



The Inter-American Division MESSENGER

VOL. VI

BALBOA, CANAL ZONE, JULY 1929

No. 8

Division Council Plans

The annual council of the Inter-American Division was held at Balboa, April 18-28. During the ten days that were spent in council, careful study was given to the problems and needs, presented from the fields.

The year 1928 showed our largest number of baptisms and net additions to the churches of any single year. In nearly every field the doors are open for the Message to enter. The missions are calling for additional workers and means.

We are pleased that our 13th Sabbath overflow for the fourth quarter of 1928, amounting to \$16,929.46, has been equally divided among the five unions. We appreciate the faithfulness of our people throughout the world field which made this overflow possible.

Pastor W. W. Eastman, Associate Secretary of the Publishing Department, was with us through the division council, and Brother W. E. Abernathy, Assistant Auditor, was present during the first part of the meeting. We appreciated the presence and help which these brethren from the General Conference rendered.

For the benefit of our believers throughout the division we are pleased to pass on through the MESSENGER the actions which will be of general interest.

Gratitude to God

Since we were together in council one year ago, we have had repeated evidences of the special protection of the lives and health of the army of faithful workers scattered over the Inter-American Division,—over whom amid increasing dangers our heavenly Father's tender care has been especially manifest,—and, we also have been made very happy because of the increased activities of leaders and lay members in soul-winning work, as well as for the deeper spirit of unity that binds our hearts to one another, as we press forward in the Master's service.

Further, during the past year, we have seen a marvelous awakening among the people sitting in the darkness of heathenism and Catholicism. There has been an evidence of unprecedented hungering for the bread of life and a remarkable harvest of souls considering our slender force of workers;

Therefore, we express our heart-felt gratitude to our heavenly Father by dedicating our lives anew to the finishing of the work in this great and needy field, pressing forward united in heart and hand so long as we are permitted to serve, and praying earnestly from day to day

that the Lord of the harvest will send us more reapers for gathering the sheaves in the regions that still lie beyond our activities.

Appreciation to the General Conference

We recommend, That we express our gratitude for the unstinted cooperation of the General Conference, especially

(a) For the band of loyal, devoted self-sacrificing workers that have come to strengthen our forces since last we met in annual council,

(b) For the increase in our appropriations, and

(c) For the splendid Thirteenth Sabbath overflow which makes it possible to answer several of the most urgent calls.

Thanks to the Pacific Press

We also recommend, That we express our gratitude to the Pacific Press for the assistance they are giving us in manning our division with strong union field secretaries, as well as for the splendid effort they are putting forth to supply us with much needed Spanish literature, and for the liberal assistance given us in meeting our indebtedness on the Book and Bible Houses.

Colombia Reorganized—Creation of New Mission

Voted, That we approve of the following readjustment of the mission lines in the Republic of Colombia:

OUR ANNUAL DIVISION COUNCIL

The annual council of the Inter-American Division was held at Balboa, C. Z. April 18-28. The reports presented by the union and departmental leaders were very inspiring. Summaries of the union reports appear in the pages of this paper.

From the opening service of the council to its close the Spirit of the Lord was present in a marked way, and we believe He gave the committee special wisdom in laying plans for the extension and enlargement of the work of the Message in all parts of our field.

The spirit of unity and brotherly love was very apparent; all "were of one heart and one soul: neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own." All hearts were burdened to see the truth quickly carried to the unoccupied parts of our field. We adjourned with greater assurance of the speedy triumph of the Message.

E. E. ANDROSS.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

MISSION I, consisting of the departments of Atlantico, Bolivar, Magdalena, and La Goajira, with headquarters at Barranquilla;

MISSION II, consisting of Antioquia, Santander del sur, Santander del norte, and Choco, with headquarters at Medellin;

MISSION III, consisting of Cundinamarca, Boyaca, Tolima, Huila, Arauca, Vichada, Meta, and Vaupes, with headquarters at Bogota; and

MISSION IV, consisting of Caldas, El Valle, Cauca, Narino, Caqueta, and Putumayo, with headquarters at Cali.

Venezuela Mission Division

Voted, That we look with favor upon the division of the Venezuela Mission into two separate missions, if this can be arranged from the present budget provision.

French West Indian Mission

Voted, That the French Islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique and other French Islands be organized into a separate mission, if funds can be arranged in the budget for it.

Honduras Mission to be Divided

The chairman of the Central American Union Committee brought before us the need of separating the English and Spanish work in the Honduras Mission in order that a more effective work may be accomplished. It was, therefore,

Voted, That we authorize the creation of a separate mission of British Honduras,—the English work on the northern coast of Honduras, of Guatemala and the Bay Islands.

Cayman Mission

Voted, That we authorize the Antillian Union to make the Cayman Islands into a separate mission and that I. G. Knight be called as superintendent.

Curacao Mission Discontinued

Voted, That in harmony with the recommendation of the Colombia-Venezuela Union Mission Committee, we approve of the plan to discontinue Curacao as a separate mission field and that this territory be added to the Venezuela Mission.

1928 13th Sabbath Overflow

Voted, That the Thirteenth Sabbath overflow offering of 1928 be divided equally among the five unions, the same to be budgeted and used for such buildings and equipment as provided for in the original appeals made for the offerings.

Spanish Law Chart

Voted, That we authorize the printing of a law chart in the Spanish language, size to be 40 by 60 inches. The title shall be "La Ley de Dios." The Torres Amat version of the ten commandments is to be used in making this law chart. The Law of God is also to be printed in Spanish motto form, size 12 by 18 inches.

(We have also asked the General Conference to arrange with the French publishing house to prepare a suitable law chart in the French language.)

Pledge Cards

Voted. That we encourage all our fields as far as possible to use the pledge card system in getting our people in the different fields to pledge to give a certain amount systematically, individually, each week for missions.

Covenant Cards for Those in Baptismal Classes

Voted. That a covenant card be drawn up by the division for those to sign who are in the baptismal classes. It is suggested that before having these cards signed by an individual of the class, he should be keeping the Sabbath and fully in harmony with the different points of the Message.

