



The Inter-American Division MESSENGER

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No. 1

“That They All May Be One!”

Mrs. E. G. White

No one lives to himself. In God's work each one is assigned a post of duty. The union of all strengthens the work of each. As the faith and love and unity of the church grow stronger, their circle of influence enlarges and ever they are to reach to the farthest limit of this influence, constantly extending the triumphs of the cross.

Arise! Shine! God calls upon us to burst the bands of our precise, indoor service. The Message of the gospel is to be borne in the cities and outside of the cities. We are to call upon all to rally around the banner of the cross. When this work is done as it should be, when we labor with divine zeal to add converts to the truth, the world will see that a power attends the Message of truth. The unity of the believers bears testimony to the power of the truth that can bring into perfect harmony men of different dispositions, making their interest one.

The prayers and offerings of the believers are combined with earnest, self-sacrificing efforts, and they are indeed a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. Men are converted anew. The hand that once grasped for recompense in higher wages has become the helping hand of God. The believers are united by one interest,—the desire to make centers of truth where God shall be exalted. Christ joins them together in holy bonds of union and love, bonds which have irresistible power.

It was for this unity that Jesus prayed just before His trial, standing but a step from the cross. “That they all may be one;” He said, “as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.”

Awake! Awake!—God calls upon those who are half awake to arouse, and engage in earnest labor, praying to Him for strength for service. Workers are needed. Receive the Holy Spirit, and your efforts will be successful. Christ's presence is that which gives power. Let all dissension and strife cease. Let love and unity prevail. Let all move under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If God's people will give themselves wholly to Him, He will restore to them the power they have lost by division. May God help us all to realize that disunion is weakness and that union is strength.

Our Inter-American Division Council

The ninth annual council of the Inter-American Division committee was held in the chapel of the division office in Balboa, Canal Zone, November 22 till December 4. Promptly at two o'clock in the afternoon of November 22 the council was opened by singing that good old song, "Revive us Again"; and truly the Lord did revive us again during those days of earnest prayer and intensive study. He gave wisdom and courage to our leaders as they wrestled with the great problem of planning for aggressive soul-winning work in these days of financial distress and world-wide perplexity.

Yes, our council was a very good one. One of the striking features was the thrilling reports from various parts of the field, showing that the arm of the Lord is not shortened. Every union leader brought us words of courage, and so did each of the leaders of local fields whom we were privileged to have with us. Never before had we listened to quite so stirring reports. The pentecostal showers in Mexico, in the Caribbean Union, and in many places between those two extremes, show clearly that God has made bare His arm to finish the work speedily regardless of all obstacles. Our only problem is full co-operation with the Master and with one another.

The sweet spirit of brotherly love needed for such co-operation was seen in our council. Harmony and unselfish interest in God's great work characterized every session. The desire of every heart seemed to be to see more clearly and to follow more nearly God's plan. There was manifest in a marked degree a willingness to spend and be spent for the salvation of the lost, and an eagerness to enter more and more fully into the sufferings of Christ so that the greatest possible number in our field may come to know Him, Whom to know is life eternal. This spirit in our daily sessions was not only a call to deep searching of hearts, but also a source of great encouragement to all present.

The last morning of the council, time was given for a consecration service. It was a long-to-be-remembered service in which those present pledged again their loyalty to this blessed truth and to the precious Master, Who binds our hearts together in Christian love and sympathy, as we press forward shoulder to shoulder into God's opening providences. But to put you into a little closer touch with this good meeting, which has brought courage to our hearts and good plans for the advancement of God's work, we shall spread before you the minutes that deal with plans of general interest, and pray that much of the

blessings of this good meeting may come to you also:

Present at the First Meeting

E. E. Andross, Mrs. E. E. Andross, I. H. Evans, A. R. Ogden, W. R. Elliott, W. E. Baxter, H. E. Baasch, C. E. Wood, W. L. Adams, L. V. Finster, W. A. Bergherm, H. J. Edmed, E. W. Everest, E. J. Lorntz, L. V. Cleaves, C. E. Andross, C. L. Stilson, F. L. Harrison, and other members of the division family.

Pastor Andross gave a word of welcome to the representatives present from the different parts of the division and to Pastor Evans from the General Conference who, with his wide field of experience, will bring courage and much valuable counsel to us as we discuss the many perplexing problems arising in the field and as we plan for the finishing of the Message in the Inter-American Division. Pastor Andross based his remarks upon Matt. 24:7, 8 and Luke 21:25. He also read a number of quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy, showing that this is no time for discouragement. One of these quotations reads as follows:

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

"In the darkest days, when appearances seem so forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day. His understanding will be placed at their service, that they may not err in the carrying out of His purposes."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. VIII, pp. 10; 11.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The statistical reports for 1930 and the first six months of 1931 showed progress throughout the field. The membership stood at 15,628 at the close of 1930 and 16,301 on July 1, 1931. The baptisms were 1,755 for 1930 and 973 for the first six months of 1931. There were 521 laborers in the division at the close of the second quarter of 1931.

Second Meeting

The evening service was opened promptly at seven o'clock and after singing, we were led in prayer by Brother E. W. Everest.

Caribbean Union Report

Pastor W. R. Elliott gave a report of the progress of the work in the Caribbean Union, showing for 1930 the baptism of 421 persons. Although the tithe has dropped several thousand dollars, appropriations have been cut and the effects of the world-wide financial depression are being felt in many ways,

the workers have gone on their knees before God and laid the burden at His feet, and in place of the apparent defeat and loss which were facing them several months past, the greatest spiritual revival has been experienced. In Brother Elliott's words we find the secret of their success, "God has far more than made up the financial loss by giving men increased power to win souls." The members, especially in Barbados, have rallied and are carrying a large share in the wonderful work that God is doing in that field. Trinidad and Guiana also are sharing in these remarkable experiences. Good reports are coming in of the literature ministry in sections where it had been said in the past nothing could be done. We with Pastor Elliott and his workers are led to exclaim, "What hath God wrought?"

Sabbath School Department

The Sabbath School Department report rendered by Prof. W. L. Adams showed a good gain in 1930 of 2,419 in membership, and the evidence thus far for 1931 points to better gains for this year. The addition of 33 new schools in 1930 shows that our work is extending into new territory as well as increasing in the territory already occupied. As in all lines of work, the depression is felt; but we are encouraged by the fact that the Sabbath school is keeping up its proportion of the mission funds that are being raised. Special attention was called to the room for improvement in daily study and attendance, and the use of the training courses. Let us all help to keep the Sabbath schools going strong, for they are among the greatest agencies in carrying forward our work.

Third Meeting

The morning Bible study was conducted by Pastor I. H. Evans after prayer by Pastor C. E. Wood. Brother Evans brought out the thought from his text in Philippians 3:13, 14, that the one important business in this life for every worker in the cause of God is to be a Christian. Let the administrative work be mere incidentals in the day. Position counts for naught. "I will be like my Master," should be the one great plan in life for every worker.

After the intermission following the morning service we were led in prayer by Pastor L. V. Finster. Pastor Andross presented a report which he had compiled showing the cost of conducting the work in the various fields of the division and the cost of each baptism, also the cost of the net gain in membership by missions. For the year 1930 the average cost per baptism and per member gained was somewhat reduced. This is very encouraging. But our attention

was called to the importance of giving very careful study toward further reducing the cost for our baptisms and net gain in membership.

Fourth Meeting

After the evening service was opened by song, prayer was offered by Brother J. B. Ross.

Antillian Union Report

Pastor A. R. Ogden gave a very interesting report of the work in the Antillian Union, which has a population of approximately ten million. The three principal languages of the union are Spanish, English, and French. At the close of the second quarter of this year the membership stood at 7,271. During the three years of 1928, 1929 and 1930, there were 2,656 baptisms in the Antillian Union. The tithe and offerings, covering the three year period, amounted to \$250,469.35. At the close of the second quarter of this year there were 267 Sabbath schools with a membership of 11,046. One very encouraging item of Brother Ogden's report was that forty churches were built during the three year period. The publishing work in the union is onward and some fields are even going ahead of last year in the sale of our truth-filled literature. During 1931 they expect to baptize in the Antillian Union 1000 persons. In closing he used the scripture found in Zachariah 4:6—"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord."

