



OUR OVERSEERS AND OUR WORK

By G. A. ROBERTS

Our Heavenly Father has placed His work upon the earth in the hands of His chosen people, and He has placed His people in the hands of the angels. Had the work of preaching the gospel to every creature been laid upon mankind alone, it would have been an impossible task. There are three who carry definite responsibility in accomplishing God's work on earth: the Godhead, the good angels, and the men who serve God. The human part of this work has been committed to man alone, but he is not left alone to do it, for angels that excel in strength are sent to be ministering spirits to those who shall be heirs of salvation. See Heb. 1: 14. These angels are to oversee our work. Note the following:

"One part of the ministry of heavenly angels is to visit our world and oversee the work of the Lord in the hands of His stewards. In every time of necessity they minister to those who as co-workers with God are striving to carry forward His work in the earth. These heavenly intelligences are represented as desiring to look into the plan of redemption, and they rejoice whenever any part of God's work prospers."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 456.

What an assurance comes to the heart of the worker as he realizes that mighty angels are overseeing his work! But the relationship of angels is closer than that of an overseer. It is almost as if the human agent were a part of the angel overseers, for we read:

"Human agencies are the hands of heavenly instrumentalities; for heavenly angels employ human hands in practical ministry."—*Id.* p. 456.

And yet, close as the relationship may be, man does not become an auto-

maton, but bears his own full responsibility. He uses the facilities of the angels.

There is a blending of influences—human and divine. This should bring great stimulation and inspiration to the worker. It brings great joy and satisfaction to God Himself, Who directs the angels as they direct men. Shall we not willingly and joyously and determinedly set our souls to do this, highest and holiest of all service. There is

work now for every hand. Let us seek earnestly and prayerfully until we find our place, and then let us fill it, for we read, "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."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 329.

As surely as we are to seek a heavenly mansion, we are to seek our place in the work here.

GOD TAKES ACCOUNT

By MRS. E. G. WHITE

The voice of God, heard in past ages, is sounding along the line, from century to century, through generations that have come upon the stage of action and passed away. Shall God speak, and His voice not be respected? What power mapped out all this history, that nations, one after another, should arise at the predicted time and fill their appointed place, unconsciously witnessing to the truth of that which they themselves knew not the meaning.

The centuries have their mission. Every moment has its work. Each is passing into eternity with its burden. Well done, thou good and faithful servant, or, Woe to the wicked and slothful servant. God is still dealing with earthly kingdoms. He is in the great cities. His eyes behold, His eyelids try, the doings of the children of men. We are not to say, God was, but, God is. He sees the very sparrow's fall, the leaf that falls from the

tree, and the king who is dethroned. All are under the control of the Infinite One. Everything is changing. Cities and nations are being measured by the plummet in the hand of God. He never makes a mistake. He reads correctly. Everything earthly is unsettled, but the truth abides forever.

In the eyes of the world, those who serve God may appear weak. They may be apparently sinking beneath the billows, but with the next billow, they are seen rising nearer to their haven. I give unto them eternal life, saith our Lord, and none shall be able to pluck them out of My hand. Though kings shall be cast down, and nations removed, the souls that through faith link themselves with God's purpose shall abide forever. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and forever."—*Youth's Instructor*."

COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA UNION

DISTRICT MEETINGS IN THE CENTRAL COLOMBIA MISSION

During the month of July, four very profitable district meetings were held at El Vasto, Concepción, Macaravita and Bucaramanga. Pastor Kinzer accompanied the writer to all these meetings. All lines of our church and departmental work were stressed at each convention. We found our brethren very willing to co-operate in all lines of Christian service when they are taught how to work for God.

We were very glad to see the large number of our brethren that came to these meetings. Many of them walked one and two days over hard mountain roads to be present. The world's condition is stirring the hearts of our brethren with the fact that soon we will be privileged to see our King coming in His glory and that we must prepare to meet Him. It was most encouraging to see the re consecration on the part of all—young and old—for the finishing of the work of God in the world. At Concepción, eleven were baptized. Many are in baptismal classes and will follow in this rite later in the year.

At one of these meetings we were very glad to meet nineteen of the twenty-four persons who had been won by the distribution of one tract by our brethren at Cucuta. As this experience was related it brought great courage to others to do work for God. We are to sow the seeds in both the evening and the morning, trusting to God to water it and bring forth the proper fruitage.

Our brethren returned home from

these meetings full of hope and courage, and with a determination to win some soul to Christ during the coming year. Soon these yearly meetings will be in the past and the time will come when we shall gather from all parts of the world to worship before God Himself in the new earth.