1930 Mission Goals for Local Fields

Voted. That the mission goals for the local missions and conferences be the same for 1930 as 1929, excepting the Central American Union which goal is to be twenty-five cents per week per member for each of its local fields.

Testimonies for Churches

Voted. That we encourage our various fields to put on a campaign, encouraging each Spanish church to secure a set of the "Testimonies" in the Spanish language for the church members.

Financial Help for Church and Mission Schools

Beginning with 1928 twenty percent of the net receipts from the Harvest Ingathering funds from the local or union conference or mission and division is to be held for use in church or mission school work where such help may be needed, and that this fund in the union and division shall be available for such purpose when the local field is in need of the help for school work.

Home Missionary and Young People's Work

Voted. That the Home Missionary and Young People's Departments get out a four-page issue monthly, containing home missionary programs, and one page to be devoted to the Missionary Volunteer promotion matter.

Home Missionary Reports

Voted. That we recommend a period not to exceed ten minutes be devoted to the collecting of reports and promoting the general interests of the home missionary work, between the Sabbath school and the church service.

Big Week for 1930

Voted. That we set the time for the Big Week for 1930 for July 13-19.

Division MESSENGER Promotion and Collection

Voted. That the third Sabbath in August of each year be the day set apart as a MESSENGER DAY, at which time the MESSENGER shall be brought vividly to the attention of all our people in the different churches throughout the division, setting before them the value of the paper, and that a collection be taken up to assist in the publication of the MESSENGER and the Mensajero. It is suggested that the editor call the attention of the union superintendents to the promotion of the MESSENGER so that it may be promoted systematically throughout the different fields.

Sabbath School Investment Rally Day

Voted. That we have one Investment Rally Day for the entire field for the year, and that this Sabbath School Investment Day Rally be promoted from the division and union offices.

Request for "Hacia la Edad de Oro"

Voted. That we request the Pacific Press Publishing Association to make available as soon as

possible the book, "Toward the Golden Age" in Spanish, title to be "Hacia la Edad de Oro."

Request for the Book, "Coming Conflict" in Spanish

Voted. That we ask the Pacific Press Publishing Association to furnish for us as soon as possible the little book, "The Coming Conflict" in the Spanish language.

Request for Book on Recipes

Voted. That we recommend that the Pacific Press Publishing Association give consideration to publishing a crisis book on bread-making and other recipes.

Colporteurs' Fund

Recognizing the gospel colporteur as an evangelistic worker in our respective conferences and missions, and with a desire to conserve to the cause the valued services of those men and women who have gained a successful experience in the work, and recognizing that while in normal times and conditions the regular 50 percent commission on their sales is to be the "remuneration for their services" spoken of by the Spirit of Prophecy, and that because of emergencies and special conditions such as sickness, high rents in cities where they may be asked to work, thinly populated districts where sales may necessarily be slow and expensive, and unavoidable failures in deliveries, or political upheavals that create unfavorable conditions, all, or any of which may create a need for special assistance,

We recommend. The creation of a special colporteurs' fund in each conference or mission to be created from a certain percent from the Book and Bible House and all sales made by the field missionary secretary, to be dispensed by the committee through its officers in the usual way; and that the recipients of the fund be determined by the said committee through its officers in counsel with the tract society and field missionary secretaries.

F. L. HARRISON.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

ANTILLIAN UNION MISSION

Genaro Sánchez 11, Vibora, Havana, Cuba

A. R. OGDEN	Superintendent
N. L. TAYLOR	Secy.-Treas.

THE ANTILLIAN UNION MISSION

I am happy to bring to the division committee the greetings of our nearly 6,000 believers in the Antillian Union, and I am glad to report a spirit of unity and loyalty among the rank and file of our believers in the entire union. A spirit of earnestness prevails among our brethren and sisters throughout the entire field, and the efforts of faithful missionary endeavor of our lay members are being richly rewarded by souls accepting the truth. Many interesting and remarkable instances could be related. Large companies of believers are being brought to the light by the efforts of very humble brethren.

Territory and Population

The Antillian Union was discovered in 1492; and we have been led to feel that that great discovery by Christopher Columbus came in the providence of God, preparatory to the great events of God's plan for giving the everlasting gospel to all the world in the last days. The

territory of the Antillian Union includes Cuba, Haiti, Santo Domingo, Porto Rico, the Bahamas, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. The first five are formed into separate missions, while Jamaica and the Cayman Islands form the Jamaica Conference.

We have nearly ten million people living within the borders of our union. The light and truth of the Third Angel's Message is firmly established in the various parts of our field. There are three leading language areas—Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and the Bahamas being English; Cuba, Santo Domingo, and Porto Rico being Spanish; and Haiti, French. But language distinctions do not in any way interfere with the unity of the faith and earnest loyalty to the great truths of the Message.

Gains During 1928

The membership in the union at the close of 1927 was 5,165, and December 31, 1928 showed a membership of 5,832,—a net gain of 667. The baptisms in the union during 1928 numbered 793, and the year closed with more than 900 in the baptismal classes, which indicates that we may hopefully expect an even larger number of baptisms and a greater increase in membership during 1929 than 1928. We are glad to be able to report this steady growth and development of the work throughout our field.

All departments of our work show a healthy growth. We are endeavoring to strengthen every line of work uniformly, believing that the chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Our Sabbath school work shows especially encouraging gains in membership and offerings. The year 1928 closed with a Sabbath school membership in our schools of 8,084, this being well up toward one-half of the total membership of 17,742 Sabbath school members of the Inter-American Division. The Sabbath school offerings for the year were \$18,621.54. Other interesting comparisons might be given regarding our Missionary Volunteer work, the colporteur work, as well as other lines of endeavor in our field.

The finances show corresponding gains. The tithe for 1928 amounted to almost fifty thousand dollars, being \$47,463.80. It would have passed the fifty thousand mark had it not been for the heavy loss in one of our fields. Even Porto Rico despite the terrible hurricane, was about the same in 1928 as 1927, though we really expected quite a loss owing to the unusual disaster there. The total mission offerings for the union amounted to \$32,115.36. This with the tithe amounted to nearly \$80,000.00 received for the advancement of God's work.

