

A PERSONAL APPEAL

By G. A. ROBERTS

If you are a member of a Seventh-day Adventist church in the Inter-American Division, we desire to make a personal appeal to you. We pray that if you are physically able to respond, you may be impressed by the Holy Spirit to heed this appeal and to enter upon God's last soul-saving work in the earth.

We are now in the days of the latter rain, when the Holy Spirit is adding divine power to the efforts of every faithful worker. We are seeing the beginning of marvelous success in all lines of our work in all parts of the earth. Every line of soul-saving endeavor is to increase in volume and in power until the work is done. This includes in a very special way the work of the literature ministry; the particular line of work that is to swell in proportion till it culminates in the loud cry that finishes the message and finally lightens the earth with the glory of God. This is the line of work above all others that is to increase in power unto the very end, for it is through the publishing houses that "in a large degree . . . is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 140.

And also, "They [our publishing houses] are among the agencies represented by the angel flying 'in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell upon the earth.'"—*Id.* p. 140.

In view of this, should not a mighty call on this matter be issued to all who are members of the Inter-American Division?

There are many ways to have a part in this important, increasing and rapidly expanding ministry. We have our

leaflets, tracts, magazines and small books for general free distribution and for sale by our church members. In this everyone can have some part. In addition we have our large books, which more exhaustively cover all phases of the message. These are the most wonderful and attractive books in the world today, because they deal with the most wonderful message ever committed to this earth.

You may never attain to the public preaching; you may never become a skilled physician to do medical ministry in its highest technical sense; you may never become a professor in educational lines; but you may become a minister of the printed page and have as high and important a work as public preaching or scientific medical ministry or the highest professional teaching. There are many barriers that prohibit men and women from entering certain lines of professional work, but there are no such barriers prohibiting the work of the literature ministry with good success.

In the matter of the ministry with our larger books, this is a line that of itself demonstrates to a man and to his brethren whether he is called and fitted for this important and holy work. Anyone can volunteer, however, and anyone who is called of God will have good success.

As proof that God is working in a special way with and for those now engaged in literature ministry in the Inter-American Division, and as an encouragement to you, to enter this work that God is now so manifestly blessing, we present the following figures for your careful consideration, showing what our colporteurs and lay members have done.

Year	No. of Colporteurs	Sales
1936	179	114,025.98 dollars of literature
1937	216	140,947.56 " " "
1938	275	190,823.62 " " "
1939	309	246,787.60 " " "

(This represents business coming through the Pacific Press Publishing Association.)

We have more than doubled our literature ministry during the past three years. We have also the following in a letter from J. H. Cochran, manager of the Pacific Press Publishing Association: "We look upon Inter-America as the best field for literature there is any where."

Truly this is the strategic time to enter God's work of literature ministry in Inter-America. We are hopeful, praying and expecting that the above figures will change rapidly in the near future, doubling again and again till they represent this:

1000 colporteurs and lay members in one year distributed 1,000,000 dollars' worth of literature.

Which year and how soon we shall reach the above record depends altogether upon how fully we respond to the call of God for service in this

JUNE 1-14

"Signs of The Times"

and

"EL CENTINELA"

CAMPAIGN

heaven-appointed method of ministry. We have no certainty as to the time we may have. The years ahead are not ours to speculate upon. Therefore we must redeem the years of the past by increased consecration, activity and success. If you are one that is called of God, you are under a solemn obligation to respond. You must not withhold your service. Those who enter this work now, will reap the benefits of the increasing success that is coming to our literature ministry.

"By withholding that which God has given us to use in His service, be it time or means or any other of His entrusted gifts, we work against Him."—*"Christ's Object Lessons,"* p. 280 (old edition).

"All who are ordained unto the life

of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellowmen."—*Idem,* p. 301.

"The work to which as Christians we are called is to co-operate with Christ for the salvation of souls. . . . To neglect the work is to prove disloyal to Christ."—*Id.,* p. 358.

"Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God."—*Id.,* p. 327.

"Every impulse of the Holy Spirit leading men to goodness and to God, is noted in the books of heaven, and in the day of God the workers through whom He has wrought will be commended."—*Id.,* p. 361.

(Continued on page 6)

about two blocks before it reached the corner where the conference office is located. It then proceeded around, bearing again toward Fourteenth St. From our lookout on the roof of the publishing house, we could see the fire leaping toward us. It seemed at times that only the hand of God could stop it. A number of buildings were dynamited at Thirteenth St., and the debris soaked with water, in an attempt to arrest the progress of the flames. The houses between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets were evacuated, in order to dynamite them if necessary. Closer and closer came the fire, so that when it got a block away we could feel its intense heat at the press building. Suddenly the fire subsided at Thirteenth St., and there the work of destruction stopped—one block away. We knew that God had heard our prayers and that He had helped the firemen to cut off the path of the flames. That was after midnight.

At least twenty entire blocks of stores and residences were completely destroyed, and approximately 12,000 people were left homeless. None of our churches were in the zone of the fire, and the conference office and the publishing houses were spared with the surrounding buildings. About 24 Seventh-day Adventist families were left homeless, some of them destitute. While the loss to the city amounted to several millions of dollars in property, the number of lives lost was very small.