L. V. FINSTER

ELISHA THE TRUE LAY PREACHER

Today men are being drafted to unite their efforts with those of trained soldiers and army officers to protect their country against the enemy. Today God is calling men and women to enlist themselves in His army and unite their lives and efforts to those of ministers and Bible workers to "advance as fast as possible in aggressive warfare" against the powers of darkness.

One of the most outstanding examples of a true lay preacher is that of Elisha when called by Elijah to take up the work. Elisha was busy plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, when Elijah, "divinely directed in seeking a successor, passed the field in which Elisha was plowing, he cast upon the young man's shoulders the mantle of consecration."—*"Prophets and Kings," p. 219.*

He asked the prophet for the opportunity of returning to his house to kiss his father and mother goodby, for he was giving his entire life to the work. He "took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat." When Elisha gave himself to service, he burned the bridges behind him. He took two of the oxen with which he had

been plowing, then took the wood of the plow and made a fire on which to cook the flesh of the animals. He was not interested any more in oxen and plows, but in winning souls.

"The call to place all on the altar of service comes to each one. We are not all asked to serve as Elisha served, nor are we all bidden to sell everything we have: but God asks us to give His service the first place in our lives, to allow no day to pass without doing something to advance His work in the earth."—*"Prophet and Kings," p. 221.*

Undoubtedly, there are many of our church members, both young and old, who are busy in activities of the world, and as yet have not given serious consideration to soul-winning. There are many shoemakers, carpenters, painters, and men of other trades among our members. Never should a client be permitted to leave our shop without having given him the message in some form.

Many of our members who are busy winning their daily bread will be willing to leave the oxen and the plow to answer God's call for volunteers to go from home to home giving Bible studies and distributing literature. "The call to place all on the altar of service comes to each one." How many today will respond as did Elisha of old?

N. H. KINZER

PUBLIC EFFORTS IN THE COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA UNION

At the present time we have nine public efforts in progress in the Colombia-Venezuela Union. In years past, such meetings were impossible. Today doors are wide open and we can hold public meetings in every mission.

From all these efforts, word comes of crowded houses with many becoming interested in the message for this time. At Bucaramanga, we have had an exceptionally good attendance. For most of the nights during the first two weeks of meetings, two sessions had to be held each evening, with an attendance of from 400 to 900 present. The third week the attendance was more than 350 each night.

These efforts, except two, are being conducted by national workers. We ask an interest in the prayers of God's people that He will greatly bless the efforts.

L. V. FINSTER



Members won through
tract distribution.

CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION MISSION

AFTER MANY YEARS

The first days of January, 1919, while I was canvassing for "Heralds of the Morning" in Guatemala City, I came to the cavalry quarters; and after greeting the officials in charge, I obtained permission to visit the men in the barracks.

I had the pleasant experience of meeting a colonel whom I had known before when he was mayor of the city of Zacapa. I conversed with him about different points of the message and especially about the efficacy of prayer. I told him that we should consider it a great honor to commune in the early hours of the morning with the greatest of generals—the One who rules the universe—and suggested that we follow the example of our Divine Master who, "rising up a great while before day, went out into the mountain to pray." Several times in the early dawn, I accompanied him as he learned the blessedness of prayer.

The following year I met the same man, but he was then director of the central penitentiary. I brought him some copies of *El Centinela*, and he gave me permission to visit the inmates of the prison. Among the prisoners in the cells, I found one to whom I had sold "El Rey que Viene" several years before. This man was in very serious difficulty. At his request, I obtained an official paper and brought it to him. He was very grateful to me and requested that I pray for him that God might intervene, for he had been loyal to his government.

Eighteen years later, while canvassing from house to house in the city of Quezaltenango with the book "Dawn of a New Day," I came to the house of this former prisoner, now an officer in the armies of Guatemala. Imagine the joy and surprise of both upon meeting after so many years of separation and now under such improved circumstances. For the time being I forgot all about my prospectus and we threw our arms around each other as an expression of sincere affection. I spoke of the miracle and providence of God in the life of this man and suggested that we kneel and give thanks and praise to Him who had worked so graciously in his behalf. He agreed that it would be very timely and we

kneelt together in the room to pray. We both took part, thanking God for His providence in His wonderful love to the children of men.

At the close of the prayer, after a few moments silence, I presented to him the book "Dawn of a New Day." He gladly gave me his order. When I returned to deliver the book, we again prayed together. And so the work of the colporteur is bringing hope and salvation to the most lofty as well as those in the lowly walks of life.

ADRIÁN ALCÁNTARA D.