Future Development Problems

With these few observations gathered from the statistics of 1928, we pass for

a few moments to some of our needs for the future development of the work in our field. We confidently believe that the possibilities in our great field have as yet only been touched with the tips of our fingers. With added resources we confidently believe that our constituency could quickly be greatly strengthened; and with the increased constituency there would be a corresponding increase in financial resources.

We were told years ago by the servant of the Lord that "one dollar now is worth more than ten dollars will be at some future time." "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth . . . but it tendeth to poverty." Prov. 11:24. I believe that this principle is just as applicable in conference and mission administration as in private life. We have, therefore, at our recent union committee meeting gone to the very limit in disbursing our meager union funds to help in meeting some of the problems and great needs of our field, having practically emptied our union treasury. But as yet the immediate needs are scarcely touched. We, therefore, come to this division committee with an urgent appeal for immediate help in meeting some of our problems.

Church Buildings Needed

I wish to speak especially of the situation in Jamaica. We must have a pastor for Kingston. We have a membership in the three churches of the city of Kingston of about 700. A good live capable man is greatly needed to meet the exigency of this situation, but the Jamaica budget will not provide for either the salary or transportation of such a worker. We must, therefore, come to this committee for some immediate financial help to meet this urgent and imperative situation.

The one outstanding need throughout our field is for more and better church buildings through the union. Without such buildings we cannot properly establish and give permanency to our work. At the present time the president of the Jamaica Conference is in possession of urgent requests for more than 30 church buildings. The need is imperative. The situation is appalling. Similar needs, to a greater or less extent, confront us in each field of the union.

Other Needs

We also come to this committee with the definite recommendation of our union committee that the Cayman Islands be set off as a separate mission field. The reasons for this action are apparent.

We have in the union four mission schools, the West Indian Training School (English) at Mandeville, Jamaica, the Haitian Mission School (French) at Cape Haitien, Haiti, the Cuban School

(Spanish) at Bartle, Cuba; and what is left of the Porto Rican Academy (Spanish) at Aibonito, Porto Rico. We, therefore, have one English, one French and two Spanish schools. These schools are all greatly in need of financial assistance if they are to function properly and carry on their work in an acceptable and creditable manner.

The foregoing indicates only a few of our most perplexing needs in the Antillean Union. We are one with you, brethren, for an advance move all along the line. Our courage is good. The work is God's. It will triumph, and we earnestly desire to use every available resource for the speedy finishing of the work in our field.

Havana, Cuba.

A. R. OGDEN.

CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION MISSION

Apartado 1059, San José, Costa Rica

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

CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION

Territory

The Central American Union was organized and began to function January 1, 1927, but we did not arrive in the field until February.

The territory consists of British Honduras and the republics of Honduras, Guatemala, Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama; also the Bay Islands, Corn Island, Old Providence, San Andres and several hundred small islands. There is a population of 6,568,261 with a church membership of 2,175.

Administrative Changes

When the union was organized, it consisted of one conference and two organized missions. Today there are five organized missions and one conference. The three newly organized missions are Costa Rica with a population of 520,000, Nicaragua with 700,000 and Salvador with 1,610,000.

Shortly after the organization of the field, the division committee, in council with representatives from the General Conference, recommended the taking of the Spanish department from the West Caribbean Training School in Panama and opening a Spanish training school in San Jose, Costa Rica. This has been done, and, while the school is yet in its infancy, we are thankful to say that it gives evidence of developing into a strong training center for Spanish workers.

Among the Indians

There are located in our territory many hundreds of thousands of pure-blooded Indians, speaking only their native tribal language. We are thankful to report that the Lord has helped us to begin work for these Indians. Four

mission stations have been opened among them. One of these is in Guatemala, one in Nicaragua, one in Honduras and another in Panama. Writing from our mission at Yulu Wawa, Nicaragua, Dec. 29, 1928, Roger Brooks says:

"At present there are ten precious souls who are preparing for baptism. We can see that the Lord is working among these dear people. There are 29 boys and girls attending school and others are planning to enter soon. For Christmas we got up a program, and I am proud to say that the boys and girls of the Seventh-day Adventist Training School were an inspiration to the people of Yulu. This program was rendered December 25, with an attendance of more than 250 persons. The capacity of our church (18 x 30,) was not large enough for the crowd. Many had to stand outside, looking through doors and windows. The day following was also grand. We had games of different kinds. I am expecting to have a good school this coming year."

Our Indian mission in Honduras was started at the request of the president of the republic in a message by his own hand to Elder Lorntz, the superintendent of the Honduras Mission. A splendid work is being opened up and a good interest has been awakened.

Our Guatemala Station

In Guatemala alone we have more than 1,500,000 Indians. Brother and Sister Boehne have been on our Indian mission there about a year and a half. From the pine trees, which cover the station, he has erected a building 23 feet wide and 36 feet long. In one end are two rooms in which they live, and the rest of the building is used as work shop, chapel, tool house and store room.

As there are no saw-mills in that part, the trees had to be sawed into lumber by hand. This has been slow, hard work. In addition to digging out trees and making a driveway back to the house from the road, planting fruit trees, studying the language, and the daily routine about the mission,—one item of which is to carry all the water used for more than a half mile from the spring of an Indian neighbor,—Brother Boehne has been digging a well. This he has had to dig with a pick and shovel, and the Indian have been employed to lift the dirt out with a hand windlass which Brother Boehne made. Just a few weeks ago they found plenty of water at a depth of 135 feet. Now they need a good pump, windmill and tank.

This mission station is well located to serve the Indians. Many thousands pass it every week and are beginning to feel that it is a place where they can get help. Not long ago an Indian woman, living near hurt her hand. It became infected and blood poisoning set in. Brother and Sister Boehne treated the hand, and in a few days it was well. When her husband came home and learned of this kindness, he came to the mission with a present of fruit and expressed his thanks for the help rendered.