Home Missionary Department

Pastor Finster, Home Missionary secretary of the division, rendered a most complete report covering the work done by the laity throughout the division. Of the persons baptized during 1930, 60% were reported as having been won by the laity. There were 507,022 missionary visits made and 375,252 Bible readings and cottage meetings held. While the reporting membership of 78% was the highest ever reached in the field, yet we have lost the first place in the world's record of reporting membership. Pastor Finster read various quotations showing the importance of the laymen's movement. He also read some very interesting letters received from various parts of the field showing how the truth had been brought to the people through the home missionary work. Surely this is the time when many should be seen going from door to door carrying the Message.

Fifth Meeting

Prayer was offered by Brother Berg-herm when the morning Bible study opened at eight o'clock. Pastor Evans took John 18:36 as his text for the service and emphasized the fact that Christianity can neither be bought nor sold, that it does not consist of material things, and that the true church of God

does not build itself up with buildings, money, or institutions, but by righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. He voiced a word of warning, using as a text Hosea 4:9, in stating that the membership of the church follows the leadership of the church and is molded after the Christian experience of the leader.

Sixth Meeting

Central American Union Report

After the opening song for the evening service, Brother Kieser offered prayer. Pastor W. E. Baxter gave a very interesting report of the progress made in the Central American Union. For the year 1930 they were able to baptize in the union 151 persons, but thus far in 1931 they have baptized 221. Indians compose about 60% of the population of Guatemala. Brother Baxter recently has learned from an engineer who has crossed the isthmus between the Canal and Colombia that there are thousands of Indians living in an unexplored valley between two ranges of mountains in this part of the Republic of Panama. One village especially is mentioned where a very intelligent class of Indians (5,000 in number) is living. During the present year disasters have visited two different republics of Central America, but we are thankful to the Lord for His protection over our workers and believers.

Missionary Volunteer Department

Sister Andross called on the union leaders for brief reports of the Missionary Volunteer work after which she gave her report for the division. We learn that within our territory there are in our different churches about 6,000 young people, speaking several different languages and belonging to several different races, and that as an organization they are growing at the rate of 500 per year. The records for the year 1930 show that the young people have not been idle along the line of self improvement—there have been issued 1,294 Bible Year Certificates, 949 Reading Course Certificates, and 284 Standard of Attainment Certificates, together with 253 Standard of Attainment Seals. These young people are faithful in soul-winning work and as workers, our concern should be as to how we can best use the energies of this large band of consecrated young men and women.

Seventh Meeting

The devotional hour was led again by Pastor Evans, and he took as his text Phil 3:7-10, stressing the fact that the chief aim of the true minister is to have a Christian experience. It is not enough to have talent; it is not enough that he have a college education; these all help, but without the Christian experience, he is as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal. Natural qualifications accomplish results, but these are not the qual-

ifications that get men into the kingdom of God. Paul had a great deal of natural talent, but when he came to God he gave himself completely, abandoning those things which made him great in the sight of men, counting them all dross. Fellowship with Christ is everything for the worker of God. This fellowship can not be attained by activity. We must go aside, and hold communion with God in the soul.

After a short intermission, the council convened and the committee on plans rendered a partial report. Various ones spoke to the resolution on gratitude to God for His protection and care. The resolution was adopted by standing, after which an earnest prayer to God for His blessings and protection was offered by Pastor I. H. Evans.

Gratitude to God

WHEREAS, The Lord's loving-kindness and forbearance have been constantly exercised upon workers and members in this Inter-American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and

WHEREAS, This has been specially emphasized in the divine protection and preservation of His dear people, in the calamitous visitations, such as the hurricanes and other phenomena of recent dates, and in Satanic plottings against His workers, and also by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of our constituency, as manifested in the rapid progress of His work and the achievements of His grace; therefore,

Resolved, That we place on record our heartfelt thanksgiving and unstinted praise to God, at the same time individually reconsecrating our lives to His service, making it the supreme object of our lives, with the earnest prayer that He will accept us anew in the Beloved, and aid us by His grace to live and labor as becometh such as are entrusted with the solemn responsibility of preparing the world for the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Evangelism

WHEREAS, At the Autumn Council of the General Conference (1930) the most important feature of the meeting was the consideration of what appeared to the brethren as our greatest need, namely, a new emphasis on soul-winning and the inauguration of a greater evangelistic movement for the finishing of the work in all the world, therefore,

Voted, (1) That we, the representatives of the work in the Inter-American Division, believing this call to a deeper spiritual life on the part of our ministry, and to a supreme effort to carry the Message of a soon-coming Saviour to the millions living in our territory is a call from God, do hereby pledge our whole-hearted response to the appeal of the General Conference leadership for a great forward movement in evangelism, and for a personal consecration of our lives to God for the finishing of the work in this generation; and

FURTHER, Recognizing the responsibility of our ministerial forces to care for our own believers, to work for the salvation of our youth, and to support our work in mission lands; and

FURTHERMORE, Knowing that we cannot shirk the equal responsibility of carrying the Message to those in our own conferences and missions who are yet unwarned, and believing that not only our ministry, but also our entire membership, should be aroused and pressed into soul-saving endeavor, we do here and now dedicate our lives anew to this great undertaking,

(2) That the union and local conference and mission committees give earnest study to the matter of relieving their officers so that during certain periods of the year these officers can engage definitely in the work of conducting public efforts.

(3) That conference and mission committees be encouraged to give all their evangelistic force opportunity to do aggressive field work rather than to concentrate on only a few workers.

(4) That each conference president or mission superintendent study carefully the work of each laborer engaged in pastoral or departmental work, helping him to organize his work and budget his time so as to provide, where possible, for definite periods during the year when evangelistic efforts can be conducted.

(5) That in places where church buildings are located, but where the membership is dwindling, strong efforts be conducted in a supreme endeavor to revive and re-establish such churches.

(6) That every church be organized for a systematic distribution of our message-filled literature, encouraging the church members to follow up every interest thus created; and if the interest grows to the extent that the services of a conference or mission worker are required, conference or mission committees be urged to give such places the preference in planning for their evangelistic work.

(7) That we encourage every minister to organize a select class of lay members, teaching them how to give simple Bible readings and leading them out in actual field service. That in every church the old-style cottage meetings be revived, and our workers be encouraged to open their doors for such work.

(8) That as a forerunner of strong evangelistic efforts for the early months of 1932, we ask our churches, as finances will permit, to make January a BIG TRACT MONTH by a systematic distribution of tracts, *Present Truth*, or such literature as is available.

Eighth Meeting

The evening session was opened by singing "It pays to serve Jesus." Prayer was offered by Pastor W. R. Elliott.

Colombia-Venezuela Union Report

Pastor H. E. Baasch, superintendent of the Colombia-Venezuela Union, gave his report. When the division was organized there were no believers in Colombia, so we were cheered by the report that there are now over 400, and in the Colombia-Venezuela Union 724 baptized members with 1,025 in the Sabbath schools. Experiences were related showing how honest souls in Colombia are seeking for truth. The prayer of one such seeker is as follows: "Divine angel, that I may understand thy grace, I pray give me light that I may worship thee in truth." Upon hearing this truth he accepted it. In the city of Barranquilla, Colombia, there is a growing interest in the Message. Recently in Cartagena the first believers were baptized. In Bogota, two members of the church have recently given \$6,000 toward the erection of a church building. Surely the Message is gripping hearts in that republic where for hundreds of years the people have been blinded by traditions.

Publishing Department

We listened to an interesting review of our publishing work by Brother W. A. Bergherm, who has recently taken charge of this department of our work in the division. In Haiti, Mexico, Colombia, and other places the colporteurs with our truth-filled literature have opened the work of giving the Message. Many of the high government officials

receive a knowledge of our truth through our literature. Many are rejoicing in the Message as the results of our colporteur work. Brother Olson, who came to Mexico a short time ago, has between 25 and 30 keeping the Sabbath as the result of his work. We have had an average of 135 colporteurs; but this is not more than half the number we should have, for we are told that if it were not for the efforts of the faithful colporteur many could never hear the warning.

Ninth Meeting

Prayer was offered by Brother F. L. Harrison, and Pastor Evans read from the third chapter of First Corinthians. The spiritual man is alive to all true values. In giving the gospel to the world, the planter and the waterer are one; but each of us will be paid for his own work. No reward is given for position, but the rewards will be given according to the souls won for the kingdom of God. One builds the foundation; it remains for another to build on this foundation. "Let every man take heed how he builds."