MEXICAN UNION MISSION

MEXICO AND ITS YOUNG PEOPLE

The year 1940 has been a year of great advancement for the young people of Mexico. Years ago it was impossible to count on the young people in a strong way to help carry the gospel to the 20,000,000 inhabitants of this land of opportunity. We did not have the facilities to train our young people for service. And it took time and patience to carry on the work. We recognize that the work done in the past for the Mexican young people, however, has not been done in vain. Elder H. F. House, who is now director of the Gulf Mission, served as union missionary volunteer secretary for five years, and through his leadership there was laid a firm foundation. We are now beginning to reap the harvest.

The Progressive Classes, have turned out to be university classrooms for

those persons who desire to be much better prepared. In local societies there are those who are getting ready for their graduation as Friends. Tomorrow they will be Companions. Soon they will become Comrades. And in the not too distant future they will be Master Comrades, a degree which is the goal of every member of these classes.

This year we have seen three large investiture services. The accompanying picture shows the third one, the smallest of the three. But this does not represent all of our work, for there are at least ten other societies awaiting the celebration of similar service. The secretaries write us asking us to visit them as soon as possible so that they too may have their investiture service. The enthusiasm is overflowing. We expect to have at least 400 young people invested before the end of the year.

There is still, however, a large task ahead of us. As the number of our young people increases, the task becomes greater. We must guide their energies. Their strength must be distributed where it will do the most good. We know that God will help us in this work, but we need your prayers. Pray for Mexico and for our young people. Your prayers will not be in vain.

V. A. SAUZA

"Christ's true disciples follow Him through sore conflicts, enduring self-denial and experiencing bitter disappointment: but this teaches them the guilt and woe of sin, and they are led to look at it with abhorrence. Partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 590.

Group of young people in Mexico attending Progressive classes.



WORK OF THE LAYMEN IN THE TEHUANTEPEC MISSION

The Lord is doing great things through our faithful lay members. Very often we receive heart-moving letters from the 135 lay members who are working in this mission. These brethren, who are very earnest in their work and prayers, tell us about their efforts. Many of them are visiting places far away from their homes and are taking care of the interests which have arisen, until such time as a Sabbath school can be organized. During the rainy season, they encounter numerous difficulties. At times they must sleep in the jungle, for they cannot wade the flooded rivers.

A faithful missionary worker who has won many souls, writes: "I have the pleasure to inform you that in a nearby town we have 17 persons who are keeping the Sabbath. About a month ago, the man who had opposed

us bitterly since the beginning of our work, came to ask us to teach him the word of God, as he and some friends are ready to obey the law of God."

Another faithful missionary worker tells us that the group under his care is already giving its offering every Sabbath. Very soon it will begin to pay tithes. Our brother begs us to pray for him so that the Lord may use him in the proclamation of this message.

Wherever we have working missionaries, the message advances. This mission's goal is 200 lay missionaries. It will be a pleasure to add more and more names to the list of those who wish to serve faithfully in this work. We hope that many more brethren will feel as one brother did, who sent us seven names, asking us to accept them as lay missionaries. He says: "We know that there is a task for every Christian. We realize that we are on the threshold of great events." MAX FUSS

for they had not been read. Opening one he read it, became interested, read all the others, accepted this truth, and now he, with others of his family, is deeply interested in the third angel's message. God does have a direct care for the printed page.

Another illustration shows that sincerity in the colporteur's heart is the chief asset. We had a Russian Jew in San Francisco who was a window washer, but he became impressed with the conviction that he should be a colporteur. In answer to prayer, he providentially sold his window-washing business and tried to attend a colporteur institute, found himself too nervous to sit still for more than an hour or so, seized one of our large books and started out to sell it, and was very successful. This man later attended some institutes, but was always anxious to be out in the field. To my own knowledge, he has personally won a large number of people to this message.

When Coxie's army (a group of laboring men who went forth for the purpose of personally presenting a request) marched on Washington years ago, some one asked him why he brought his followers, why he did not just have them sign a petition at home and send that in. He replied: "We have sent many petitions to Congress on paper; I decided this time I would present a petition with boots on." And that is just the kind of petition we want to send to the people—a consecrated petition with boots on—the colporteur with scripturally beautiful feet shod with gospel shoes.

Our laymen, can sell the larger books, and should be encouraged to do so, for these books are "a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light," and these books should be much more widely and quickly distributed in our field than can possibly be done by a regular colporteur force alone. We have a definite commission that our laymen can and should sell the larger, in fact, the largest of our books. I read in that wonderful little book, "Colporteur Evangelist," pp. 35, 36:

"The effort to circulate 'Christ's Object Lessons' has demonstrated what can be done in the canvassing field. This effort is a *never-to-be-forgotten lesson* on how to canvass in the prayerful, trustful way that brings success....

