfastness of character, and precious spiritual graces. The perfect fruit of faith, meekness, and love often matures best amid storm clouds and darkness."—*C. O. L.,* p. 58.

APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION

Just a little more time remains before the close of the present year when the records for 1928 will be made. For 1927 the Inter-American Division gave to missions \$76,334.53; a per capita of \$6.57.

With our membership increased by 1,266 during 1927, we should go considerably beyond what we raised last year. We are very pleased to have so many new believers who have helped raise our mission funds during 1928.

At the close of each year before making up the final financial statement of any organization, the records are carefully scrutinized to see that all the items pertaining to them have been properly handled. Would it not be well for us as individuals to make a careful examination to see if we have contributed all that we could to missions, and if all our tithe has been brought into the Lord's storehouse?

We desire to thank each one of you for your hearty cooperation thus far, and during the remaining weeks of 1928. As we come to the close of the year may you experience the Lord's blessing and true joy as you realize that you have done what you could for the advancement of the Third Angel's Message.

F. L. HARRISON,
Secretary-treasurer.

WEEK OF PRAYER

The Week of Prayer readings in the Spanish will be published in the December number of *Mensajero*. The English churches will receive the readings, as usual, in a special number of the *Review and Herald*. We trust that this special week, December 8 to 15, may be a time of great spiritual refreshing to our people in every part of the Inter-American Division.

OBITUARY

Francis Caldwell Robinson was born in Old Providence Island, Colombia, April 21, 1865 and died at Rio Chiriquí, Coco Plum, province of Bocas del Toro, October 6, 1928. He accepted the Third Angel's Message and was baptized in 1914, and remained faithful unto death. He leaves to mourn their loss three sons, three daughters, and other relatives. Words of comfort were spoken by the writer from Rev. 14:12.

G. H. NEMBARD.

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

Editor—MRS. E. E. ANDROSS

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