After the ten minute intermission the council was led in prayer by Brother C. E. Andross, and the committee on plans submitted the following further partial report:

Call for Literature

Voted, To request the home missionary secretary of the division to keep our denominational papers in the United States supplied with frequent notices of requests for free literature, such as the *Review*, *Instructor*, *Signs*, *Watchman*, *Present Truth*, *Little Friend*, *Life and Health*, etc., of either current or back issues, for our English speaking fields in this division, emphasizing constantly the desirability of all such literature being mailed or shipped to the conference or mission office address rather than to private individuals, and giving with such notices the office addresses of the aforesaid fields.

Tenth Meeting

As usual the meeting was opened with song and prayer. The minutes of two previous meetings were read and approved, after which the time was given to a careful study of our educational problems; and a working policy, designed to unify and co-ordinate the educational work in the various unions and local fields throughout the division, was adopted by the council.

Eleventh Meeting

The morning devotional hour was opened with singing, after which Brother C. L. Stilson offered prayer.

John 13:15 and Romans 13:8 were the texts chosen by Pastor Evans for the service: "I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you." "Owe no man anything, but to love one another." If a man has lost his love for humanity, he is no more fitted for the ministry. If he loves himself more than he loves man, he can not keep the last six commandments.

If he loves himself more than he loves God, he can not keep the first four commandments. Love is the keeping of the law. "Love worketh no ill." Love seeketh to please. This love and the value placed on our service to God is illustrated by the incident of the poor widow giving her two mites into the treasury. God accepts service to Him because that service is prompted by love.

After a brief intermission at the close of the beautiful lesson on love, the secret of acceptable service, the business session of the council was opened with prayer by Pastor H. J. Edmed. The study of educating our youth for service was again resumed and various recommendations were passed to outline more fully the line of advance in our educational work.

Sabbath

Friday evening as the sun was touching the western horizon, the friends attending the division council joined the members of the division family in their usual Friday evening vespers. Together we welcomed the sacred hours of the Sabbath. After an inspiring song service and a season of earnest prayer Pastor H. J. Edmed gave a very appropriate and helpful study on the faith of Jesus.

On Sabbath many of the churches near enjoyed the rare treat of having one or more of these leading workers with them. Pastor I. H. Evans spoke to the English church in Panama City. Again at sunset the members of the council met with the division family in vespers, bidding farewell to a Sabbath that had been crowded with many blessings. Then came a busy evening in committee work.

Twelfth Meeting

After Pastor E. J. Lorntz offered prayer at the morning devotional service, Pastor Evans took his text from Hebrews 11:6, emphasizing the fact that we can not serve God acceptably without faith. It is the purpose of God that this people shall be the mightiest people in accomplishments and in examples of faith that there are in the whole wide world. We are not confined in our power to our training or position, but the Holy Spirit is present in the world to connect with the servants of God to give pentecostal power if we have pentecostal faith. We have power in proportion to our faith. From Isaiah 44:24 and 26 was drawn the thought that God performeth the counsel of His messengers. The success of our work is not dependent upon material things. Zeal, faith and confidence make men mighty and irresistible.

After a brief recess, the council was called together by song. Pastor Ogden offered prayer. One of the first topics for discussion was the illness of Pastor D. A. Parsons, former superintendent.

dent of the Mexican Union, whom we have missed greatly in this council. Earnest prayers were offered by Pastors Evans and Elliott in behalf of our fellow worker, and the following action was taken:

Voted, That the chairman and the secretary send to Pastor D. A. Parsons, a message assuring him of our prayers and sympathy in this time of illness.

Thirteenth Meeting

"Onward Christian Soldiers" was sung before Elder C. E. Wood offered prayer for guidance during the afternoon session. The following recommendations were passed:

Uniting of Gulf and Sierra Missions

Voted, That the missions of Gulf and Sierra Madre in the Mexican Union be united temporarily into one mission, and that it be under the direction of the leader of the Gulf Mission.

Training School for Mexican Union

Voted, That we approve of the plan of the Mexican Union Mission to establish and equip a training school for our youth in Mexico, as fast as funds are available.

Fourteenth Meeting

Mexican Union Report

The evening service was opened by singing and we were led in prayer by Brother Homer Stilson. Brother Wood rendered a very interesting report of the work in the Mexican Union. In that field there are 224 churches and companies, and at the close of the third quarter there was a baptized membership of 1,920 with 4,257 in the Sabbath schools. A day school has recently been opened in Mexico City where it is hoped that young people may be trained to give the Message. Already a number of companies have been raised up as a result of the work done by our young people sent out into the mountainous districts where they stay about three months, teaching the children during the day and giving the Message to adults in the evenings and on the Sabbath. A dispensary has been opened in Puebla and a small dispensary is being erected in Mexico City. Effort is being made to secure permission for the entrance of an American doctor, but if this is impossible it is hoped that a very successful work can be carried on through the doctors in Mexico who have shown a friendly attitude toward our medical work. Eighty-two colporteurs are giving the Message through the printed page in the Mexican Union and as they go from door to door many are being won to the gospel.

Educational Department

Professor Adams gave a report of the educational work throughout the division. In our school work we have many problems such as organization, course of study, industries and finance, but one of the most difficult problems we have to face is that of the church school.

Within the division there are located six training schools, two for the English-speaking young people, one for the French, and three for the Spanish. Professor Adams assures us there is no reason for discouragement. Our system of education is of the Lord, and it is competent for all our needs when we live up to its demands.

Fifteenth Meeting

To open the morning service we sang "When the Roll is Called up Yonder," and were led in prayer by Pastor E. J. Lorntz. Pastor Evans read from Hebrews 11, and dwelt on the subject of faith, citing as examples for us Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Joseph and Moses. Abraham lived one hundred years in the land the Lord had given him, yet he was a stranger and had no home. He waited patiently, knowing that the Lord would fulfil His promise. We sometimes lose faith because we do not see things happen as we feel they should, but God is shaping the affairs of this world according to His own plan. Joseph's one desire upon his deathbed was that his bones should be carried into the land of promise. If these men could keep their faith for 250 years under the most trying circumstances, why should we lose faith in the Message we have preached and believed? "The just shall live by faith."

Prayer was offered by W. A. Berg-herm when the council session opened at 9:10 A. M. after a short intermission. Recommendations dealing with various phases of the work were adopted.

Sixteenth Meeting

After we were led in prayer by Pastor C. E. Andross, the time of the evening service was given to Pastors L. V. Cleaves and H. J. Edmed to make reports from their fields. We were cheered as we were made to realize how the Lord is working upon the hearts of the honest people of Venezuela and Jamaica, and laying the burden of lost men upon the laity in our different churches. To close, we sang "Send the Light."

Seventeenth Meeting

"Jesus, Lover of my Soul" was sung before Pastor H. J. Edmed led us in prayer at the opening of the morning service. Brother Evans used several texts during the hour's service, stressing our responsibility in holding those who are won to this Message. Every soul that goes out of the church is somebody's loss. God holds us responsible. The aim of every worker in this cause should be to win all he can for the kingdom of God and to save all he wins.

At 9:10 A. M. the council session opened with prayer by Pastor L. V. Cleaves, and among the recommendations passed the following are of general interest:

Bible Institutes

Whereas, There is a great need of increasing the efficiency of our ministry and our church officers in their appointed work, therefore,

We recommend and urge, That all our conferences and missions, as far as funds will permit, hold Bible Institutes and district meetings to train our workers for greater soul-winning service.

Members of Attainment

WHEREAS, We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy that "we have nothing to fear for the future except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history," therefore,

We recommend, 1. That an earnest effort be made to get all our young people and other church members to become members of Attainment as soon as possible.

2. That we provide an advanced Standard of Attainment for such as have already reached the requirements of the present Standard of Attainment plan.

3. That this Advanced Standard of Attainment in the English language require the passing of a written test on "Daniel and the Revelation," "Great Controversy," "Story of the Advent Message" and "How to Give Bible Readings;" also the giving of twelve Bible readings; the selling of ten small books or fifty papers, and reaching the personal Harvest Ingathering goal for the current year.

4. That the Advanced Standard of Attainment in Spanish require the passing of a written test in "Porvenir Decifrado," "Great Controversy," "The Advent Movement" and "The Art of Giving Bible Readings;" also the same practical work as outlined in "3."

5. That the certificate to be granted for successfully completing this course be signed by the union and local conference or mission presidents or superintendents as well as by the union and local conference or mission Missionary Volunteer secretaries.