The various relief organizations of the Canal Zone and Panama, particularly the United States army, have rendered effective relief to the homeless and destitute. Our local churches and the conference have been assisting in the relief work, especially caring for our needy brethren.

We are grateful to God for His mercy, and we renew our consecration to Him for more faithful service in the future.

This sinister catastrophe will doubtless awaken many a careless mind to think on God's word, and cause them to appreciate more and more the meaning of the message we publish in our literature. What has happened to this city is a sample of the many calamities which occur on land and sea in fulfillment of prophecy. Vast fortunes are reduced to ashes in a moment of time, and men are helpless to stay the work of destruction. Let us all draw nearer to God as we see His judgments falling upon the earth.

COLON'S MAJOR CATASTROPHE

By ROBERT L. ODOM

Gay Colon, Panama's second largest city, was rousing from its afternoon siesta on Sabbath, April 13, 1940, and was getting ready for its usual round of giddy, week-end pleasure and revelry. The sky was clear and of a glorious blue. A feeling of absolute security prevailed over the population as the city lazily basked in golden sunshine as brilliant as a tropical sun can make.

Somebody knocked over a small stove in a wooden, tenement building, at 5:20 p. m., on Sixth Street. The familiar sound of the squawking siren called the fire department to do its duty. The rest of the people knew nothing of the accident and cared less.

In a few minutes the whole house was a roaring furnace, from which a great column of blaze and smoke rolled skyward. While groups of curious on-lookers formed here and there, the flames quickly spread right and left, devouring everything in their path. Appeals were rushed for help from other stations and cities. The panic-stricken population fled from the zone of the fire, carrying whatever personal belonging they could take along. Sacking and looting of property followed the confusion.

It was Colon's major catastrophe. The zone affected by the fire was deprived of electric lights as the night drew on. The roaring tempest, fanned by a light breeze from the sea, swept furiously toward the center of the city. The throbbing pumps of the fire engines gave rhythm to the medley of

frantic cries and voices of the moving stream of bewildered humanity in the streets. Cracking noises and explosions reverberated over the city. The surging cloud of smoke was illuminated by leaping, hungry flames. As the inferno moved forward with its besom of destruction, showers of burning coals and hot sparks fell upon the building ahead that waited their turn to be devoured. Flaming timbers and red-hot sheets of zinc roofing material (pieces six and eight feet long) were caught up by the torrid breath of fiery tempest and hurled a hundred yards into the air, sailing like burning kites in the sky.

The conference office and the publishing house lay right in the path of the fire. When we saw that the fire had become a major calamity, a few of us went to the Pacific Press building and had prayer, asking God to protect this institution from the fire. We packed some of the most important documents, records, etc., for immediate removal if necessary. By telephone we requested the Inter-American Division office to call for special prayer there for us.

The conference office is located at the corner of Eleventh St., and the publishing house is at Fourteenth St. The surging cloud of smoke rolled threateningly over the press building, showering sparks and coals around us. Shortly after our prayers had gone up, the wind shifted slightly, causing the course of the fire to veer toward the other side of the city. This it did

ANTILLIAN UNION MISSION

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ANNUAL SESSION

The annual committee session of the Antillian Union Mission has recently closed, and perhaps a few high points from the reports presented will interest the readers of the MESSENGER.

Our territory lies close to the United States, and our office in Havana, Cuba, is only 60 miles from Key West, of Florida. The union includes the Bahamas Islands, Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Porto Rico, and Jamaica. Five flags waft their colors in the breezes which sweep over our missions. There are two British colonies, one American colony, and three independent republics, one of which is the "Black Republic" of Haiti. Three languages are spoken—English, Spanish, and French. We have 11,200,000 people to evangelize.

We are organized into two local conferences and four missions. These islands are a hive of Seventh-day Adventist activities, for our people everywhere are busy in branch Sabbath schools, lay preaching, and other missionary endeavors.

During the year 1939, we baptized and accepted 2,214 souls into membership on profession of faith. This was 559 over the previous year, when we received 1,655 new members. It also exceeds by 457 souls the previous highest attainment in baptisms. We thank the Lord for thus blessing the labors of our evangelists, pastors and faithful members. We have set our stakes and lengthened our cords for an anticipated 2,500 souls during 1940. The year has opened very auspiciously and gives promise of a rich harvest. In one mission alone we have 40 lay preachers' evangelistic efforts being conducted at the present time.

The literature ministry has contributed its full share to these results, for during the past years nearly a million dollars worth of our truth-filled books have been scattered throughout these islands. And the time has come to reap the harvest. Our colporteurs delivered 48,000 dollars worth of subscription books during 1939. This was nearly equal to the largest attainment in the history of the colporteur ministry in the union, and the leadership of this department is determined to establish an all-time record in 1940.

One of the greatest factors in our activities is the branch Sabbath schools. We have 397 of them, with a membership of 5,171. These members are all potential Seventh-day Adventists, and afford a fertile field for seed sowing.

