



## The Sabbath in the Days of the Patriarchs

THE REST of the seventh day is of very ancient origin. It is not a Jewish institution nor an invention of Moses. It existed before the moral shipwreck of man in the primitive Paradise, and has been transmitted, together with the week, its twin sister, down through the ages from Eden until our day. It goes back to the creation of the world and the foundation of the human race, back nearly 25 centuries before the proclamation of the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai.

### Made at Creation

The story of the creation says: "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made." Genesis 2:2, 3. The Decalogue (Exodus 20:11), the law of Moses (Exodus 31:17), and one epistle of the New Testament (Hebrews 4:4), concur in pointing out the creation of the world as the date when the rest of the seventh day was instituted.

In the original text (the Hebrew), the word "rested" in Genesis 2:2, 3 is *shabath*, which means "sabbatized, ceased, rested." From this verb is derived *Shabbath*, the Hebrew noun, which signifies "Sabbath, cessation, rest." The word *Sábado* used today by the Spanish-speaking peoples everywhere to designate the seventh day of the week is nothing more than the ancient Hebrew noun adopted by the Castillian tongue.\*

By choosing the seventh day for making the Sabbath of it, the Lord gave it a special distinction. During the first six days of the first week He worked creating the world. For this reason the Holy Scriptures distinguishes

By R. L. ODOM

them from the Sabbath, calling them "the six working days." Ezekiel 46:1. The day of rest is a definite day determined by God Himself, not man. It is *the seventh day*.

By resting on the seventh day, the Lord made it the Sabbath (rest) day. He thereby gave us an example in order that as He rested "from all His work" in it, we also might lay aside all servile work when the seventh day should come.

By blessing the seventh day, God purposed that the Sabbath should be

a blessing to mankind, for "the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Mark 2:27. The Lord says: "Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil." Isaiah 56:2.

By sanctifying the seventh day, the Lord invested it with a sacred robe, crowned it with holiness. By this solemn act He made the seventh day holy, setting it apart as hallowed and sacred, different from the first six days of the week, in order that it might be dedicated to Him and His worship. It "is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord." Exodus 16:23.

### THE VALLEY OF PRAYER

There's a quiet deep vale by the wayside of life,  
And the name of this valley is Prayer;  
It is hid from the world with its tumult and strife,  
And the angel of peace dwelleth there.

Winding down through its calm flows the river  
Of God,  
All agleam with the glory on high;  
And I feel in my soul, as I kneel on its sod,  
A sweet rapture that comes from the sky.

The breezes that blow through this valley of prayer  
Are as soft as the sighing of love,  
And as pure as the dew on the clover bloom there,  
Or the raindrops that fall from above.

The wild storms that come nigh it soon swoon  
Into calm  
In this deep, hidden valley of prayer;  
And the leaves of the trees there are rich with the balm  
That heals all my path and my care.

Hovering o'er its still depths are the infolded wings  
Of bright seraphs sent down from the throne,  
To shelter with love the suppliant who clings  
Unto Him whose shed blood can atone.

When the tempest is on me, and fierce in its wrath,  
And my heart is sore pressed with its care,  
I turn from the world, and gladly enter the path  
That leads down to the valley of prayer.

—Campbell Coyle

### A Christian Institution

The rest of the seventh day is a genuinely Christian institution from the beginning. Jesus Christ was one of the "Us" (Genesis 3:22) who spoke when the Creators said: "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." Genesis 1:26. Not only God the Father, but also God the Son (Hebrews 1:2) and God the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4) participated in the creation of man. Hence Christ is called "the Word," because the Father invested Him with authority to carry out the plans for the creation and redemption of the world. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. . . . The world was made by Him. . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:1-3, 10, 14. See also John 17:5, 24. (Continued on p. 2)

Jesus Christ is the Creator of the earth, and is the One who instituted the Sabbath in the beginning, "for by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth. . . . all things were created by Him, and for Him: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist." Colossians 1:13-17. "Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." Mk. 2:28; Matt. 12:8; Luke 6:5.

### **The Week Known**

The Holy Scriptures reveal that the week of "seven days" was in use in the days of Noah. Genesis 7:4, 10; 8:10, 12. God says: "Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Genesis 26:5. The "week" is also spoken of as an institution well known by Jacob and his kindred in Mesopotamia. Genesis 29:27, 28. Commenting on Genesis 31:23, Josephus, the Jewish historian of the first century, says of Laban's pursuit of Jacob: "And on the seventh day [he] overtook them, and found them resting on a certain hill."—*"Antiquities of the Jews," Bk. 1, Chap. 19, Sect. 10, William Whiston's Translation.*

### **The Sabbath in Egypt**

Jacob died in Egypt, and there his sons multiplied. When Pharaoh attempted to enslave the Israelites, there arose a controversy about the observance of the Sabbath. They were to hold "a feast" to the Lord instead of working on that day. Exodus 5:1. Pharaoh objected, demanding that they work. But they refused to work. "And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens. And Pharaoh said, Behold the people of the land now are many, and ye *cause them to rest* from their burdens." Exodus 5:2-5. See also verse 17. In the original text (the Hebrew) we read literally: "And ye cause them to sabbatize from their burdens." Here is used the same verb *sabbatize* which is employed in Genesis 2:2, 3, but here it is used in the causative form (Hiphil) as to *make* or *cause* to rest or sabbatize.