Provision for Attainment Certificates

WHEREAS, The General Conference Missionary Volunteer Department has informed us that each division will be responsible for providing its own Standard of Attainment certificates, therefore,

We recommend, That we endeavor to join with other Spanish and French speaking areas in their production.

Missionary Volunteer Goals

Whereas, It seems a good plan to set before our young people a definite goal of attainment for the year,

We recommend, That for 1932 our Missionary Volunteers in Inter-America be asked to reach the following goal:

- 7,000 Members in our M. V. Societies
- 5,000 Morning Watch Observers
- 1,200 Bible Year Certificates
- 1,000 Reading Course Certificates
- 500 Standard of Attainment Certificates
- 1,000 Young people converted and baptized
- 80 Percent reporting membership
- 50 Papers and tracts per capita

Gift Books

WHEREAS, The gift books offered for the completion of the reading of the Testimonies or the volumes of the Spirit of Prophecy Reading Course are quite expensive, and also, since they can be offered only to our English-speaking youth,

We recommend, 1. That this plan be extended also to the Spanish-speaking youth.

2. That the gift books be less expensive.

3. That the Spanish Spirit of Prophecy course consist of "Patriarchs and Prophets," "Acts of the Apostles," "Great Controversy," "Ministry of Healing" and "Christian Service."

Literature for Youth

WHEREAS, Our juniors are to have a part in the finishing of God's great work on earth, and realizing the need of literature, first to help

fit them for this work, and secondly for them to use in their personal work among their young friends,

We recommend, That some plan be laid immediately for beginning to supply this great need in our field.

Church Missionary Organization

WHEREAS, There is vital need of fostering in every consistent way a missionary spirit and zeal for soul winning in the hearts of all our members; and

WHEREAS, Such work can be done successfully only when the missionary leaders of the church have frequent opportunity to stress the importance of this work and to keep before the church the plans and methods best suited for carrying on this endeavor,

We recommend, 1. That the plan of conducting the ten-minute missionary service be continued in all the churches where considered advisable.

2. That this service be held strictly within the limits of the time specified, special care being taken to see that it is not allowed to interfere with the Sabbath morning service.

3. That this service not be made in any way a part of the Sabbath school program, either as to the use of time or organization, during the regular Sabbath school period, but that it commence only after the Sabbath school exercises are closed in accordance with the recommendations of the Sabbath School Department; and that the Sabbath school shall not in any way encroach on the ten-minute period, but that it likewise close promptly on time.

We recommend, That the church be left free, after the Sabbath school is closed in accordance with recommendations of the Sabbath School Department, to form bands for missionary endeavor by any method that may seem best adapted to the needs of the church.

In order that the regular preaching service may begin at 11:00 o'clock,

We recommend, That our Sabbath schools commence not later than 9:30 A. M.

WHEREAS, It is desirable to have a uniform plan of reporting home missionary work in the division, therefore,

We recommend, That the individual report weekly to the church, the church report monthly to the conference or mission, the conference or mission report quarterly to the union and the union report quarterly to the division.

Eighteenth Meeting

After prayer by Professor W. L. Adams, we again had the privilege of listening to reports from two of the local fields. Pastor C. E. Andross told of the remarkable providences of God's work in the South Caribbean Conference, where hundreds have been won to the truth during the last year. Then followed an interesting report by Pastor E. J. Lorntz of the splendid work that has been done in the Panama Conference. We were especially interested in his story of gathering the first fruits among the Guaymi Indians, where we now have a church of more than thirty members.

Nineteenth Meeting

The morning service was opened by the singing of the song, "The Old Rugged Cross," after which Pastor Elliott led the workers in earnest prayer. Pastor Finster gave a brief report of the Ministerial Association. The aim of the Ministerial Association is the making of a strong ministry. This last Message, which is to seal the destiny of every soul, should be a strong incentive for every worker to make his labors as effective as possible. After a brief intermission, the following recommendations were passed:

Ministerial Reading Courses

Voted, That the following recommendations from the Ministerial Association be adopted:

WHEREAS, A minister who ceases to read manifestly ceases to grow, be he young or old, and as never before "the time demands an intelligent, educated ministry, not novices," (Vol. 7) and,

WHEREAS, The Ministerial Association Advisory Council has selected the following Reading Course books for the year 1932:

"Geological-Ages Hoax"
 "Lectures on Revivals of Religion"
 "The Epistle to the Ephesians"
 "Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students"
 and

WHEREAS, The General Conference Committee at its Fall Council in 1931 adopted the above Reading Course books for all our ministers and workers,

We recommend, To all our English-reading workers these books for the year 1932: [An elective from a list to be announced by the association secretary may be substituted for one of the regular books.]

WHEREAS, There has been arranged a Ministerial Reading Course in Spanish,

We recommend, To all our Spanish-reading workers the following books:

"*El Conflicto de los Siglos*"
 "*Historia Compendiada de la Iglesia Cristiana*"
 "*Obreiros Evangélicos*"
 "*Cómo Traer los Hombres a Cristo*"

Closing the Council

There are many items of interest for which there is not room in this paper. But the principal ones of general interest are here being spread before you and others will be called to your attention later. As the council drew to a close it seemed fitting to express our appreciation of the excellent help rendered by Pastor Evans. In those closing hours our leaders also remembered our dear young people and their problems: Hence the following recommendations were passed:

Special Efforts for Youth

WHEREAS, In these days of peril and perplexity many of our youth are being drawn away from the fold, and

WHEREAS, Many of our youth are facing serious perplexity in regard to Sabbath keeping while struggling to make a livelihood,

We recommend, That our youth and their problems be made special subjects for earnest prayer, for sympathetic study, and for such help as it is possible to give them.

Pastor Evans' Help

Voted, That we pass to the General Conference an expression of our appreciation of the presence of Pastor Evans at our Council.

Adjourned.

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

FROM OUR UNION LEADERS

REPORT OF ANTILLIAN UNION

The work in the Antillian Union is making encouraging progress. We are endeavoring to foster all lines of work, for we ever remember that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

We have an army of youth and children for whom we are doing something in our schools and through our Missionary Volunteer Department, yet the results are far short of our desires. Our colporteurs, notwithstanding the serious financial conditions, are placing thousands of dollars worth of literature in the homes of the people. The activities of our membership in home missionary endeavors are commendable. Some of our fields have a record of more than one hundred percent reporting missionary work. The Sabbath school member-

ship has passed eleven thousand, and their zeal is manifest in the large number showing perfect records in attendance and daily study. During the first six months of this year there was a net increase in Sabbath school membership of 1,036.

During the three years, 1928-1930, there have been 2,656 baptisms, with a net increase in membership of 1,939 for the same period of time—bringing the church membership to more than seven thousand. In the year 1930 there were 804 persons baptized. We expect to baptize at least one thousand during 1931. Since the beginning of 1928 we have erected more than forty church buildings in our island field.

Our people throughout the union are loyally supporting the work financially,

—a large percent of the membership being very faithful in the matter of returning to the Lord's treasury the tithe and mission offerings.

There have been only a few changes in the personnel of workers throughout our field. We are developing a strong leadership in the various fields of the union. We feel that a continuity of effort is a great help in building up in a strong way the work throughout the field. Our policy has been to help and strengthen men in the various positions of responsibility rather than to change them frequently. We believe that our policy should ever be of a constructive nature. From every view point, we have reason for encouragement in the Lord's work.

A. R. OGDEN.
Havana, Cuba.

PROGRESS IN CARIBBEAN UNION

A review of the work in the Caribbean Union for the first three quarters of the year 1931 has led us to exclaim "What hath God wrought!" His blessings have fallen on the whole field, and in every place our workers have seen the Spirit of God going before them and accomplishing far more than we had thought possible.

Not that the tithe and offerings have been increased, for they have not. Our tithe shows a loss of almost one thousand dollars, and our Sabbath school and other offerings also show a loss. This is not as it should be, and we all regret these losses, and trust something can be done to bring them up to the level of former years; but the blessings of God have rested upon the workers as they have gone into the field to win men and women to Christ, and the Spirit of God is going before them and opening up interests in new places. In the three quarters of the year now past, 523 persons have been baptized and added to the church membership. At the end of September our total membership in the union was 4,426, a net gain of 402. By conferences our baptisms are as follows: French West Indian Mission 18, Guiana 23, Leeward Islands 210, and the South Caribbean 272. There are good prospects that more will be baptized in the last three months of the year than in the quarter just preceding.