"Many more of our larger books might have been sold if *church-members*

THE PRINTED PAGE AND THE MESSAGE

By G. A. ROBERTS
(Continued)

We fully and clearly recognize that the very life of our publishing house is dependent upon the work of the colporteur; for, of all the other various endeavors that have been put forth to sell our publications to the public, none have proved as successful as that done by the faithful colporteur. The press can not live without the colporteur, and neither can the colporteur live without the press; and this cause would be greatly weakened and hindered in its progress if we did not have both the press and the colporteur.

The very life of the colporteur, it seems, flows through the prospectus to the person canvassed. Sincerity and purpose in the colporteur's heart cause the book represented by the prospectus to become alive, as it were, till it grips the heart and makes effective appeal to the soul of the hearer. Often the only gospel heard by those canvassed who do not buy, is the gospel of the story told by the colporteur in the canvass he gives from a doorstep pulpit. But, thank God, the gospel heard in this way makes an appeal.

One of our lady colporteurs was recently called before a Roman Catholic priest and told in no uncertain

terms that she must discontinue her work at once. She persuaded him to get his Bible, and she pointed out various texts which she asked him to read for himself. He read them and was astonished at how definitely they answered his every objection. The colporteur, too, was astonished when the priest finally exclaimed, "I am a sinner and must be converted!" He then told the colporteur that she was doing a fine work, and that she should go right ahead. One of his members came to him shortly thereafter and wanted to make confession. He said, "Confess to God, not to me. If you confess in sincerity to Him, He will forgive you."

The papers and books of themselves, even without any explanation, contain a divine power, and will be taken from the shelves and read, as we are told in the Spirit of prophecy. Some 46 years ago some SIGNS OF THE TIMES, PRESENT TRUTH, and GOOD HEALTH were sent to a family in British Guiana. A baby boy was later born to the family, grew to manhood, and became the head of a family of his own. Upon visiting his old home he saw some of these papers still in their original wrappers,

had been awake to the importance of the truths these books contain, and had realized their responsibility to circulate them. My *brethren and sisters*, will you not now make an effort to circulate these books [‘Great Controversy,’ ‘Patriarchs and Prophets,’ etc.]. . . . In selling ‘Object Lessons,’ many have learned how to handle the larger books. They have obtained an experience that has prepared them to enter the canvassing field.”

Then on page 38 it is said: “Thousands can be reached in the most simple, humble way. The most intellectual, those who are looked upon as the world’s gifted men and women, are often refreshed by the simple words of one who loves God, and who can speak of that love as naturally as the worldling speaks of the things that interest him most deeply. *Often the words well prepared and studied* have but little influence. But the true, honest expression of a son or a daughter of God, spoken in natural simplicity, has power to open the door to hearts that have long been closed against Christ and His love.”

A true Christian living in the world is like a ship sailing on the ocean. It is not the ship’s being in the water which will sink it, but the water’s getting into the ship. So the world, with its love of pleasure getting into the hearts of Christians, has ruined its millions.—*Selected.*

CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

WITHOUT SPOT AND BLAMELESS

“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.” 2 Peter 3:13, 14.

“Without spot and blameless.” Surely this is a high and worthy goal, and only as we attain to it can we expect a place in this new heaven and new earth. As I look at my life and see so many imperfections and shortcomings, it is with hesitancy that I write. But, brethren, these words are written in love with the hope that all indeed shall be without spot and blameless in that day.

Speaking to the sisters of the church, Peter says: “Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” 1 Peter 3:3, 4.

Of all the women in the world, I sincerely believe that those within the Seventh-day Adventist church are the most modest, sincere, and, above all, have the desire and determination to come up to the standard given by Peter.

Our sisters should dress neatly, becomingly and modestly. In regards to this, Sister White has given much instruction.

“Our words, our actions, and our dress are daily, living preachers, gathering with Christ, or scattering abroad. . . . The subject of dress demands serious reflection and much prayer.” —“*Testimonies*,” Vol. 4, p. 641.

“My sisters, your dress is telling either in favor of Christ and the sacred truth or in favor of the world.” *Id.*, p. 641.

With such a privilege of witnessing for Christ through our dress, ought we not to study this matter very carefully?

“Self-denial in dress is a part of our Christian duty. To dress plainly, and abstain from display of jewelry and ornaments of every kind is in keeping with our faith.”—“*Testimonies*,” Vol. 3, p. 366.

“All should be taught to be neat, clean, and orderly in their dress, but not to indulge in that external adorning which is wholly inappropriate for the sanctuary . . . the parading of bows and ribbons, ruffles and feathers, and gold and silver ornaments, is a species of idolatry, and is wholly inappropriate for the sacred service of God, where the eye of every worshipper should be single to His glory.”—“*Testimonies*,” Vol. 5, p. 499.