The greatest undertaking before us in 1940 is the removal of the union's Spanish Training School. There is much money to find and many obstacles to overcome, but a good beginning has been made. We have the money for

the purchase of a fine farm, and so are greatly encouraged to move forward by faith. We are confident of final success, and so are laying our plans to proceed as if money for buildings were in hand. "The God of heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build." Neh. 2:20.

Our union committee meeting was a good one. We were greatly assisted by Brethren Roberts and Raley from the division. The Spirit of the Lord came very near to us on many occasions, and our leaders have returned to their respective fields filled with courage, for they "have strengthened their hands for this good work." Neh. 2:18.

H. M. BLUNDEN

CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

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THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

"The Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people." Isa. 11:11. Nothing can stand before this power. The following experience will illustrate this.

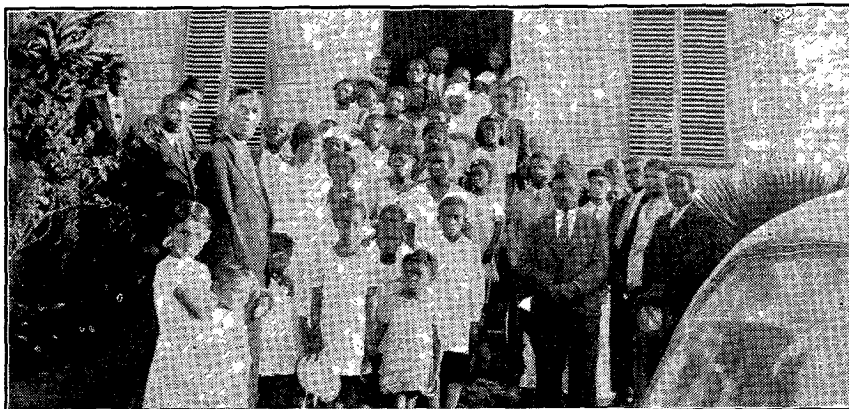
Last August, we interviewed the judge of Barbados in an effort to obtain a piece of land upon which to build a church. The judge owned this land, but refused to sell it to us. We believed, however, that all things are possible with God, and that He would in His providence overrule. After a period of about three months, one of our sisters, who is a relative of the judge, went to him about the matter, and made him to understand that the

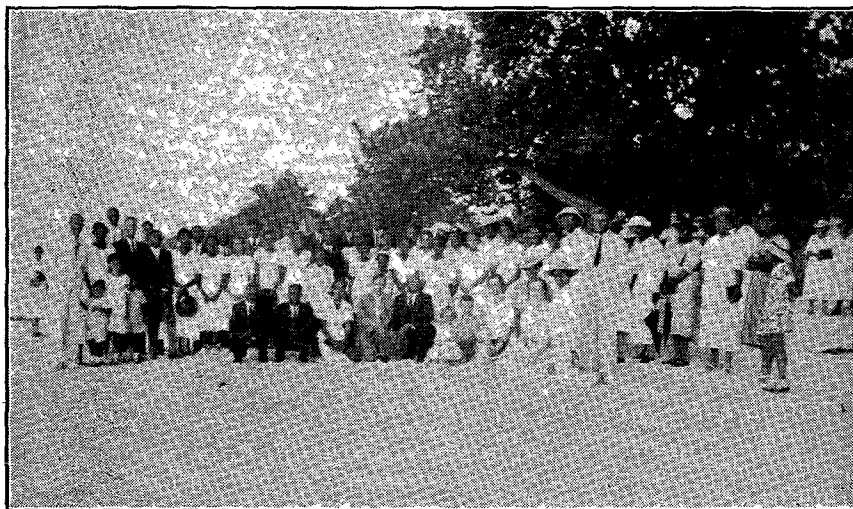
earth is the Lord's, and that he was only a caretaker of the Lord's property. She further told him that his life was in God's hand, and asked if he were not afraid to refuse Him the land for His worship.

A week or so later, the judge sent a message to me to come and see him. I did so, and together we went to see the property. Well, I am happy to state that we are now in possession of the property. He not only let us have it, but sold it at a quarter of its market value.

We were also in need of a suitable place where we might erect a tabernacle for the purpose of holding meetings, so again I approached him for

The recently dedicated church at Hillaby, St. Andrews, Barbados. Here the membership has trebled as the result of a series of meetings held by Pastor O. P. Reid.





A recent baptismal scene in Barbados, where 41 people were baptized. The woman whose faithfulness is related in the accompanying article, is in this picture.

the spot and succeeded in getting it. The tabernacle is now erected, and meetings were begun in January. Securing these two pieces of property from this gentleman is nothing short of the mighty power of God for the success of His work in Barbados.

The work here is moving onward. Late last year, our little church building at Hillaby was dedicated to the worship of God. The following night a series of meetings was started, and within a week it was manifest that the building was inadequate to hold all those who were anxious to hear the message. I have never seen before such an interest in my experience. Many have embraced the message, and 41 precious souls were baptized on December 31, and still many more are to be baptized. They are coming all the time.