While I was there last year they were

called to treat the foot of the wife of an Indian chief near the mission. She had injured it on a saw three weeks before, but, as the Indians are timid and have seldom received kindness from white people, they waited until the case was a bad one before asking for help. The treatments given worked like magic, and gratitude was clearly expressed in the faces of these Indians for the help received. It is clear to see that our workers are gaining the confidence of the Indians. Everywhere we met them they were very friendly with Brother and Sister Boehne.

Our Mission in Panama

The last station to be established is in Panama among the Guaymi Indians. Perhaps I should take the space in this brief report to tell of one of the marvelous ways God is working among them. Brother Larson and Brother Ellis, upon arriving among them, learned they had given up age-long customs of cruelty, and this, because there appeared among them a teacher who taught them it was wrong to do those things. This man told them of some one who would come teaching the very Message we carry. He also told them to beware of others who would seek to come among them. When our brethren arrived the Indians received them warmly and showed them every kindness, and even offered them a place to make their home among them. Evidently they were recognized as the ones described by the teacher that had been among them.

Evangelistic Work

Brother Howard is located in Managua, capital of Nicaragua. He has been in the field only a few months, but he writes that there are many interests in different parts of the republic. He has already baptized several, and many more are in baptismal classes. Some of those baptized have begun to do successful colporteur work.

Throughout the entire union there are calls for workers to carry the gospel to those who are deeply interested. Especially do we see an interest springing up everywhere among the Spanish-speaking people. In Panama City Pastors Dunn and Green conducted a tent effort for the Spanish. Hundreds attended; among them were lawyers and doctors and other men of influence. As a result of these meetings, more than a hundred persons have enlisted and promised to obey the entire truth. These are now formed into classes and are being taught the truth more perfectly in preparation for baptism. We hope to see a large number added to the church.

If we had more workers to put into the field so that the many urgent calls could be answered, it is very evident that our membership could be doubled within another two years.

Our Growth in Figures

Perhaps a glance at the statistical report, comparing the years 1925-26 with 1927-28 will be of interest in this connection, as 1925-26 represents the work of two years just prior to the organization of the union, and 1927-28 the work accomplished during the first two years after the organization.

	1925-26	1927-28
No. of Churches	42	52
Membership	1,650	2,175
Baptisms	359	608
Total Tithe	44,135.91	58,668.03
Sabbath School Off.	16,143.29	21,886.97
Total Off. to Missions	26,949.07	41,483.12
Harvest Ingathering	8,693.50	13,996.14
Big Week	574.38	1,439.30
Week of Sacrifice	979.33	2,370.74

While we are thankful for the progress the Lord has helped us to make during the first two years of the organization of this field, we feel that by His help much more will be accomplished from now on, as the field is more completely organized. All our workers are united throughout the union and are striving earnestly to advance the work as rapidly as possible in their respective territories.

W. E. BAXTER.

San Jose, Costa Rica.

COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA UNION MISSION

Box O, Balboa, Canal Zone

H. E. BAASCH	Superintendent
C. L. STILSON	Secy.-Treas.

COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA UNION

History

The two republics of Colombia and Venezuela are bound together by a common historical background. Both countries were discovered by Columbus in 1498, on his third voyage to the western hemisphere; and in the name of the Spanish crown, whose rights to discovered and to-be discovered regions had been duly sanctioned by the pope, the great explorer took possession of those lands.

At the point of sword and rifle the aborigines, Indians by race, were cowed into subjection and a new government and a new religion were imposed upon them. For over three hundred years Spanish-Catholic culture was allowed to sink her roots deeper and deeper into this new-found soil, practically without resistance on the part of the native population or interference by outside powers.

It was not until 1810 that these countries, caught in the whirl of the great movements for political emancipation which was at that time, shaking to their foundation the institutions of the Middle Ages, found their God-appointed opportunity to break the yoke of their oppressors, under the leadership of Si-

mon Bolivar. And after ten years of struggle we witness the birth of Colombia and Venezuela as free and independent nations, uniting with Ecuador under the common name of "Greater Colombia." Twelve years more and these people decided upon an amicable dissolution of their federation and henceforth, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador were to work out their national destinies independently of each other.

Geography

Colombia and Venezuela contain 758,-078 square miles. They surpass by a little the combined area of all the states on the Atlantic Coast with Georgia excepted; and are six times as large as the British isles. The two republics are almost equal to Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras. In the west and north are great mountain chains and toward the east and south lies flat prairie land. The highest peak lifts its snow covered crown 18,000 feet into the cloud, others there are which rise to altitudes of from 14,000 to 17,000 feet. One of the highest automobile roads in the world is found in the eastern part of Venezuela where it pierces the Andes at an elevation of 16,000 feet above the sea level. Truly, the mountain slopes and valleys afford a most charming treat to the eye.

Venezuela has excellent roads of communication to a large part of the republic while the Colombian roads are comparatively few, and the horse and mule are still the means largely used in traveling. Now rapid advancement is being made to improve the old conditions.

On a trip which I made with Pastor Nickle through Huila last year, we saved four days' traveling as compared with the previous year. Transportation facilities are becoming better and cheaper rapidly and we recognize in this development the promise of God to open the way for the remotest people to become accessible for His last Message to a doomed world. The population of both countries is roughly ten million souls. Of these six and a half million fall to Colombia and three and a half million to Venezuela. These people are largely Spanish and Indian with a strong mixture of Jewish blood in some places, and a 35% African type.

A considerable number of Indians, many of them still absolutely savage, live in the high part of the mountains and in the farther regions of the llanos. It is estimated that Colombia has about three times as many of these people as Venezuela has.

Religions

The Colombian official point of view regarding religion, which may also be regarded as a fair expression on the same point by the sister republic, is well set forth in the following citation,

under the caption "Political Constitution."

"Colombia is the freest country in the world. . . . The Catholic religion is the religion of the nation. Other faiths are tolerated as long as they are not opposed to morals or to public creed. In their relation to each other state and church enjoy complete independence, but perfect harmony exists between them."