Surely we could have no plainer instruction and little if any comment need be made. Should we not endeavor to hold up these standards as never before. From the “*Testimonies*,” Vol. 4, pages 645, 646, we read, “Every dollar saved by denying one’s self of useless ornaments, may be given to the needy, or may be placed in the Lord’s treasury to sustain the gospel, to send missionaries

to foreign countries, to multiply publications to carry rays of light to souls in the darkness of error. Every dollar used unnecessarily deprives the spender of a precious opportunity to do good.”

Although these instructions may apply more directly to our sisters, yet the underlying principles apply to all of us.

Shall we not all give ourselves wholeheartedly to Jesus, seeking that which in the sight of God is of great price, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.

A. E. HEMPEL

THE ADVENT MESSAGE IN BARBADOS

The Lord says in Isaiah 11:11, “And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.” Hence little Barbados was included in the Lord’s program, and during the past months we have attested to it.

Early this year a tabernacle was pitched in one of the residential sections of the island. The seating capacity is for about seven hundred persons, and on many occasions more than fourteen hundred were in and around the tabernacle listening to the message of the hour. The meetings continued for four months, and in June fifty precious souls were buried with their Lord in baptism. About half of this number were candidates from other churches. One week later, a church of fifty-seven members was organized, and with a recent baptismal service, the membership is now 63, while that of the Sabbath school is over 80.

In anticipation of the results of the meetings, a lot was secured from the acting judge of the island. We now have over 1600 feet of stone on the spot, and we are doing all that we can to raise money to erect a representative building in which to accommodate this growing church.

In counsel with the president of the union and the local committee, another series of meetings was planned. These meetings started on August 18, with a very good attendance. We now ask an interest in your prayers that another rich harvest may be the

result. On Sunday August 18, twenty-one persons were baptized. This brings the total baptized to date to eighty-one. One other individual was accepted on profession of faith. Many are meeting with bitter persecution from relatives and former brethren, but, in spite of it all, they are determined to go forward. The message is advancing in this island, and nothing can stop its onward march. O. P. REID

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PRINCIPLES

All to Be Educated

In "Counsels to Teachers" we read on page 44: "Who can determine which one of the family will prove to be efficient in the work of God? There should be a general education of all its members, and all our youth should be permitted to have the blessings and privileges of an education at our schools, that they may be inspired to become workers together with God."

Other such statements can be cited, but they are not essential here, for this is the general trend of the instruction given us. We ought to have the broader and more general idea of Christian education, that of making our schools places of refuge and help for the youth, and not merely that we may have workers to enter the denominational organized work under pay of the organized body, although this must ever be one of the aims.

W. L. ADAMS

SABBATH SCHOOL MORSELS

Reasons Why I Am A Sabbath School Member

Because I need a deeper and more comprehensive knowledge of the Word of God.

Because I need to feast daily on spiritual food as I would upon temporal food.

Because I wish my example and influence to help others, both young and old.

Because I need the blessing and inspiration the school will bring to me for Christian service.

Because of the close personal contact I have with others in the class recitation and general exercises.

Because of the spirit of social good will and fellowship fostered by the work of the school.

Because I get a fresh glimpse each week of some part of the world missionary field and its need.

Because of the opportunity it affords me to give for the advancement of the work in these fields.

Because I need the training the Sabbath school can give every member of the church.

Because I feel that more depends upon me in my Sabbath school class than in the church service.

Because many devoted men and women have said that the Sabbath school, more than any other one agency, has kept them in the love of the truth, and I want it to do that for me.

Because I like the varied program—the songs, the prayer, the missionary exercises, the review, the class study, and the freedom from formality in the exercises.

Because the Lord has set His approval upon this work, and has sent us this message through the Spirit of prophecy, "The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ."—*Sabbath School Leaflet Series, No. 7.*

IN THE INTERIOR OF PANAMA

The following experience was related by Elder G. C. Nickle, president of the Panamá Conference, at a church officers' institute, during the hour in which the publishing work was considered:

"In the Province of Chiriqui, Republic of Panamá, an Adventist mother frequently read from 'The Gospel Primer' (in the Spanish) to her children, who learned to love its stories.

"One day the school teacher was telling of some of the Bible characters. Something she related did not agree with the book. Instantly the little boy was on his feet and said, 'No, teacher, it is not that way.' To have her word questioned rather irritated the teacher, but the boy held to his point. 'How is it then?' the teacher asked. The boy told how it should be and won his point with the reasonableness of his explanation.