Among those in the picture, there is a young woman who, because of her faithfulness, has won her mother and some of the former associates of the church from which she came. She has been threatened with death by her hus-

band for attending the meetings. Her husband tried to kill her one night, and she cried to God to save her, and the hand raised to kill was helpless. He further withholds his support from her so that she might be intimidated from obeying the truth. Nevertheless I am happy to say that she is now baptized and is rejoicing in the Lord, and is doing all she can to win others. Her experience has caused the truth to be known over Barbados, because she was a Sunday school teacher and a member of the choir in an established church of the island. The husband is perplexed because all his efforts have failed. We hope that soon he may be in the truth.

O. P. REID

Any one can find fault, but it takes a wise man to see the virtues.

CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION MISSION

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COLPORTEUR MISSIONARIES

Recently, for the first time in the history of our work, we have sent colporteurs into Petén, the great jungle country in the northern part of Guatemala, next to the Mexican frontier. It is a sparsely settled section where much chicle is produced and where there are extensive ruins of the old Mayan civilization, some of which are being excavated. It is a great level plain with many rivers and is very malarious. However, despite the fact that is a jungle country, water is almost unobtainable during the dry season, except near the rivers. There are many wild boar (jabali and coche del monte) snakes, wildcats, alligators, birds and fish.

About five years ago, Brother Alfredo Lutz and I traveled by foot through the country, coming out by way of Belize. We found it a very difficult and dangerous country in which to travel, due to large distances where there are no inhabitants. This made it necessary to sleep in the open. Wild animals, snakes, mosquitos, flies, alligators, tropical sickness, the lack of water, the absence of roads, and the lack of a market, have driven out most of the inhabitants. At present all freight is taken out by airplane or pack animals.

In the latter part of February, Brethren Feliciano Barrientos and Gerardo Barrera, colporteurs of several years' experience and strong in body and spi-

Brethren Feliciano Barrientos (left) and Gerardo Barrera (right), with colporteur director Dionicio Santos. Brethren Barrera and Barrientos have gone on a colporteur trip into the Petén Jungle of Guatemala, afoot with a pack mule, for a four months' trip.



SPIRIT OF PROPHECY
 Reading Program



Weekly Assignment
 in "Great Controversy"

May 19-25 pp. 165-184
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rit, started on a journey of several weeks into that section, with a mule laden with books and their beds on their backs. The church provided them with good mosquito nets, and we are praying that they may not only sell books, but that they may sow the gospel seed wherever they pass. Finan-

cially the trip will not pay the expenses, but it is a part of our field which we must reach with the gospel before the work is finished. We ask the prayers of our brethren for our two valiant porteurs in this jungle trip.

ORLEY FORD, *Director of the Guatemala Mission.*

COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA UNION MISSION

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THE GOSPEL BRINGETH FORTH FRUIT

Paul, in writing to the church of the Colossians, says that the gospel had come to them, "as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you." The same gospel today when it is preached as it was in the early church brings forth fruit and changes the lives of men and women. It is the "power of God unto salvation."

Elder A. R. Sherman, in writing of a recent experience in San José de Guaribe, Venezuela, where one of our brethren has been holding meetings, says that he was able to baptize 18 dear souls. After the baptism, another group of 25 were organized into a baptismal class. A church was organized and arrangements were made for a meeting place of their own. Brother Sherman writes that the last night that he was there, a man who is not an Adventist was sitting in the back part of the room. When he said good-by to Elder Sherman, he said, "Your arrival in this town has completely changed the atmosphere of the place and the condition of the people."

Fruits of Medical Missionary Work

While there, Elder Sherman announced that he would pull teeth free for those who desired to come. Some 200 teeth were extracted. When the people saw that he was there to help them in every way, their sentiments concerning our work were quickly changed. After helping them physically, they were willing to listen to his teaching. We are convinced that the medical missionary work, as stated by Sister White, is the right arm of the message in opening many doors. We believe that our workers would find quicker access to the hearts of the people if they would follow out the instruc-

tion of doing really practical missionary work. When Brother Sherman left the brethren, many arose early in the morning and accompanied him a long distance along the way.

L. V. FINSTER

24 BIBLE YEAR AND READING COURSE CERTIFICATES

The accompanying picture presents to the readers, Brother and Sister Alberto Acosta, a Bible worker and wife in the Venezuela Mission. For the last 12 years this couple has been faithful in reading the Bible and taking the Junior Missionary Volunteer Reading Course.

This is a fine record. How nice it

Brother and Sister Alberto Acosta, of the Venezuela Mission, holding their 24 Bible Year and Reading Course certificates. A fine record!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PRINCIPLES

What is Education?

"There is an education which is essentially worldly. Its aim is success in the world, the gratification of selfish ambition. To secure this education many students spend time and money in crowding their minds with unnecessary knowledge. The world accounts them learned; but God is not in their thoughts. They eat of the tree of worldly knowledge, which nourishes and strengthens pride. In their hearts they become disobedient and estranged from God; and their entrusted gifts are placed on the enemy's side. Much of the education at the present time is of this character. The world may regard it as highly desirable; but it increases the peril of the student.