How complete this harmony is, an experience which Brother Redondo had only a few years ago will illustrate. Brother Redondo had been called to visit two men in the eastern part of the republic. These men were calling for a teacher. When our brother had traveled half way there, he received a warning message from the friends to the effect that the priest was inciting the people against his entering the town. In a sermon the previous night the priest had said:

"We would bring reproach upon all other towns in Colombia if we should grant entrance to a Protestant heretic. I, therefore, invite the whole town to go out to meet the intruder with clubs and stones. If the men care not to go with me, I shall place myself at the head of the women and children and we shall punish him and drive him away."

Brother Redondo began to think of the advisability of returning to the capital of the department in order to secure from the governor some statement or document which would insure for him protection from the authorities of the places he was to visit. But he was not able to interview the governor personally, neither did he get any encouragement, for the governor sent back word that he could not grant any securities until he had given the matter careful study. This was equivalent to a refusal of protection, so Brother Redondo decided to resume his trip, trusting only in the watch care of Him before whom no case is unheard. He spent five days traveling in the mountains and there, at a place called Valle Dupar he was met by Mr. Castro, who had come from San Juan to warn him of the danger. It was agreed to assemble the interested ones in a little settlement between Valle Dupar and San Juan.

Brother Castro made his way back to his native village to notify the friends. He entered the village at dark and by a circuitous route. His house lay at the outside of town, and he hoped, thus, to remain unobserved. However, a spy recognized him and notified the priest. The priest was, at that moment officiating at the even service, the *movena* but as soon as the word reached him, he came down from the pulpit and ordered the bells to be rung frantically. Then he rushed to the center of the *plaza* shouting the alarm of the coming of the Protestants. An immense mob, headed by the mayor and the police, rushed to the streets searching for the heretics and yelling their threats. It was only through strategem that Brother Castro escaped and saved his life.

This incident truly illustrates the perfect harmony that exists between church and government officials, with the church striking the dominant chord. This happened five years ago. God overrules and protects however, and today, in that very place, we have a Sabbath school.

Not everywhere, however, has the church this power over the government. Only a few weeks ago one of our colporteurs in — was arrested while selling *El Centinela*. The policeman was acting upon instigation of a passing priest. Our man was hailed before the judge, the policeman, the priest and other witnesses being present.

"What is your accusation against this young man?" the judge asked the policeman. "I caught him selling bad literature, sir." Turning to our man, the judge asked for one of the papers and said to him: "For whom are you working?" "For the Adventists," was the reply, "For the Adventists!" exclaimed the judge. And turning to the policeman: "What on earth do you mean by arresting this man. Don't you know that the Adventists are good people and that we have liberty in this country?" Then speaking to our brother, he said: "My boy, sell as many papers as you wish and may God be with you."

Open Doors

I was surprised to find that we could hold open air meetings in Colombia. In the market place of —, I spoke to hundreds of people by permission of the mayor, who himself went around inviting the people. Pastor Nickle and I held a meeting on the *plaza* of — which at least one thousand persons attended, the priest, himself being in the crowd. In — I spoke in an open theater to a congregation of 300. Brother Thurber and I spoke for a few nights in an open theater at — to from 400 to 800 people. Where larger places were not available, as a rule we obtained the use of a *patio*. Everywhere we enjoyed courtesy and respect. The people came in crowds, and maintained a deep silence during the service. At first the congregations were made up mostly of men, but later the women, little by little, formed a considerable proportion of the audience.

In — I held meetings for six weeks and found a very lively interest. I spoke twice to the students of the liberal university. Before I left the city nine were added to the church by baptism. Our workers consider the capital of Colombia one of the most promising fields in our union.

The work in Medellin is progressing slowly, in spite of the faithful efforts of Pastor and Sister Trummer. The trials experienced by these workers can only be appreciated by those who are familiar with that brand of hostility so peculiar to fanatical Catholicism.

The bookwork in Colombia began with Brother Connerly about 1915. He was followed by Brother Green, Brother Holder and Brother Schwerin; and still

later came Brethren Steeves, Brower and Cleaves. Colombia is absorbing over \$35,000.00 worth of books yearly.

And today the hard places yield in proportion as they have been sown with our literature. The books certainly have done a wonderful work in preparing the soil. In Pastor Nickle's field where the printed page has been scattered abundantly in past years, the fields are ripe for the sickle of the evangelist. Many townships are calling for the preacher and, undoubtedly, would yield companies of believers if men could be sent to them. We are planning to hold evangelistic efforts in some of these places during the present year.

Curacao

Leaving Colombia now and swinging eastward over the Caribbean, we come to the little island of Curacao. Curacao is a mart of nations and reminds one of the picture of old Tyre drawn by the prophet Ezekiel. We find a mixture of races and languages which is extraordinary. The popular tongue of the island is a blending of Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch, with a little French and English also.

Our evangelistic work in that island started with the arrival of Pastor and Sister C. E. Knight in 1926. These workers were followed by Pastor and Sister D. C. Babcock. Our work is still small. We hope, with the help of the church extension fund soon to erect a house of worship in Curacao. With the exception of the Dutch Reformed Church no Protestant missions are working on the island. A rich harvest is waiting to be gathered in by a worker who masters English, Spanish and Papiamentto.

Venezuela

Venezuela is the oldest field in our union. Over 20 years ago Pastor Lane accompanied by Brother Greenidge arrived in Venezuela. Neither spoke a word of Spanish. How they obtained their first congregation was told me by Brother Greenidge. Pastor Lane was preparing some prophetic charts, painting the symbols of Daniel's prophecy on some cloth. A man watched him for a while, and then curiously, asked him the meaning of the strange painting. Pastor Lane not knowing a word of Spanish took the Bible and pointed to the seventh chapter of Daniel. The man seemed to understand; he returned the next day, accompanied by a friend. With the help of the Bible and by the signs they were introduced into a study of Daniel's prophecies. The man returned the following day, this time bringing more friends along. In the meantime the acquaintance of a Porto Rican who spoke Spanish and English was made and he served as interpreter.