"A few days later the teacher was again telling of a Bible character, and once more the boy jumped to his feet at one of her statements. 'It's not that way, teacher,' said the boy. By this time the teacher was quite irritated, but the boy was firm. 'Where did you learn these things?' asked the

teacher. The boy then told of the book at home. The teacher asked to see it, so the book was brought. Recently an order was received from the Board of Education of the city of David for a supply of 'The Gospel Primer' to furnish each school with a copy."

Our books always give a good testimony and recommend themselves. We believe public school boards in other places would do the same the school board of David did if they were acquainted with some of the books we publish. W. A. BERGHERM.

HOME MISSIONARY GEMS

The Need of Vision

"The most vital and fruitful periods in the history of the Christian church have been those in which laymen have most vividly realized and most earnestly sought to discharge their responsibility to propagate the Christian faith. . . . On the other hand, the times when the church has stagnated, when she has been dominated by secularism or by worldliness, and when she has lost her world-conquering power, have been the times when her members—that is, her lay forces—as well as her leaders have lost their vision and become inert."—*John R. Mott, in "Liberating the Lay Forces of Christianity," pp. 1, 6.*

"Where there is no vision the people perish." This statement applies to the condition of our churches where the laymen are not being trained and sent into active service for Christ. Every church must be a training school now. We must enlist, train, and equip every soldier of the cross for rapid advance. WESLEY AMUNDSEN

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INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

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OBITUARIES

Edmundo Lima Marroquín son of Ernesto López Lima and Elvira Marroquín de Lima, died in the City of Guatemala at the age of 21 years, after a lingering illness of nine months.

The writer, as minister in charge of the Guatemala church, spoke words of comfort at the funeral service held in the Lima home, and later to the many members and friends gathered by the grave side. The familiar texts from the Word of Truth as found in 1 Thess. 4:13-16 and 1 Cor. 15:51-56 were used.

Bro. Lima, the father, one of our colporteur evangelists, was faithfully at work with the printed page, too far from home when the notice of his son's death reached him, to return in time for the funeral services. He arrived the following day. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the Lima family in this trying hour.

—ORLEY FORD

Eliza Hughes-Maxwell was born in the year 1887 and died August 6, 1940, at Bocas del Toro, Rep. of Panamá. In 1909 she was married to Ishmael Maxwell. Of the children born to this union, ten survive.

Originally a member of the Baptist Church, she accepted the Adventist faith and was baptized by Elder Nembhard in 1926, uniting with the Bethel church. She became a member of the Bocas City church September 16, 1939.

During her long illness, Sister Maxwell manifested much fortitude and Christian patience. A faithful wife and affectionate mother sleeps to await the call of the Life Giver.

—MRS. N. A. BAILEY

Mary Escalona passed away August 16, 1940, at her home on the island of San Andrés. She was ninety-six years of age. Sister Escalona was a faithful, consecrated church member, having been among those who accepted the message when it was first brought to the island. She leaves three sons and two daughters to mourn, as well as her Christian friends. Brethren J. H. Lynton and José Gómez conducted the funeral service. G. C. NICKLE

LIKE RUTH, THE GLEANER

Never was devotion more beautiful nor more beautifully determined than was Ruth's in these words: "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." Ruth 1:16, 17.

Ruth's devotion has gained for her a place in the list of the names of the Bible. May we, in the devotion to our lot, be as beautiful as Ruth was in the devotion to hers.

What is gleaned? "To gather in handfuls the corn left by the reapers: to collect what is thinly scattered: to gather after the reapers."

"For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch." Mark 13:34. This thought is echoed with emphasis by the Testimonies in many places. Every church member must glean in the field of his influence and opportunity "opposite his own house." The gleaned slogan for every live member of all our churches is: "Win One."

"He that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30), "and they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." Dan. 12:3.

PHILIP GIDDINGS



"God puts each fresh morning, each new chance of life, into our hands as a gift to see what we will do with it."

SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER

The Pacific Press Publishing Association at Cristobal has only a few shelf-worn or otherwise slightly damaged books that are available to our members for the coming Holiday season at greatly reduced prices. Please write to your Book and Bible House immediately for a selection of these gift books and their prices, and have them ready for your family and friends. Those available now are as follows:

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| 2 Ablaze for God, cloth | 1 Foods, Nutrition, & Clinical Dietetics, cloth |
| 30 Acts of the Apostles, cloth | 4 From Acorn to Oak, paper |
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THE LITTLE FLOCK

Filled with persuasiveness and promise are those beautiful, cheering words of the Master, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32. How comforting to troubled, anxious hearts are His words, "Fear not"! How applicable are they at a time like this! Fear and distrust have taken possession of the world. On every hand "men's hearts" are "failing them for fear."