"There is another kind of education that is very different. Its fundamental principle as stated by the greatest Teacher the world has ever known, is, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God.' Matt. 6:33. Its aim is not selfish; its purpose is to honor God, and to serve Him in the world."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 64.

W. L. ADAMS

would be if all our young people would follow their example. And not only that, but you will notice that Brother and Sister Acosta have been faithful for 12 years in their daily lesson study, whence the string of honor ribbons seen at their side.

We are told that "as the miner digs for the golden treasure in the earth, so earnestly, persistently, must we seek for the treasure of God's word."—*Education*, p. 189.

Furthermore, we are told that "the mind, the heart, that is indolent, aimless, falls an easy prey to evil. It is on diseased, lifeless organisms that fungus roots. It is the idle man that is Satan's workshop."—*Id.*, p. 190.

Many young people of today have no aim in life. They take it as a matter of course, and naturally "fall an easy prey to evil." Many have minds that are completely idle, minds that are "Satan's workshops."

"Let the youth, then, be taught to give close study to the word of God. Received into the soul, it will prove a mighty barricade against temptation."—*Id.*, p. 190.

This is the purpose of the Bible Year and of the Reading Course of this denomination. N. H. KINZER

MEXICAN UNION MISSION

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A LAY MEMBER'S EXPERIENCE

We marvel at the work that the Lord is accomplishing by means of humble lay members in Mexico. Last year while traveling in the southern part of Mexico a young man accompanied us to help in the transportation of our baggage. We did not think at the time that he could be used in a special way to proclaim the message; but a letter recently received from the superintendent of the mission relates an interesting experience.

This young man, accompanied by another young man, who had recently accepted the message, visited an Indian town in the State of Chiapas. While he was eating his evening meal, his friend visited from house to house telling the people that a man had come to town who would speak that night concerning the coming of Christ, and invited them to be present. He made this announcement without authorization, and his friend knew nothing about it. When he arose from the table he was surprised to see people coming from every direction. They continued to come until 60 were assembled. He silently prayed to the Lord and said, "Lord, I have never spoken before such a large group as this." However, the Lord gave him courage and he began to speak, and the Holy Spirit enabled him to present the message with power. As the result of this meeting, 25 souls were converted, and this company is now calling for a worker.

C. E. Wood

A PERSONAL APPEAL . . .

(Continued from page 2)

"We shall individually be held responsible for doing one jot less than we have ability to do. The Lord measures with exactness every possibility for service."—Id., p. 363.

"God holds us responsible for all that we might be, if we would improve our talents."—"Testimonies to Ministers," p. 147.

"When the call comes, 'Go work today in My vineyard,' do not refuse the invitation. 'To-day if ye will hear His voice harden not your hearts.' It is unsafe to delay obedience. You may

never hear the invitation again."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 281.

"Ministers should impress upon the people the necessity of individual effort. No church can flourish unless its members are workers. I saw that nothing lasting can be accomplished for churches in different places unless they are aroused to feel that responsibility rests upon them. Every member of the body should feel that the salvation of his own soul depends upon his own individual effort. Souls cannot be saved without exertion. The minister cannot save the people."—"Testimonies," Vol. 2, pp. 120, 121.

"Christ's servants are to labor, expecting a harvest from the seed they sow."—"Christ Object Lessons," p. 65.

"Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary."—"Desire of Ages," p. 195.

"All that we are, all the talents and capabilities we possess, are the Lord's, to be consecrated to His service."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 116.

"Many whom God has qualified to do excellent work accomplish very little, because they attempt little."—Idem, p. 331.

"Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His; and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory."—Idem, p. 342.

"It is the privilege and duty of all who have health and strength to render to God active service. All are to labor in winning souls to Christ."—Id., p. 343.

We place this appeal in your hands, dear member of the Inter-American Division Conference and pray it may fully arrest your attention, greatly change the course of your daily activities, and cause you to become a minister of the printed page before the work is finished and before it becomes too late for your service to be accepted of God. If your heart responds to this appeal you will be glad to sign one of the following pledges:

Date Place

God blessing me with health and strength, I promise to become a faithful minister of the printed page and will do all in my power to distribute the truth through this means to all whom I can reach.

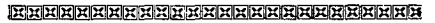
(Signature)

Date Place

Realizing in my heart the call of God to literature ministry in colporteur evangelism, I hereby dedicate my life and service to Him in the sale and distribution of books, large and small, and of our magazines containing the light of the Third Angel's message.

(Signature)

When you have signed one of these pledges, clip it out and paste it to the flyleaf of your Bible where it will be a constant reminder to you of this covenant you have made with God. Then prayerfully and earnestly seek ways and means to enter this work and to be true to your purpose.



HOME MISSIONARY GEMS

Carry The Word to Every Door

"A great work can be done by presenting to the people the Bible just as it reads. Carry the word of God to every man's door, urge its plain statements upon every man's conscience, repeat to all the Saviour's command, 'Search the Scriptures.' Admonish them to take the Bible as it is, to implore divine enlightenment, and then, when the light shines, to gladly accept each precious ray, and fearlessly abide the consequences."—"Testimonies," Volume 5, p. 388.