An evangelistic effort is being held in Georgetown, British Guiana. Brother Coon is leading out, and is assisted by Pastor Carrington and Brother A. T. King. The attendance has been good, and they report the interest to be the best they have ever seen in any effort. More than 400 have signed the covenant to keep the commandments of God, and they have more than 500 persons on their visiting list. There is a good prospect that more than 200 will be

baptized out of the effort. Pastor A. A. Carscallen has just arrived in Guiana to take charge of the work in that field, and he will be a great help to the brethren in binding off the interest they have.

Brother W. H. Atherly is now directing the work in the French Islands, and we hope that a great harvest awaits our effort in those islands. Brother Atherly is endeavoring to get some colporteurs to sell our good books up there, and already reports are coming in.

Our colporteur work is making progress in all the fields, and more orders have been taken in nine months of this year than for the entire year of 1930. Good success is crowning the efforts of the colporteurs in Guiana, and Brother Manoram is trying to find men to canvass down in Dutch and French Guiana. He hopes to get that work started very soon.

The wonderful success that has attended the efforts to win men in the Caribbean Union this year leads us to believe that a new day has dawned upon the work of evangelism, and that we shall see still more wonderful things accomplished in 1932. Let us all pray our Heavenly Father to continue to bless the work and workers.

W. R. ELLIOTT.

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

GREETINGS FROM THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION

We are glad to say that as workers in Central America we face the future with confidence in God, believing that we can trust ourselves fully in His hands in this time of world perplexity. And we are praying that He will accept our renewed consecration and enable us to do exploits for Him which will result in the winning of many more souls than have ever been won in Central America.

Many of our workers are laboring daily amid real dangers. This morning's

paper tells of a revolution in Salvador. We had hoped this field would go through the year without having to pass through an experience of this kind. While we have not heard from our people since this trouble, we have confidence to believe that the Lord has cared for them just as He has amid similar circumstances in other countries of Central America during the year. We wish to thank Him for His protection, and we believe that these experiences will be a blessing to the work for the public are asking what these things mean.

During the first nine months of this year more have been baptized in the different fields of this union than during the entire year of 1930, and we have more than 200 in baptismal classes. Brother Olson from Salvador writes that he expects to baptize twenty more before the end of the year and the same word comes from Guatemala. We have learned that Pastor Ishmael Ellis, who is back among the Indians in Panama, baptized eleven last week and will baptize more in a few days. Among those just baptized are men of influence and means. He is waiting the coming of Brother Lorntz for the organizing of the second church among the Indians. Pastor C. C. Ellis, in the city of Colon, is conducting an effort with a large attendance. Several have already taken their stand for the truth. Just recently Pastor Dunn baptized several new believers in San Jose, Costa Rica, and is now beginning an effort in Limon. Brother Larson up in Tegucigalpa is getting ready for an effort in that city in the near future. Within a few weeks efforts will be under full sway in every field in the union. We want you to pray with us that the Lord will make 1932 the banner year thus far in souls won for the Master.

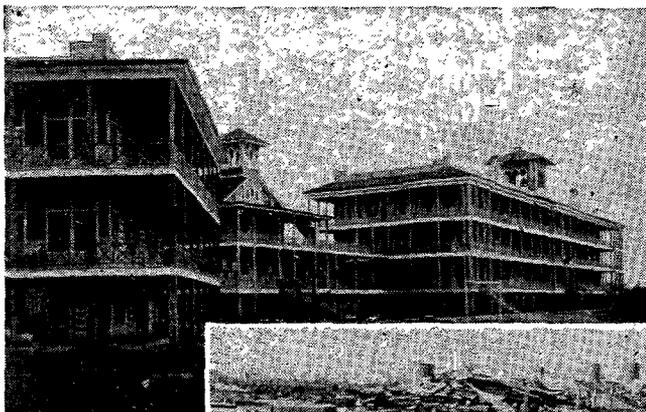
W. E. BAXTER.

San Jose, Costa Rica.

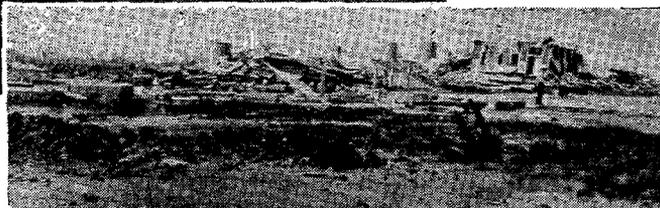
COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA MARCHES ONWARD

The year 1931 has been a blessed year. Not only has it seen notable advances in Colombia, but as we part with it, we take with us rich promises for its successor, 1932. It is not very long since there were only a few Adventists in the republic. Today there are believers in ten states making a total of about 450.

During 1931 new companies have sprung up in Zarzal, Malaga, Bucaramanga, La Torna, Cartagena, and Cienaga. Space does not permit my relating the wonderful conversions that took place. Brother Kinzer baptized a brother who in years past was a priest of the Catholic church. I had the privilege of baptizing several who had been redeemed from drunkenness.



A view of St. Johns College at Belize, Honduras before and after the hurricane. The school property was appraised at \$300,000; now it is a heap of ruins



One of our boys has three scholarships to his credit. Others are canvassing with the purpose of going to school.

Bogotá has at last a resident missionary, Brother Chester Westphal. He and his wife arrived in August.

At present Brother Westphal is holding meetings in Bogotá; Brother Kinzer, in Cali; Brother Trummer, in Ocaña; and Brethren M. Valdes, Peralta and Tirso Escandón, in Barranquilla.

Colombia is laying hold upon God's Message. Her sons and daughters, reborn in Jesus, are marching onward! And who can stay them?

Cheering progress can also be reported in Venezuela. This year excellent fruit has been gathered where Brother Lopez sowed the seeds of truth years ago,—and did it at the cost of his life. So we are facing the future with courage and are determined to attempt greater things for God and expect greater things from Him. H. E. BAASCH.
Medellin, Colombia.

GOOD NEWS FROM MEXICO

There were 303 baptisms in Mexico during the first nine months of this year (1931); and the number at present in baptismal classes in the various missions gives promise that four hundred will be added to the church before the close of 1931. A significant feature of this increase in membership is the fact that it is largely the result of missionary activity of the lay members in the church. In the State of Guerrero fourteen companies testify to this missionary zeal. The latest report from this district is that a minister and his entire congregation have accepted the Message as a result of the minister's having read one book sold to him by a colporteur.

We evidently have reached the time when we may expect to see rapid movements in the developments of our work. A young girl, who spent only three months in the Mexico City school, preparing to engage in rural school work, and who provided for her school expenses by selling literature, recently went to labor among the Totonaca Indians. At Puente Ixtla, where she started her school, there were a few believers meeting in a mud hut. She secured a more suitable location in the city, made the benches for the school herself, and began her work—teaching during the day and giving Bible studies in the evening. Brother Moon, the superintendent of the mission, visited that place three months after this teacher started her work, and he found twenty-one persons ready for baptism. He says that those candidates were the best instructed of any he had found in his work in Mexico. These rural teachers receive only about four dollars a month, but they are accomplishing wonders and God is greatly blessing their sacrificing work.

In Tehuantepec ten new Sabbath schools and fifteen new churches were organized during the first seven months of 1931. In Yucatan also the work is developing rapidly, and there are now thirty-six companies in that mission. Brother Dinius, the superintendent, reports having baptized two Koreans during the last month. The work is making rapid progress in this field notwithstanding the fact that in one section our believers are forbidden to meet in their Sabbath schools.

One worker has adopted the Waldensian method of preaching the gospel. Through the occupation of a travelling salesman, he is able to get in touch with

the people; and when he finds some who manifest an interest, he takes out his Bible and teaches them the truth. A recent law forbids our colporteurs, under a penalty of a fine of 500 pesos, to sell literature in Yucatan. But with all these restrictions a wonderful movement is developing.

The harvest truly is ripe in Mexico; and while the laborers are few and the appropriations greatly decreased for 1932, we believe that God will make up for the lack by giving increased power to those who are willing to co-operate with Him in the great work of winning souls. C. E. WOOD.

Mexico City, Mexico.

Departmental Reports

OUR EDUCATIONAL WORK

One of the chief purposes for maintaining our system of schools is that the students may learn the lesson of self-control. It is a fundamental principle that those who do not know how to control themselves must learn to submit to the control of others whose authority it is to control.