Just as Jesus spoke to the storm-tossed, turbulent sea, "Peace, be still," and the very waves obeyed His voice and the sea became calm, so He speaks today to hearts of the "little flock" those comforting words, "Fear not." Like a sweet benediction they fall amid the strife and fear that are everywhere.

He speaks to the "little flock," These are the ones that know His voice. They have always been few in number, always in the minority. So they are properly called the "little flock." It has never been popular, as the world reasons, to be numbered with this little group. Popularity is dependent upon the masses. But, oh, the satisfaction of being considered worthy to be counted one of this select company! It is

to this special group that He says, "Fear not."

To give the kingdom of heaven to His children is the Father's eternal plan. Yes, it is more than His plan, it is His "good pleasure." It is to be His crowning joy.

The days just before Jesus returns to give the kingdom to the "little flock" are to be filled with fear and trouble. The prophet Daniel described them as "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation." Dan. 12:1.

The need of all today is for perfect love toward God. To put God first in our love, in our devotion, in our plans, is the challenge of the hour. It is this that distinguishes the "little flock." These are they that "fear not," for perfect love casteth out fear."

M. L. RICE

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY READING PROGRAM

Assignment in "Great
Controversy"

Nov. 10-16 pp. 650-665

Nov. 17-23 pp. 666-678

THE WEEK OF PRAYER

The next issue of the MESSENGER will be a special issue and will contain the readings, one for each day, prepared by the General Conference for the Week of Prayer. There will also be lesson outlines for the children. All of the readings and lessons are very appropriate at this time and are sent out in the belief that they will be carefully studied in the homes and in the churches and wherever companies can be gathered. A large number of the special issue has been printed, but if some members do not receive copies of the paper, we trust that others will "share" in order that the good readings may be available to all.

These are times of great importance in the world and great significance to the people of God. Let us have faith and trust, knowing that "the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men," and let us pray for ourselves, for our children and for our neighbors.

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest."

W. C. RALEY

NOTICE TO ELDERS AND LEADERS

Sabbath, November 9, has been set apart as a special day by action of the General Conference, to call the attention of our people everywhere to the importance of the literature ministry.

This year the entire day has been dedicated to this purpose—both the morning and the afternoon. Two programs have been prepared and sent to all our churches throughout the division, the one for the morning service, and the other for the afternoon service.

The afternoon service is planned for the Missionary Volunteer Society, to form a part of their service on this Sabbath. In case the young people's hour is regularly held at some other time, it is recommended that the elder or leader appoint an afternoon service, and that all be invited to attend.

We earnestly appeal to all our leaders to assist in making this day an occasion of special interest in behalf of the literature work.

W. A. BERGHERM

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God's lever to lift the world is called Love.

MODERN CALEBS

In spite of the war, pestilences, poverty, and drouth in many lands, God's great advent movement still marches on to the heights of signal victory. The often repeated statement, "Man's extremity is God's opportunity," is better understood in these days of great calamities.

On Long Island, Bahamas, during the past season, there has been drouth and poor crops, and the church hesitated to set its customary Harvest Ingathering goal. However, the members, like Caleb of Bible times, said, "We are well able." An ingenious goal device indicated the amounts that were gathered week by week until almost twenty-five dollars was received. This is five times the amount of the goal.

This experience has helped to strengthen my confidence in God's great movement. Truly we must say, "All things are possible to him that believeth."

M. G. NEMBHARD

DISAPPOINTMENT

God keeps a school for His children here on earth, and one of the best teachers is Disappointment. My friend, when you and I reach our Father's house we shall look back and see that the sharp-voiced, rough-visaged teacher, Disappointment, was one of the best guides to train us for it. He gave us hard lessons; He often used the rod; he often led us into thorny paths; he sometimes stripped off a load of luxuries, but that only made us travel the freer and faster on our heavenward way. He sometimes led us down in the valley of the death shadow, but never did the promises read so sweetly as when spelled out by the eye of faith in that very valley. Nowhere did he lead us so often, or teach us such sacred lessons as at the cross of Christ. Dear old rough-handed teacher! We will build a monument to thee yet, and crown it with garlands, and inscribe on it, "Blessed be the memory of Disappointment!"

—Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D.

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"Satan uses the listless, sleepy indolence of professed Christians to strengthen his forces and win souls to his side. Many who think that though they are doing no actual work for Christ, they are yet on His side, are enabling the enemy to preoccupy ground and gain advantages."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 280.