We have been asleep, as it were, regarding the work that may be accomplished by the circulation of well prepared literature. Let us now, by the wise use of periodicals and books, preach the word with determined energy, that the world may understand the message that Christ gave to John on the Isle of Patmos."—"Colporteur Evangelist," p. 101. WESLEY AMUNDSEN

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INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

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TEN-MINUTE MISSIONARY SERVICES

May 18, 1940

Asking for Bible Studies

A leading magazine sends forth this statement: "The hills and the plains are full of people whose hunger for the religious is so great that it is pathetic." The Spirit of prophecy says: "All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light."—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 109.

A new magazine has recently been placed upon the public stands, bearing the title "Faith." The purpose of this publication is to establish and increase faith in God and to meet the need of the world for Christian reality. In the first issue we find this statement: "Never before in the history of the world has there gone up from the bewildered soul of humanity such an appeal for a renewal of faith. The time is ripe for a spiritual revolution."

Our colporteurs and missionary workers in our churches are finding these statements are no exaggerations. A few weeks ago, a lady met a woman on the steps of her home in the better residential part of a city and explained her mission. The quick response was: "You are an Adventist, are you not?" And she added, "I would

like to have Bible studies." The colporteur eagerly replied, "I shall be very happy to study the Bible with you. When shall we begin?" "As soon as possible," was the answer. The colporteur suggested that they begin at once, and proceeded to get her Bible out of the car. On returning to the door, she was invited into the spacious living room and asked to be seated. Just as they were about to begin the study, the lady said, "Wait a few minutes and I will call in some of my neighbors." Soon the colporteur began her study with six interested ladies, and at its close another study was arranged for.

Truly, the "time is ripe for a spiritual revolution."

May 25, 1940

Scattering Seeds of Truth

It is not always, in this day of hustle and rush, that one can pause long enough to make a satisfactory verbal answer to certain inquiries, nor is it often practical to hold a Bible study on a busy street, in a crowded store, or at work on a farm. However, under all such circumstances, it is easy to scatter seeds of truth if one has at hand a package of tracts from which to draw a timely message.

Somebody placed tracts on a steamer, which resulted in the opening of our work in the island fields—a work which has made great progress in those regions. A tract dropped in a street, caught the eye of a passer-by and resulted in a person being won to the truth, whose years have been spent blessing others, especially the children. Persistently placing tracts on the seats of a street car, led to the conversion of the motorman, who in turn has won scores of others through his ministry.

Plowing a field, a farmer drew from his pocket a tract which he handed a questioner to read while he made his round. Tract after tract passed out in this way bore their silent message as the husbandman pursued his pressing duties. They had satisfying results.

At least one tract a day should be our aim—surely not an impossible or a difficult task. But if every Seventh-day Adventist in all the world would do just this, there would be more than 3,000,000 tracts fluttering out over the world each week, or nearly 156,000,000 during the year. This is one way to scatter the printed page "like the leaves of autumn," as we are admonished to do. See "Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 72.

OBITUARY

Sarah Rivers was born October 16, 1884, and died January 5, 1940, at Calabash Bight, Roatán, Honduras. She was married to Albert Rivers in 1911. At the time of the campmeeting in Bonnacco, in the year 1912, she joined the church by baptism administered by Elder C. V. Willis. She lived a happy Christian life and was respected in the whole community. The funeral service, directed by Elder R. T. Rankin, was attended by a large crowd. Three brothers, three sisters, one daughter and five grandchildren, remain to mourn their loss.

C. E. WESTPHAL

Another Worker Fallen

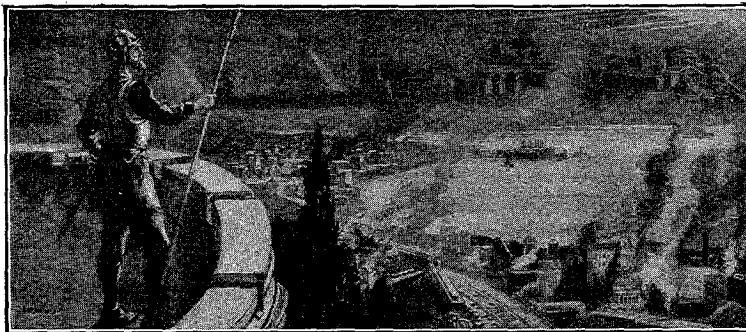
Pastor Henry Wiseman was born at Couva, Trinidad, June 18, 1888, and passed way at his home at Scarborough, Tobago, March 1, 1940. At the early age of twelve years, he was baptized and was among the first with some other ones to accept the message on Trinidad.

For more than 20 years he had been engaged in the work of the denomination, first for a short time as a colporteur, and then in the ministry. He rendered loyal and faithful service in his work on Trinidad, St. Vincent, and Tobago. He was assigned to the work on Tobago about a year ago, during the administration of the late Elder Oss. Elder Wiseman, had in the short time of labor on Tobago, greatly endeared himself to the people of the island. His work for the churches was greatly appreciated and his passing has brought a real loss to the denomination.