It is from this beginning that the work grew in Venezuela. Pastor Bax-

ter spent about ten years in that field. In Venezuela we have the only training school in the union. It is at Camaguan. Last year it had an enrolment of over 70 students, who are being educated under the efficient leadership of Brother and Sister Greenidge.

Venezuela is almost as large as Colombia and it is felt that the field is too unwieldy to continue under one central organization. Half of the territory is practically inaccessible from present headquarters during six months of the year, owing to the rains. After careful study, our union committee has passed a recommendation urging the dividing of the field into two separate missions.

Our nurse and Bible worker, Sister Ana Hansen, has lately improved a good opportunity to bring the nature of our work to the attention of some leaders in the republic. When a destructive earthquake annihilated a large part of Cumana, the Red Cross of Venezuela, invited our sister to organize the corps of nurses there. The work done by Sister Hansen has left a very favorable impression with the officials.

Conclusion

Colombia and Venezuela promise great development. While decidedly Catholic for centuries, all signs point to a breaking away from the obsolete standards. Our band of workers is small, but our men are dedicated to the solemn task. At our last union committee meeting we have made plans for a large work; we believe that the providential openings before us warrant us to do so. H. E. BAASCH.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

EAST CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

Box 221, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

W. R. ELLIOTT President
M. D. HOWARD Secy.-Treas.

EAST CARIBBEAN UNION

Territory

The territory of the East Caribbean Union Conference comprises Trinidad, the Windward, Leeward, and Virgin Islands, and British, Dutch and French Guiana. Our territory extends from about the 19th degree of latitude north to within one degree of the Equator, a distance of more than 1,200 miles.

Population

The population of this field is estimated at 2,068,396. In nearly all the islands the population is quite dense. In Trinidad it is more than 500 to the square mile, and in Barbados more than 1,000 to the square mile. In the Guianas the population is found chiefly along the coast, and the interior is peopled largely by roving tribes of Indians. The inhabitants throughout the union are

nearly all West Indians, but in Trinidad, and in British Guiana there are about 250,000 East Indians.

Languages

English is spoken in most of the field. French is spoken in the islands of Guadeloupe, and Martinique, and in French Guiana, while Dutch and English are spoken in Dutch Guiana. Most of the East Indians have learned to speak the English language; but some cannot speak it, and must be reached in their own language. A few of the Indians in the interior of the Guianas have learned to speak English, but most of them still use their own languages.

Religions

The majority of the population are Roman Catholics. There are, however, many thousands who belong to the Church of England and to other Protestant bodies. Most of the East Indians still worship idols; but a few of these people have accepted Christianity. A number of Hindu temples are found in Guiana, and on the island of Trinidad. Many of these people still worship their gods by walking barefooted over the red-hot coals.

Hurricanes and Droughts

In the Virgin and Leeward Islands the hurricane last year did great damage. On the island of Guadeloupe alone more than 1,600 people lost their lives, and on this island as on many others, thousands of the people lost everything they had. The sections desolated by the hurricane have not yet recovered from its effects, and will not do so for some time. But we feel thankful for the marvelous way in which God protected the lives of our people.

History

About forty years ago the work began in this field. The history of the work is a record of battles, sacrifices, and deaths. There are a number of missionary graves in Trinidad, to say nothing of the other islands in our field. Pastor A. E. Flowers sleeps not far from our union office; some of the others who have fallen in this field are Pastor William Crowther, Brother Charles Enoch, Brother Robert L. Price, Sister Stella Colvin Briggs, her son Lindsay, Sister C. B. Sutton, and Sister H. J. Edmed; and over in British Guiana rests Pastor O. E. Davis. These workers faced the dangers of yellow fever and other tropical diseases, to plant the truth in this field, and they have paid the supreme price. "They rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

Union Conference Membership

At the end of 1928 the membership of the union stood at 3,646 with 77 organized churches. This is an increase

over the previous year of 230 members, and an increase for two years of 640. We have had a net increase of 1,348 members since 1922. The number of organized churches has increased from 66 in 1927 to 77 in 1928.

Leeward Islands Conference

The conference membership stood at 724, with 17 organized churches last January. This was a net gain in membership over that of the preceding year of 34. The British, French, and Dutch islands included in the Leeward group and the Virgin Islands make up the territory of this conference, with a population of 626,605.

French Islands Mission

Our committee voted, in harmony with division recommendations, to organize the French Islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, with small adjoining French islands, into a mission to be known as the French West Indian Mission. These islands have a population of a little more than 474,000. Pastor Nord Isaac is now laboring in Trinite on Martinique. He reports thirteen at Trinite now preparing for baptism, and some Sabbath keepers in Fort-de-France. He is calling for help, and from what he and others have told me of these islands, I am satisfied that a rich harvest of souls awaits our efforts there. We trust God will make it possible to give them the help they need.

South Caribbean Conference

This conference comprises Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, and the Windward islands, and has a population of 1,030,000. Included in this number are more than 100,000 East Indians, most of whom are still worshipping the false gods of their fathers. The conference now has 44 organized churches with a membership of 2,339. During last year 281 members were added.

Guiana Conference

This conference includes all the territory of British, Dutch, and French Guiana, and has a population of 476,965. This field has been passing through hard times. There is much unemployment and poverty abounds. The conference has 16 organized churches with a membership of 581. Fifty-six were added to the church last year. The tithe received in 1928 amounted to \$2,979.37—a per capita of \$5.17. It is our hope that plans can be set on foot that will strengthen the work in this field. Brother and Sister King have been called to this field—she is to act as secretary-treasurer, and Brother King to labor in the field. Brother Knight will then be more free to devote his time to work in the field.

Mt. Roraima Indian Mission

We have an organized Sabbath school

of 54 at Mt. Roraima, but none of them are ready for church membership.

It is my opinion that Mt. Roraima should be operated as an outstation, and another place be found for the main station, where transportation costs are not so high. It should also be a place where there are Indians, and where the workers can expect to enjoy a fair degree of health. It is the opinion of our committee that another foreign family should be connected with Brother and Sister Cott in the work for the Indians.