Just What Many Want

"The wider the circulation of our publications, the greater will be the demand for books that make plain the Scriptures of truth. Many are becoming disgusted with the inconsistencies, the errors, and the apostasy of the churches, and with the festivals, fairs, lotteries, and numerous inventions to extort money for church purposes. There are many who are seeking for light in the darkness. If our papers, tracts, and books, expressing the truth in plain Bible language, could be widely circulated, many would find that they are just what they want. But many of our brethren act as though the people were to come to them or send to our offices to obtain publications, when thousands do not know that they exist."—*Id.*, p. 392.

Cannot Regard Too Highly

"God calls upon His people to act like living men, and not to be indolent, sluggish, and indifferent. We must carry the publications to the people, and urge them to accept, showing them that they will receive much more than their money's worth. Exalt the value of the books you offer. You cannot regard them too highly."—*Id.*, p. 392.

NOTICE

Do not destroy or throw away these bulletins. When the twelve numbers have been issued you will have a very fine collection of choice statements from the pen of inspiration regarding the publishing work. We suggest that you save every number for when completed you may want to bind them into a little booklet.



THE
LITERATURE
MINISTRY

Bulletin No. 9

Children of This World Wiser?

"Other publishers have regular systems of introducing into the market books of no vital interest. 'The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.' Golden opportunities occur almost daily where the silent messengers of truth might be introduced into families and to individuals; but no advantage is taken of these opportunities by the indolent, thoughtless ones."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 389.

Hundreds Should Be Engaged

"Living preachers are few. There is only one where there should be a hundred. Many are making a great mistake in not putting their talents to use in seeking to save the souls of their fellow-men. Hundreds of men should be engaged in carrying the light all through our cities, villages, and towns. The public mind must be agitated. God says, Let light be sent out into all parts of the field. He designs that men shall be channels of light, bearing it to those who are in darkness."—*Id.*, p. 389.

Those To Be Selected

"Missionaries are wanted everywhere. In all parts of the field canvassers should be selected, not from the floating element in so-

ciety, not from among men and women who are good for nothing else and have made a success of nothing, but from among those who have good address, tact, keen foresight, and ability. Such are needed to make a success as colporteurs, canvassers, and agents."—*Id.*, pp. 389, 390.

This Work Not To Be Belittled

"Men suited to this work undertake it; but some injudicious minister will flatter them that their gift should be employed in the desk instead of simply in the work of the colporteur. Thus this work is belittled. They are influenced to get a license to preach; and the very ones who might have been trained to make good missionaries to visit families at their homes and talk and pray with them, are caught up to make poor ministers; and the field where so much labor is needed, and where so much good might be accomplished for the cause, is neglected."—*Id.*, p. 390.

Most Important Work

"If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures. Missionary work—introducing our publications into families, conversing, and praying with and for them—is a good work, and one which will educate men and women to do pastoral labor."—*Id.*, p. 390.

Every One Not Fitted

"Every one is not fitted for this work. Those of the best talent and ability, who will take hold of the work understandingly and systematically, and carry it forward with persevering energy, are the ones who should be selected. There should be a most thoroughly organized plan; and this should be faithfully carried out."—*Id.*, p. 390.

Those Whom God Can Use

"In choosing men and women for His service, God does not ask whether they possess learning or eloquence or worldly wealth. He asks: 'Do they walk in such humility that I can teach them My way? Can I put My words into their lips? Will they represent Me?'"

"God can use every person just in proportion as He can put His Spirit into the soul-temple. The work that He will accept is the work that reflects His image. His followers are to bear, as their credentials to the world, the ineffaceable characteristics of His immortal principles."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 144.

Responsible For Light Given

"Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to his people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings. The cares of the world, the love of fashion, and the lack of religion, have turned the attention from the light God has so graciously given, while books and periodicals containing error are traveling all over the country. Skepticism and infidelity are increasing everywhere. Light so precious, coming from the throne of God, is hid under a bushel. God will make his people responsible for this neglect. An account must be rendered to Him for every ray of light He has let shine upon our pathway, whether it has been improved to our advancement in divine things, or rejected because it was more agreeable to follow inclination."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 391.

Should Improve Opportunities

"We now have great facilities for spreading the truth; but our people are not coming up to the privileges given them. They do not in every church see and feel the necessity of using their abilities in saving souls. They do not realize their duty to obtain subscribers for our periodicals, including our health journal, and to introduce our books and pamphlets."—*Id.*, p. 391.

Dress and Manners

"Men should be at work who are willing to be taught as to the best way of approaching individuals and families. Their dress should be neat, but not foppish, and their manners such as not to disgust the people. There is a great want of true politeness among us as a people. This should be cultivated by all who take hold of the missionary work."—*Id.*, pp. 391, 392.