He leaves his wife, Sister Amy Wallace Wiseman, and nine children and also a host of friends. The funeral service was conducted by the writer assisted by Pastor John Roberts on Sabbath morning, March 2, at nine o'clock, at our new church in Scarborough. There was a large attendance, there being representatives, it was said, from each of the several churches on the island, as also a host of friends, and neighbors of Scarborough.

Truly, it can be said of Pastor Wiseman, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13. Thus another faithful worker has laid down his armor. His works will follow him, as others who have heard his earnest and solemn appeals while living, we believe, will turn to the Lord and accept the message.

A. R. OGDEN



Now Is The Time

Now is the time to tell the world the meaning of the startling things which are happening in the earth. Tomorrow may be forever too late for many. Ere long it will be eternally too late for the whole world! *Now is the time* to scatter our tracts like the leaves of autumn.

The hearts of thousands of people are yearning for light and hope in this dark and tragic hour. The message presented in our tracts are just the thing for missionary work at this time.

"BIBLE TRUTH"—Series of 62 numbers on as many subjects, many available in foreign languages if desired.

"HOPE OF THE WORLD"—Series of 21 tracts, large and beautifully illustrated with pictures.

"TRUTH FOR YOUTH"—Series of 12 tracts for young people, with large and striking pictures which appeal to the eye.

These economical tracts may be ordered from your nearest Book and Bible House. Write to it for prices in national currency.

SABBATH SCHOOL "MORSELS"

Consecrated Leadership

When the youth is *converted*, do not leave him to idleness; give him something to do in the vineyard of the Master. According to his ability, let him be employed."—*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, p. 51.

"There can not be a worse thing done for your Sabbath-school than to place as workers young men and women who have shown great defects in their religious experience."—*Id*, pp. 22, 23.

"The Lord desires that those who are engaged in the Sabbath-school work *should be missionaries*, able to go forth to the towns and villages that surround the church, and give the light of life to those who sit in darkness."—*Id*, p. 74.

WESLEY AMUNDSEN

MORE COLPORTEURS—MORE SALES

From time to time in recent years, attention has been focused on the splendid progress being made in our literature sales in the Inter-American Division. The year just closed reveals the largest gain in sales and deliveries of any division in the world field. We have carefully studied the records in Inter-America for the last five years, and note that the sales and deliveries in 1939 were more than double the sales in 1935.

Year	Average No. Colporteurs	Sales	Deliveries
1935	167	\$155,101.89	\$ 88,314.27
1936	174	172,380.27	91,290.56
1937	201	193,673.17	106,906.29
1938	272	253,851.76	135,119.30
1939	304	317,156.69	180,823.15

The average number of colporteurs rose in five years from 167 to 304, almost double the number reporting in 1935. We believe the phenomenal gains produced in Inter-America can be attributed to the fact that an extensive program has been carried forward by the administration of the field to recruit and train a larger army of colporteurs. And the results of their efforts are very gratifying.

With the message due the world, and the favorable opportunities afforded us now in many lands, we should greatly increase our literature sales. It can be done if more men and women can be encouraged to enter the work.

We commend the leaders in Inter-America for their zealous efforts.

E. E. FRANKLIN, *Associate Secretary, General Conference Publishing Dept.*

THE INSERTIONS

In this number of the MESSENGER will be found the first of a series of 12 bulletins covering the important topic of literature ministry. These will be serially numbered and the pages will be numbered consecutively throughout, so that by preserving these bulletins until all 12 are in hand, and binding them together, the possessor will have 48 pages of divine instruction on this vitally important matter in booklet form.

As a people, we are probably more literature minded religiously than any other people. Therefore we know the readers of the MESSENGER will study with increasing interest every bulletin of the series as it appears.

In this issue you will also find an article entitled "A Personal Appeal." We trust that every reader will respond by signing one of the pledges suggested.

THE COLPORTEUR MINISTRY

Elder J. L. McElhany, president of the General Conference, in speaking of the literature ministry, says:

"Undoubtedly the greatest single helper the living preacher has in the great work of winning souls, is the use of the printed page. It is impossible to overestimate the value and far-reaching influence of the publications that expound the truths of God's word."

"The Lord has placed within reach the greatest possibilities for service through the literature ministry. Many possess the talents necessary to become efficient in literature evangelism,

and if they will consecrate their talents to this work and secure the training necessary to make their work more successful, they may become real soul-winners. Our message-filled books open a door of opportunity in soul winning to hundreds who ought to be consecrating their time and efforts to this work."

W. A. BERGHERM

THE "SIGNS" AND "EL CENTINELA" CAMPAIGN

The Signs of the Times and *El Centinela*—What striking titles for our two great publications! But how much more important to the world are the messages these two papers bring to souls who are perishing because they do not discern the signs of our times, which constitutes God's message for our days. God has given clear word concerning the very signs that now literally surround us daily. He has placed these signs to be sentinels to us and to make plain the coming of Jesus.

These two papers are needed by our neighbors and by our friends, and they are needed by every judgment-bound soul who can read. There are no other papers like these in our division territory. They should be circulated widely. God has mightily blessed these papers in the past, even though they have had but a very limited circulation. He will likewise bless them in the future if they are circulated as they should be.