The Colporteur Work

The colporteur work is far from where we would like to see it. This work in the South Caribbean Conference is going quite well. Two of the colporteurs are making splendid records. One of these is an Indian boy in St. Lucia. One day he took \$90 worth of orders, and \$200 worth for the week. The other colporteur is a young man in Trinidad. Brother C. H. Carter is pushing this work with energy, and the conference promises to sell many more books this year than it did last. Last year that field delivered \$4,594.00 worth of literature, and the orders for the first three months of this year amounted to \$4,450.00.

In the Leeward Islands Conference the work is making progress under the leadership of Brother M. E. Lowry. Last year they delivered \$944.00 worth of books. The hurricane undoubtedly hurt their sales last year, but Elder Cole thinks they will make a better showing this year.

The Guiana Conference reported no colporteurs in the work for 1928, and their sales were very small.

Other Departmental Work

We have in our field 112 Sabbath schools with a membership of 4,190. They gave \$6,846.23 in offerings last year.

Three church schools are being operated in Guiana, with an enrolment of 40 students.

Last year Guiana reported four Missionary Volunteer societies with a membership of 81; South Caribbean 32, with a membership of 904, and Leeward Islands reports 255 members of the Missionary Volunteer societies. South Caribbean Missionary Volunteers used 6,000 Mornnig Watch calendars this year.

We have in our union 16 ordained ministers, 10 licensed ministers, 24 licensed missionaries and 12 colporteurs. Our tithe and offerings during 1928 were \$37,497.67.

W. R. ELLIOTT.

Port of Spain, Trinidad.

(To be continued next month)

MEXICAN UNION MISSION

Calle Jalapa 210, Mexico, D. F., Mexico

D. A. PARSONS Superintendent
J. G. PETTEY Secy.-Treas.

MEXICAN UNION

Laying the Foundation

My family and I were called to the Mexican Union late in the year 1923—to the land where Dr. Swayze, Pastor Marchisio and Professor George W. Caviness had spent many years, toiling with great energy against the stone wall of Romanism and the subtlety of paganism. They were faithful, loyal, and strong men. Their labors were unceasing; their determination unflinching. But on the surface—yet only on the surface—did it appear that little had been accomplished.

It required the latter rain to reveal the real value of their efforts. Brethren Caviness and Marchisio, worn and broken in health by their heavy burdens, are now sleeping in Jesus. Following these godly men came others,—Pastors Earnest Bond, J. A. Leland, and F. L. Perry, who loved the Third Angel's Message and who, during their shorter stay, worked with equal fervor and spirit. But now Brother Bond also sleeps.

All along the way, and hand in hand with these leaders, labored some of our brightest lights in the field of literature service. I refer to such men as Brethren J. A. P. Green, Henry Brown, J. Phillips, H. A. B. Robinson, and in recent years, J. D. Leslie. Brother Robinson is now our union bookman. Only eternity can reveal fully the greatness, the solidity, and the success, of the work of these brethren. They truly met the brunt of the battle; and they endured the horrors of the revolution, the dangers of disease, and many unspeakable hardships. Some left loved ones in Mexico to await the call of the last day—yet they never faltered. But God knows best. God builds on a solid foundation, and these colporteurs were certainly His faithful instruments.

Present Developments

It does not require a trained eye nor a man of experience to see that our success in the winning of many souls during the past few years is largely reportable to our predecessors. At the close of 1922 there were only twenty-six organizations, including Sabbath schools, and four of these broke up before the year closed, leaving only twenty-two. Today there are 122 churches and Sabbath schools—a clear gain of 100 well organized bodies. Five years ago, only 569 were keeping the Sabbath and attending the Sabbath schools, but now there are 2,400. Then we had 475 church members—yes, fewer for the records were cluttered by the names of many apostates, and even by the names

of some long dead. But at this writing, our baptized membership is near 1,200, and our church records have all been peeled down to actual facts.

The financial gains have been good. In the year 1922, the offerings to foreign missions amounted to \$3,600.00. At the close of last year, they equaled \$6,600.00. The tithe five years ago was \$7,000.00; today it is \$11,000.00 even though Mexico has been, and is now, passing through the worst economic crisis in her history, and the end of her sorrows is not yet seen.

Boundary Changes

When we arrived in the union, it embraced Honduras, El Salvador, British Honduras, the Bay Islands, Guatemala and Mexico. But, the work grew until it was necessary to make great changes. Up to that time, Mexico had always been only one mission with one tract society to feed that great field. Now it has six fully organized missions, each with its office, its Bible House, and its own constituency and leaders. God has wonderfully blessed His people with courage and faith and full unity. There exists no factions nor drawing-away movement in the whole union, nor has there been for a number of years. We take courage and thank God.

Advancing in Old Paths

Our forty-three workers and twenty-five bookmen are all proclaiming the simple Third Angel's Message. No one gives his time to side issues. We have no "new light"—we are still reading the Message by the good old lantern used by such leaders as Brethren James White, J. N. Loughborough, S. N. Haskell, Sister E. G. White, and that host of foundation builders whose true labors made us what we are. We specialize in only one thing,—the teaching of the whole Message.

Our workers are moving with caution in baptizing people and bringing them into full church fellowship. We believe that Latin and Indian fields require caution. It is necessary to know that the candidate has turned from darkness to light, from evil to holiness. We seek earnestly for evidence that he has fully accepted the Message in his heart before we administer the holy rite. It is better, we believe, to have few baptisms than many—if the many are not sound in faith.

In spite of the revolutionary conditions and the frequency of bandits and the resultant financial depression, our workers look forward with firm hope and courage to the present year for larger gains than ever before.

D. A. PARSONS.

Mexico City, Mexico.

"The faithful discharge to today's duties is the best preparation for tomorrow's trials."

India's population is 317,000,000. The number of idols is 350,000,000.