When I arrived in the field, we had no union secretaries for our department, and in only a few fields did we have any local help. Miss Peake, the normal director formerly of the college in Jamaica, did some very good work in looking after the church school work of that field, but not very much could be done with the heavy teaching load already on her shoulders. Brother Prince, of Puerto Rico, is doing what he can for the church school work in that field. We are glad for what these persons can do while we are trying to get a more perfect organization. Aside from these we had no one in the field who was giving any definite care and direction to the educational work.

We have now made a little beginning in this direction. Brother House, who is the principal of the school in Mexico City, is looking after the work of the educational department as well as he can with his local problems. Professor Hahn, who was formerly the principal of the school on the Canal Zone, is now secretary of the educational and Missionary Volunteer work in the Central American Union. Mrs. Baasch is appointed to act as secretary of the educational work for the Colombia-Venezuela Union. In the Caribbean Union, they have at this time no church school work. Professor Hamilton, the principal of the Training School, is appointed to look after the educational interests of the union. Naturally he will be unable to do very extensive field work. For the work of the Antillian Union, Professor Harold Isaac, who has had a

number of years of experience in the South American fields as well as in the United States, has been appointed to the work of the secretary of the educational and Missionary Volunteer Departments.

We are glad for a beginning of field organization of the educational work. When we are able to get a full corps of secretaries for these unions who can give their time to the building up of the work, we shall be able to get better results. Such investment will greatly strengthen the work of our schools.

One of the most difficult problems we have to face is that of the church school. Because we have not had strong normal work in our training schools, our teachers do not know the teaching process as they ought. We trust that in the near future we may have a competent corps of teachers for these church schools.

Much remains to be done to get our schools up to the standards which we have in mind. In order to obtain these results, much closer supervision of the work must be obtained. As we get these secretaries into the field, we can have institutes and meetings for teachers where we can give them some of these things. The course of study adopted by the division for our English-speaking church schools, and which we hope to have for the Spanish in the near future, will be a great blessing to the children and the teachers.

Our training schools are getting their courses of study pretty well outlined, and by degrees are getting better results. We must continue to raise the standards until the education obtained in our schools will be fully up to the best standards of the field. This aim is not too high. The best assurance for the future of our schools is to give a standard of training that cannot be repudiated. It should not be our aim to get official recognition from the public

school system, but we can do our work in such a manner that our students can take any examination to which they wish to submit themselves. In some of our schools this is being done, and our students do their work with credit.

Our system of education is of the Lord, and it is competent for all our needs when we live up to its demands. There is no foundation for the supposition that our system of schools is not up to standard, or that it is inferior. If any failure comes, it is not because of the plan, but a failure to follow it. Our past experience in many lands has amply justified us in these positions.

There is no reason for discouragement. Shall we not return to our fields to encourage our people to place their children and youth in these schools where the influences of the world will not draw them into its vortex? May the Lord bless the leadership of these fields, as well as those who are giving themselves to the work of these schools in a direct way, so that we may save the youth of the denomination to the cause of God.

W. L. ADAMS.

HOME MISSIONARY WORK FOR 1930

In the splendid results achieved in soul-winning in the Inter-American Division during the year 1930, the laymen's efforts had no small part. Of the 1,755 baptisms during the year, 1,043 (60%) were reported as those who had their minds first called to this Message by the lay members. In many places large churches have been raised up by our lay members.

In Mexico 150 have been baptized from the labors of Sister Hernandez. Several churches and Sabbath schools have been organized as a result of her work. The largest church in the Tehuantepec Mission is the fruit of a work started by an Indian woman, Sister Simeona Sulveran. The large church at Minatitlan, whose members have raised up no less than ten near-by Sabbath schools and churches, was started by a plumber, Cornelio Aquino. The largest church in the state of Puebla, at Huayapam, was raised up largely through the missionary work of Antonio Ramirez, a storekeeper in the city.

Of the ten churches in Nicaragua five were started by the laity. The truth was first started in Bluefields by a lay brother from Jamaica. The work in Puerto Cabezas and Yulu Wawa was begun by Brother Brooks' family.

At a conference meeting in Panama a question was asked how many there had accepted the truth from lay members and it was found that nearly one-half of the congregation held up their hands.

In Colombia a man read "Heralds of the Morning" and after accepting the truth returned to his home in Malaga to work for his friends. We now have a church of thirty-five members there.

In Venezuela where Brother Rafael Lopez was killed while canvassing, we now have two churches and one company as the result of his seed-sowing. A shoemaker, while working at his trade, has been able to raise up a church of twelve members.

In Trinidad and British Guiana we have many churches which first heard

Intellectual and Soul Culture for the Ministry

The minister of the gospel must cultivate all his God-given faculties. Especially should those who have the last Message of mercy to give to the world feel duty bound to make their ministry the most efficient possible. There is no limit to the culture of the many faculties which the minister must exercise. With a constant drain upon his knowledge, and in view of the endless changes taking place in this world, the minister of the gospel needs continually to improve his mental and spiritual powers.

The Ministerial Reading Course is an aid to the intellectual and soul culture of the minister. The General Conference has recommended a well-balanced course to all gospel workers who read English. The Inter-American Division has recommended a Reading Course to those who read Spanish. The following books have been recommended for the English course.

"Geological Ages Hoax," by G. M. Price.

"Lectures on Revivals of Religion," by Chas. G. Finney.

"The Epistle to the Ephesians," by G. G. Findlay.

"Councils to Parents, Teachers, and Students," by Ellen G. White.

A choice of one of nine very valuable volumes are also listed for those who wish to read an elective book instead of one of the above books.

The following books have been recommended for the Spanish workers:

"El Conflicto de los Siglos."

"Historia Comprendida de la Iglesia Cristiana."

"Obreros Evangelicos."

"Permaneced en Cristo."

Every worker should have these books in his library. The courses are well balanced. Some of the books will bear re-reading, a fact that can seldom be stated concerning books as a whole. We heartily invite all our ministers and other workers with their wives to participate in the Reading Courses for the year 1932.

L. V. FINSTER.

this Message from lay members. At Barbados the lay members are literally on fire with this Message, and hundreds are now rejoicing in this truth through their efforts. A young man in Grenada, who was asked to be chairman of a debating club, started Bible studies and soon turned the debating club into a Bible club.

In Haiti, as the result of the work of our lay members, we now have a church of sixty members and about 140 believers. Two young girls of the Limbe church went to a near-by village and started Bible meetings. Soon a company of thirty was organized.

In Jamaica our lay members are very active. Pastor Edmed writes that "if we had a score more workers they could be used in visiting only the groups that have been raised up by our lay members and colporteurs."

One of the largest baptisms ever held in Cuba was the result of a laborer who was working in a sugar mill. Brother Sype writing from the Bahamas says, "About all we have in this field is our laymen, so what they do not do has to wait a long time to be done." Many other instances could be cited showing what our laity are doing in carrying this Message to the world.

The work of the lay members last year as compared with the previous year is very encouraging. In 1929 there were 180,013 Bible readings and cottage meetings held. In 1930 there were 375,252 such meetings held. The judgment only will reveal this work for God. May every member be faithful in doing what he can while we have opportunity to work.

L. V. FINSTER.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS

As the humble fishermen sat at the feet of the Master till from their lives there flowed streams of influence that have coursed through all subsequent time, transforming the lives of men and women in all lands, so our young people, with their limited facilities, are going forth from their humble abodes, doing exploits for the Master Whom they are endeavoring to serve and to know better from day to day.

Sometimes when a report comes in that is not so cheering, I find much comfort in a little interview with the pages of our record book that tell in figures the story of the onward march of the Missionary Volunteer work in Inter-America. Really, it is quite remarkable to realize that since this department began to function in this division, the young people in this widely scattered field have been coming into the organization at the rate of 500 every year, and 350 of these have been reporting members. Each year has seen an average of 530 young people baptized and added to the church, which since the beginning of 1924 makes an army 3,721 strong. We thank God who has blessed the laborers in gathering in so many sheaves.