On June 1, an arranged program is to be presented in all of our churches for the purpose of increasing the circulation of these soul-winning periodicals; and we urge all who can do so to take a very definite part in carrying out the counsel that will be given. The two weeks which are especially set apart from June 1st to the 14th should be zealously used by the members in securing single subscriptions or in selling single copies of *El Centinela*. Each church would do well to arrange to have a club coming to it for either the SIGNS or EL CENTINELA.

With 35,000 church members in this division, there should be a large increase in the circulation of these magazines. If every member will do his part conscientiously, we will yet see greater things along the line of distributing our truth-filled literature throughout the vast area of the Inter-American Division. Let all have some aggressive part while time still lingers and before "the night cometh."

G. A. ROBERTS

JUNE 1-14

"Signs of The Times"

and

"EL CENTINELA"

CAMPAIGN

to God, can be a power indeed for good in bringing men to the knowledge of the truth. The pen is a power in the hands of men who feel the truth burning upon the altar of their hearts, and who have an intelligent zeal for God, balanced with sound judgment. The pen, dipped in the fountain of pure truth, can send the beams of light to dark corners of the earth, which will reflect its rays back, adding new power, and giving increased light to be scattered everywhere."—*Life Sketches,* p. 214.

Harvest of Precious Souls

"I have been shown that the publications already have been doing a work upon some minds in other countries, in breaking down the walls of prejudice and superstition. I was shown men and women studying with intense interest papers and a few pages of tracts upon present truth. They would read the evidences so won and new interest, as subjects of truth that had been dark to them derful and new to them, and would open their Bibles with a deep and new interest, as subjects of truth that had been dark to them were made plain, especially the light in regard to the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. As they searched the Scriptures to see if these things were so, a new light shone upon their understanding, for angels were hovering over them, and impressing their minds with the truths contained in the publications they had been reading.

"I saw them holding papers and tracts in one hand, and the Bible in the other, while their cheeks were wet with tears; and bowing before God in earnest, humble prayer, to be guided into all truth,—the very thing He was doing for them before they called upon Him. And when the truth was received in their hearts, and they saw the harmonious chain of truth, the Bible was to them a new book; they hugged it to their hearts with grateful joy, while their countenances were all aglow with happiness and holy joy.

"These were not satisfied with merely enjoying the light themselves, and they began to work for others. Some made great sacrifices for the truth's sake and to help those of the brethren who were in darkness. The way is thus preparing to do a great work in the distribution of tracts and papers in other languages."—*Life Sketches,* pp. 214, 215.

NOTICE: This is the first of a series of leaflets on the literature ministry. Those to follow will be arranged and the pages numbered for binding into a booklet. Save each copy until you have the complete set.

THE LITERATURE MINISTRY



Compiled by the
INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION
of
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Printed by the
PACIFIC PRESS PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
Box 5007
CRISTOBAL, CANAL ZONE

Established by God

"OUR PUBLISHING WORK was established by the direction of God and under His special supervision. It was designed to accomplish a specific purpose. Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut them out from the quarry of the world, and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives, and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world; and in the accomplishment of this work our publishing houses are among the most effective agencies.

These institutions are to stand as witnesses for God, teachers of righteousness to the people. From them is to go forth as a lamp that burneth. Like a great light in a lighthouse on a dangerous coast, they are constantly to send forth beams of light into the darkness of the world, to warn men of the dangers that threaten them with destruction."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 7, pages 138, 139.*

To Do Work of John the Baptist

"The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare a people to meet God. Throughout the world they are to do the same work that was done by John the Baptist for the Jewish nation. By startling messages of warning, God's prophet awakened men from worldly dreaming. Through him God called backsliding Israel to repentance. By his presentation of truth he exposed popular delusions. In contrast with the false theories of his time, truth in his teaching stood forth as an eternal certainty. 'Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,' was John's message. This same message, through the publications from our printing houses, is to be given to the world to-day."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 7, p. 139.*

(2)

Large Part in Finishing Work

"Let it never be forgotten that these institutions are to cooperate with the ministry of the delegates of heaven. They are among the agencies represented by the angel flying 'in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.' Revelation 14:6, 7.

"From them is to go forth the terrible denunciation, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' Revelation 14:8.

"They are represented by the third angel that followed, 'saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.' Revelation 14:9, 10.

"And in a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory."—*Ibid., pp. 139, 140.*

Object of Publications

"Our publications have a most sacred work to do in making clear, simple, and plain the spiritual basis of our faith. Everywhere the people are taking sides; all are ranging themselves either under the banner of truth and righteousness or under the banner of the apostate powers that are contending for the supremacy. At this time God's message to the world is to be given with such prominence and power that the people will be brought face to face, mind to mind, heart to heart, with truth. They must be brought to see its superiority over the multitudinous errors that are pushing their way into notice, to supplant, if possible, the word of God for this solemn time."—*Ibid., p. 150.*

Reach Corners of Earth

"I have been shown that the press is powerful for good or evil. This agency can reach and influence the public mind as no other means can. The press, controlled by men who are sanctified