A GOLD MINE FOR 50 CENTS

Through the kindness of some of our publishing houses we have been able to get unusual reductions on some of our books for young people. Brother Everest writes that he has the following books on the shelves of the Pacific Press at Cristobal, Canal Zone, for 50 cents per copy:

"Providences of the Great War."
 "With Our Missionaries in China."
 "Advance Guard of Missions."
 "In the Land of the Incas."
 "Strange Peoples and Customs."

We hope our young people will take advantage of this gold mine on the shelves of the Pacific Press. Get acquainted with these excellent friends. They will be a great blessing to you and help you to become stronger workers. Just think! A gold mine for fifty cents! You cannot afford to miss this opportunity. Do not put your ordering off till another time. The books may be gone if you do not order now, and you should not miss this chance to get a gold mine for fifty cents. Order in the usual way.

NEWS NOTES

Brother Thurber from the Atlantic Colombia Mission sends us the following news notes:

"Brother Demetrio Peralta, who already is an experienced office man, has come to take charge of the Atlantic Colombia office. This work will be heavier than heretofore, since this office will carry the book work for both the Atlantic and Antioqueña Missions.

"Brother Antonio Redondo is recovering nicely from a surgical operation. We hope that he will be entirely free from a condition which has given him a great deal of trouble for several years, and that he will be able to do stronger work in evangelism than ever before."

"We are sorry to record the departure of Brother and Sister Arnold Lien. The death of Sister Lien's father, and the continued illness of her mother and her sister seem to make necessary their return for a time at least. They will be missed from the field, and both we and they hope that they may soon come back for further service in Inter-America."

From the Leeward Islands we get the news that Brother and Sister H. Neilson have recently joined their force of workers. Brother Neilson is to serve as secretary-treasurer of that conference and Sister Neilson will look after the Sabbath school and Missionary Volunteer work there. We welcome these new workers to our ranks, and pray that they may be successful in winning many stars for their crowns as a result of their work in that field.

We were happy to welcome Sister H. E. Baasch and David on the Canal Zone a few weeks ago. It was a happy reunion day for Brother and Sister Baasch after a separation of about a year. After a few days in the Zone, they sailed

for Colombia, to locate the union headquarters in the Central Colombia Mission.

Sister C. E. Wood, Sister J. A. P. Green and Miss Irene Janson (Brother Green's niece) sailed May 29 for New York. Sister Green was forced to return on account of failing health and Sister Wood was called away because of the illness of some of her children who are now in the States. We hope they will be back with us again before very long.

They Call Us

(Tune: From Greenland's Icy Mountain")

Oh glorious are the Tropics,
 Where sways the Royal Palm;
 Where the heavens know no rival
 When the night is clear and calm.
 But, alas, among her beauties
 Are the aching hearts of men,
 For few among her millions
 Know Christ will come again.

Lo! Mexico's lost millions,
 Antillian's waiting host,
 The Eastern Caribbean,
 The rugged Spanish coast,
 Colombia, Venezuela,
 The Central American field,—
 For the Message of salvation
 Have long to us appealed.

Then gird the armor tighter,
 Each nerve in service bend;
 The outcome of the conflict
 On faithfulness depends.
 Hasten to all the Message,
 Let every tribe now hear
 That Christ, our Lord and Master,
 Will soon again appear.

Brother Wood left the division office about the middle of May to spend two or three months in the East Caribbean Union in the interest of the home missionary work.

One of the secretary-treasurers in our division recently received an unusual Harvest Ingathering donation. One of the officials of the national railroad granted him three annual passes for different workers in that field. While this may not add to the Harvest Ingathering funds it will certainly help save the money that is already in the Lord's treasury for the promotion of His work.

Brother Grizzle, pastor of the Panama City church, writes:

"The last of March ten dear souls were baptized in Panama City. These were the first-fruits of our efforts to reach a goal of 60 souls for 1929. Plans for missionary endeavor have been made and all are working toward the end of soon having another company ready for baptism. May the Lord keep us faithful in this church so that we can go forth conquering in His name."

In a letter received from Pastor A. A. Davis, superintendent of the Cuba Mission, he says:

"The work is going nicely in Cuba for which we feel to thank the Lord. Already we have baptized over thirty this year, and I am called to baptize ten more near Moron as soon as I can arrange to get there. Pastor Sales has a baptismal class of about twelve that he says will be ready for baptism in a few weeks."

Pastor J. A. P. Green left the division office the early part of June on an extended trip through the Central American Union in the interest of the colporteur work.

Miss Thelma Archbold, a graduate of the West Caribbean Training School, has come to the division office to assist in the stenographic work.

"Never think that you have learned enough, and that you may now relax your efforts."

OBITUARIES

Moncada.—Doctor Hipoloto Moncada was born in San Juancito, near Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in 1855 and died in La Ceiba, March, 22, 1929. His early life was spent in the study of law, and he became one of the most able lawyers and judges of his country.

Brother Moncada first heard the truth through a client from the Bay Islands who refused to appear in court on the Sabbath. Such faithfulness led Brother Moncada to investigate the Bible. The clearness and power of the three-fold Message appealed to him and his wife, and in October 1904 they accepted the Saviour, thus becoming the first Spanish-speaking Adventists in Honduras. Brother Moncada watched the progress of the Message with great interest and did what he could to carry the light to others. For several months he wrote a daily article for the local newspaper concerning the life and teachings of Christ, thus calling the attention of the public to the truth.

We laid our brother to rest in the hope of meeting him again in the first resurrection.

H. L. OLSON.

San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Miranda.—Isadoro Miranda was born at Boquete and died there May 21, 1929, at the early age of nineteen. He accepted the truth under the labors of Brother Ishmael Ellis and was baptized by Pastor L. L. Hutchinson in January of this year. Although only a member of the church for four months, he was an active missionary worker, and I am told that he leaves a company of five Sabbath keepers at Gualaca as a result of his efforts.

We believe our brother died in the assurance of having a part in the first resurrection. The funeral service was conducted at Boquete by the writer.

JOHN J. SMITH.

Boquete, Panama.

DIVISION DIRECTORY

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INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

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