But even more encouraging than the growth in numbers is the soul-winning work of these young people. Through

these years our division Missionary Volunteer force has been running about 7% of the world army of Missionary Volunteers. But in 1928 the Inter-American Missionary Volunteers made 15% of the missionary visits, gave 15% of the Bible readings, did 12% of the Christian help work; but as if growing weary in well-doing distributed only 3% of the papers and tracts. In 1929 our young people quickened their pace a little with a record of 22% in missionary visits, 26% in Bible readings, 10% in Christian help work and 4% in papers and tracts distributed. Then last year the world survey of Missionary Volunteer activity gave the Inter-American Volunteers credit for 25% of the missionary visits, 28% of all Bible readings, 12% of the Christian help work, but only 3% of the papers and tracts distributed.

This shows real earnestness in rescuing the perishing. And sometimes it seems that our young people, generally speaking, are more willing to press forward in service than in studying to show themselves approved as workmen that needeth not to be ashamed. Many it seems have not acquired a love of good books nor learned how to study. However, marvelous results are seen where earnest, enthusiastic leadership is provided and continued long enough for plans to mature into gratifying results. Below are a few figures that will help us to grasp more easily than words the splendid work of our young people in self-improvement lines. Our 1930 certificate records are as follows:

Union	Bible Year	Reading Course	Stand. Attain.	Seals
Antillian	430	125	28	23
Caribbean	442	387	59	143
Central Am.	97	73	6	0
Col.-Venezuela	68	12	4	0
Mexico	257	352	187	87
Division Totals	1,294	949	284	253

In closing, I wish first of all to thank our dear Heavenly Father for His protection, guidance and blessing which we have enjoyed as M. V. workers around the circle. Then let me assure you of my full appreciation of our earnest, faithful workers—our secretaries and all others who have worked so loyally in all fields. May God bless our dear young people and help them to fill their appointed places in His great work just now.
 MRS. E. E. ANDROSS.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Little did the early founders of the Message back in 1848 and '49 realize how great a work they were starting, when they launched that first "little paper." From that one little publication of eight pages have sprung up 219 periodicals, according to the latest information; and the combined weight of a single edition of our periodicals today

is more than 110 tons, instead of only twenty-five pounds,—the weight of the first edition of that "little paper," which was carried to the post-office in a carpet bag. No carpet bag could be found to contain our present volume of literature. In fact, we are told that it would take eight railroad coaches to carry these periodicals from the presses,—to say nothing of the great number of books being published.

Just prior to the time of the publication of that first "little paper," Sister White had prophesied through the Spirit of the Lord, that "from this small beginning it was shown me to be like streams of light that went clear around the world." How remarkably do we today see the fulfilment of this prediction! Truly, "streams of light" are now going, through our publications, "clear around the world"—even to the most remote corners of the globe.

It seems that the Message was first introduced into our Inter-American field back in 1879, when a box of books and tracts were sent from England to Haiti, simply consigned to Cape Haitien, and bearing no name. The literature in this mysterious box was turned over to the Baptist minister, and he in turn passed it on to the members of his church one Sunday morning. The literature soon began to bear fruit. A Jamaican tailor living in Haiti and a Haitian school teacher embraced the truth. Shortly after this, in the early eighties, the famous roll of *Signs* that had been handed to a sea captain in New York was thrown onto the wharves in a port in British Guiana, and resulted in the Message gaining a foothold in that field.

Since those early days colporteurs, carrying the Message in printed form, have been hastening from one republic to another and from one island to the next. They were the pioneer workers not only in Guiana, but in Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and other places. Through the years our corps of colporteurs has increased greatly. During the past year an average of 135 has been maintained as compared with 125 for 1930, and an average of 110 for 19-9. The sales in the division have been as follows:

1928	\$175,469.55
1929	190,160.29
1930	167,251.86
1931 (nine months)	125,000.00

That which interests us more than the sales is the good news that comes, telling of the many who are finding the Lord through the reading of the literature sold by our colporteurs.

In the state of Tabasco, Mexico, a colporteur sold a year's subscription to *El Centinela* to a merchant living in a small town. The next year the colporteur returned, found a good interest, and sold the merchant two books. The

third year (early in 1931) when the colporteur returned, he found the merchant and his son keeping the Sabbath, and they together had interested several near-by families. The result was the organization of a Sabbath school of eighty-six members. Word has been received from Pastor C. L. Dinius, saying that in spite of persecution that number has increased to 150.

All over the division Sabbath keepers are found in the trail of the faithful colporteur; and we thank God for what weak, human instruments can do. Our great need in this division is more consecrated men and women who will carry to those sitting in darkness, the good news of the Kingdom.

W. A. BERCHERM.

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

A certain wise person has defined the Sabbath school as "a ship for all the family to go to heaven in." And we are always glad there is no limit to the capacity or accommodation of this "ship." During the year 1930 we enlarged our "fleet" by thirty-three. The passenger list showed 2,419 new names, while 1,496 enrolled for life service by baptism. Special honors for three-months' faithfulness numbered 15,486. Those receiving decoration for a complete 12-month term numbered 1,860.

It is true that the financial increase has not shown quite as much activity as the other items in Sabbath school work, but not until the voyage is over and we are safely moored in the harbor, can we fully determine the dividing line between failure and success. It is always well to remind ourselves that God does not *measure* our gifts, but *weighs* them. We were reminded most keenly of this truth when listening to the story of a little boy in Venezuela. Twenty cents was all he possessed. In order to safeguard it for his 13th Sabbath offering, he gave it to someone else to keep for him, as 13th Sabbath was some three days distant and he was afraid he might spend this money for food. So he denied himself the necessities of life in order that he might bring an offering to the Lord on 13th Sabbath. And he brought it to Sabbath school with a smile of joy.

A word of appreciation is due the faithful members of our Home Division of the Sabbath schools in Inter-America. They gave almost two thousand dollars during 1930 and we feel sure these precious offerings were indeed heavy with love to the Master. The birthday offerings afforded \$880.24 with which to enter new territory, while the Investment Fund steadily climbed to \$1,561.23. Surely we have much to be grateful for, and everything to hope for in the future.
 VIOLA E. COOKE.

Fighting For Religious Liberty Before the

League of Nations

R. Allan Anderson

"observer" at the Conference.

Consternation is seen on the countenances of the "Reformers." It has been a heavy day. Great principles have locked horns and we watch the contest. Sometimes it seems to hang on the balance. But we leave the hall with a feeling of more or less security. God is working for us, and already the suggestion of 1933 as the date for the commencement of the new calendar seems to be abandoned even by the most ardent advocates of the reform. The year 1939 has the favor at present. We were told last night by some of the leaders of the reform that our opposition had been so strong and our propaganda so widespread that it would require years of education to counteract it. But a new recruit has come to help the cause. The delegate for the United States of Colombia is declaring himself a champion of liberty. "I am a 'free thinker,'" he says, "having left the Roman Catholic Church. But after listening to the very interesting speeches of yesterday, I take my stand and say, Leave things as they are. We saw yesterday what strong religious feelings can be aroused on this question—and the religious feelings of people are very deep. But not only with people," he continues, "for I have heard that during the French Revolution even the cattle feared to work on the seventh day."

His reference to the happenings of yesterday brings very vivid recollections of passionate appeals from the chief Rabbi and others. Those striking sentences of Pastor Maxwell revealed that God was with him. Logic, power, and passion rang out in a clarity which left nothing to be desired. His pathetic picture of the Advent believers of four hundred languages, some of whom were the most primitive of all peoples, but who were at this time appealing to the League of Nations to protect their liberties, was something that went to the hearts of over one hundred delegates and nearly as many witnesses. Pastor Longacre spoke for the Religious Liberty Association and presented some astounding facts. As the International Secretary of this Association he represented many different faiths, but all of which could unite in a common cause, i.e., the rights of minorities. The writer was granted the opportunity of presenting a special petition from our Australasian Division. It was originally intended that the Australian Common-

wealth delegate should bring it to the Conference, but owing to his appointment being cancelled, the brethren from that far-away field asked that an Australian deliver it for them. It was a courtesy on the part of the Conference to allow this, for only one speech was permitted from each organization. But it made a very deep impression that Australia regarded the issue of sufficient importance to send a special representative. "It is remarkable to see men possessing such principle in this wicked twentieth century," remarked one of the officials in the League's administration.

But I could continue at great length. The providences during these intense days have caused us to exclaim with the Psalmist, "God standeth in the congregation of the mighty." Ps. 82:1. Think of it, forty-two nations listening to Adventist preachers and then discussing the Sabbath! Surely this is "proclaiming the Sabbath more fully"!

We are in the heat of the battle. It is real. History is being made before our eyes. We realize, however, that we are only starting, for the great work will commence when we return. We shall have to face this very situation again and perhaps sooner than we expect. Some will be here again to uphold the principles of the remnant people of God. Brethren pray for us.

One closing word as this goes to post. The tide is turning. We have been granted one more speech in order to answer some false statements. Dr. Nussbaum rises and in an oration of burning eloquence he tells of the persecution he himself has endured for the Sabbath. It is a tense moment. Yes, it is the crisis of the Conference. Every ear is strained, and every eye is fixed. It seems like the Reformation of the sixteenth century. Surely God has brought our brother to the kingdom for such a time as this. The conviction is forced upon us as he resumes his seat. A round of applause expresses the sentiments of many. Then all is silent. The chairman calls for any more speakers. There are none. The discussion on that point is closed. An Adventist appeal brought it to a conclusion!

TO CONTRIBUTORS

We have on hand a number of articles awaiting publication; but as this issue is given over chiefly to the reports from the annual division council, it was impossible to give very much space to reports from the field. We are sure that all will enjoy these interesting reports from that important meeting, and that all contributors will understand why the publication of their articles has been postponed.

Geneva again is the center of world interest. Two world conferences are being held simultaneously. Economists in one hall are studying how to save time by simplifying the Calendar, while diplomats in the other hall are studying how to save China from Japanese aggression. One is in the interests of business; the other is in the interests of humanity. How cautiously they carry on this discussion between these two great Eastern powers! It means much to the world to find "a way out" and thus avert what seems to be a threatening crash of empires. What does it all mean?

We are here, at the League of Nations, during the Fourth General Conference on Communications and Transit as official "observers" for the cause of Seventh-day Adventism. But we have had opportunity to observe the League at its real work. We listen to China making her desperate appeal for help while Japan tenders her explanation of the present crisis. Great men are grave in the face of big issues. They are sitting in a half-circle round the table. Now the president of the Council rises and we hear M. Briand at his best. In his masterly way he declares that whatever the present difficulties may be they are all here to find the solution. We are breathless. It seems that the very existence of the League is at stake at this point.

But we turn back again into the other hall, for the conference had adjourned for only a short time. Our real business here is to raise a protest in the cause of the liberties of God's people and save the remnant from the attack of the dragon under the disguise of "Business." We take our places. Sir John Baldwin, the delegate for Great Britain, is addressing the conference. In his calm, deliberate manner he strikes a note of warning that brings a few minutes' silence in its wake. "Gentlemen, there are some other things to consider besides business, industry and statistics. Are not the ideals which make for humanity of greater importance? We all recognize that there are irregularities in our present calendar. I would suggest that these *may not be defects*. But dare we, in our effort to remove them, strike a deadly blow at other things more important in life?" There is a pause while we silently lift our hearts to God in thankfulness that some men present have a vision of realities. The Lord is working for us. A letter is handed to us from the Holy See, denying the right of any civil council to appoint and regulate the festival of Easter. There is a note of disdain in it as it suggests that Rome needs no

FIRST CHURCH BUILDING STILL STANDS

The very first church of this denomination still stands at Washington, New Hampshire, U. S. A. Writing of a general meeting held in this building in June, 1931, Pastor E. K. Slade says:

"At a general meeting at the old Washington, N. H. church last Sabbath, it was a great inspiration to review some of the evidences of the fulfilment of prophecy, and some of the early developments in the work. It was in this building that the few believers who worshipped here in the year 1844, took their stand for the observance of the Lord's Sabbath. The second coming of Christ had become a blessed hope to them. That was eighty-seven years ago.

"It is just one hundred years ago this year, in August, that William Miller preached the first sermon on the second coming of Christ of which we have any knowledge. He was then a member of the Baptist Church. His study in this line led to the beginning of this great and final movement that now has reached the remotest corner of the earth."

The President of the Northern New England Conference, Pastor F. D. Wells, makes this further comment:

"It is our privilege to be living and working in the territory that is called 'The Cradle of the Third Angel's Message.' Many of the old pioneers were born, reared, and preached their first sermons in one of the three states comprising this conference. A few days ago, as many of us had the privilege of visiting this old church, and listening to the same Message preached by the early pioneers, our minds reverted to years ago when those pioneers launched out by faith to carry this Message to the world. They had no organization, no money, no publishing houses, and no literature—nothing but a faith and a strong conviction that God had called them to warn a world that was doomed to destruction.

"As some of us attended the General Conference meeting last year, and saw our work of today contrasted with that small beginning, we could only say, 'What hath God wrought!'

"We glory in the fact that this Message is a success. It changes men. It is saving souls in all lands. It is doing the work that the living God sent it into the world to do. From the small Washington church we have grown till we have circled the globe. Our churches are numbered by the tens of thousands, and our workers are in every country of the world. While we count our laborers by the thousands, we are reminded of the force of Jesus' words when He said, 'The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.'"—*Australasian Record*.

"I FORGOT TO SLEEP"

Truly our colporteurs are the pioneers of the Third Angel's Message. One of these pioneers, working in the far North, in that land of the midnight sun, going in and out of the fjords of Norway, relates the following experience:

"It has been very interesting to work in this district, but there are so many who do not understand Norwegian. In a little fjord here nearly all the people could speak only Finnish. Late one Sunday I came to a fisherman who lived alone in a house far from the nearest neighbors. I canvassed him for the book, but he would not have it. I then asked if I could stay there for the night. Yes, I could stay if I would be thankful for what he had. He had to get up early next morning to go fishing,



Pastor I. H. Evans, General Vice-president of the General Conference who attended the Division Council. He has been connected with the General Conference for more than forty years having served as chairman of the Mission Board, treasurer, vice-president for the Far Eastern and North American Divisions. His wide experience in God's work made his counsel very valuable and all greatly appreciated his help. Below appears a poem which he wrote while en route to the Zone

Peace

When earth has lost its skill to assuage
my sorrow,
To quell my doubts and fears and heal
my pain;
When shadows lurk to darken my un-
known morrow—
Mocking my prayers—telling that pray-
er is vain.

I turn to Thee, wearied with earthly
seeking;
And find sweet peace that earth can
never give;
That Still Small Voice to me so gently
speaking,
"Trust Me my child, I'll teach thee
how to live."

And since I found Thee all is changed
and changing;
I'm filled with peace and hope and
conquering faith.

My vision through eternity is ranging—
My heart delights in what Thy Spirit
saith.

My fretful will is Thine to guide and
master,
My straying feet Thou'lt keep through
all the way:

Stir Thou my inmost soul to work the
faster,

As I behold the approaching judgment-
day.

I would not fail Thee, neither would I
falter;
The work assigned me, help me to do
in joy;

I offer all upon Tby service-altar.
O make me true with none of earth's
alloy.

I. H. EVANS.

but I could just stay in bed as long as I wished. I could just lock the door and put the key in a certain place, when I left. For breakfast I could take what he had put on the table, and he would not have any payment for either bed or food. Before I went to bed I gave him a copy of *Tidens Tale* (Norwegian Signs of the Times), because he did not want any other payment. Early next morning he came and awakened me and said: 'It was a very interesting paper you gave me last evening—I forgot to sleep. How much is the book you talked about last night? Let me see it.' I then gave him my book and he looked it over and ordered a copy and paid for it at once. Then he said, 'Sleep well,' and went out."—C. E. Weeks.

THREE GOOD MEETINGS

The division council closed at noon; and before the day was over the brethren who are members of the board of our inter-union school, located in San Jose, Costa Rica, sailed for that place to give further study to plans for school buildings, which Brother C. J. Foster has come to erect. Pastor Evans accompanied the members of the board to help in that important committee meeting. About a week later Brethren Evans, Andross, Harrison and Baasch returned.

The day following their arrival the Colombia-Venezuela Union committee meeting opened in the chapel of the division office in Balboa. Brethren Baasch, Ross and Steeves represented the union at that meeting; and the local fields were represented by the superintendents—Brother Cleaves from Venezuela, Brother Kinzer from the Pacific Colombia Mission and Brother Westphal from the Upper Magdalena Mission.

Finally, in this feast of good things, came the Bible institute also held in the division office. Workers in the Panama Conference as well as those attending the Colombia-Venezuela Union meeting were invited to attend. The institute was opened by a stirring Bible study by Pastor Evans. Each day was full of meetings and full of blessings; and we feel sure that great blessings have come to all as a result of thus meeting to study how to do our work for the Master in such a time as this.

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