Forty years later, when recounting the story of the Exodus of his people from Egypt, Moses reminded them of the difficulty of Sabbath observance which they had under the tyranny of Pharaoh. Deuteronomy 5:12-15. See "Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 258.

### **Two Weeks Before Sinai**

Two weeks before (Exodus 16:1) the arrival of the Hebrews at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:1), God tested the faithfulness of His people in their obedience to His law (Exodus 16:4), and this test was based on the observance of the Sabbath, the seventh day. Exodus 16:22-30.

Once they had arrived at Sinai, the Lord Jesus Himself (I Corinthians 10:1-4), who had always gone before them, proclaimed with His own voice the Ten Commandments. Exodus 19 and 20. A few weeks later, He wrote the Decalogue upon two tables of stone, that Israel might have this law in imperishable form. They were "tables of stone, written with the finger of God." Exodus 31:18. "And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables." Exodus 32:16. God did not even

entrust to Moses the writing of the Ten Commandments.

In the bosom of the Decalogue the Lord placed the commandment which ordains the observance of the seventh day as a day of rest.

"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11.

\*In many other modern languages, the seventh day still retains the name *Sabbath*.

## **MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK**

By G. A. ROBERTS

"Soon there will be no work done in the ministerial lines, but medical missionary work."—*"Counsels on Health," p. 533.*

In a field of our division, the government inspector of churches who visited one of our churches made a report to the president of the country on conditions as he found them. The result of this report caused the government to issue a permit for the opening of another of our new churches. The report of this inspector of churches to the president was that he found our church open six days each week, one day for religious service and five days for the care of the sick and needy. Had we not had a medical unit or clinic in operation in that church, in all probability our new church would have remained closed. The laws of this country require that all church properties belong to the government, and we have been building churches and deeding them over before they are occupied.

The time may come when of necessity we will need to erect "clinics" with an assembly room in connection. Governments may require us to do just what we have been told we should do wherever we have a church, namely, prepare a place though "inelegant or even rude," where treatments can be given. It seems the Spirit who directed

the writing of the "Testimonies" even saw these out-of-the-way places in our lands where it would be impossible, and even unnecessary, to erect fine buildings in which the work would need to be conducted only by physicians and regular graduate nurses. We thank God for all such opportunities. We can establish and should aim at the highest standard. We ought to follow the instruction which says that wherever we have a church we should provide a clinic, even if it be one "inelegant and even rude."

"In every city where we have a church, there is need of a place where treatment can be given. Among the homes of our church-members there are few that afford room and facilities for the proper care of the sick. A place should be provided where treatment may be given for common ailments. The building might be inelegant and even rude, but it should be furnished with facilities for giving simple treatments. These, skilfully employed, would prove a blessing, not only to our own people, but to their neighbors, and might be the means of calling the attention of many to health principles."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 113.*

It is the ministry rendered and not the elegant equipment that tells most for winning souls.

## NATIONALITIES ARE OF GOD

By WESLEY AMUNDSEN

"Nationalism is growing by leaps and bounds." So states Edward Tomlinson in his book, "New Road to Riches."

But why this increasing national consciousness, this desire on the part of nations to live within themselves and demand recognition of themselves as separate units of society in a world already torn asunder with hatred and jealousies among races and peoples? Where does the child of God fit into the picture? What should be his relationship to all of the emotionalism which cries out for the separation of nations and countries rather than the welding together of the human family into greater unity?

The true Christian is a child of peace, not of war and contention. He walks, as did his Master, among the men of all nations and desires their good. His love expresses itself toward his neighbor in the fulfillment of the last six commandments of the moral law. He hates not his brother neither in word, act, nor thought. Love flows out from him to others and he sees no racial or national barriers in his Christian relationship with them.

In that epochal lecture delivered by Paul at Athens some centuries ago, there was laid down a principle which we do well to consider. Speaking of the God who dwells not in temples made with hands, the One who made all things in the universe by the word His power, Paul said: "And [He] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." Acts 17:26.

Malachi records this statement: "Have we not all one father? hath not God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother . . . ? Mal. 2:10.

When God made the world six thousand years ago, He made one man and one woman. To them was given the command, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." Gen. 1:28. The curse of sin, through disobedience to the commands of God, appears to have altered to a certain degree God's original plan for filling the earth with sinless beings. By the Flood, the wicked descendants of Cain were destroyed. But the root of sin remained.

After the Flood had subsided, God gave to Noah the same command which He previously had given to Adam, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." Gen. 9:1. But sin once more found its way into the hearts of men and they departed from God. Men who lost faith in the God who made the heavens and the earth, the sea and the fountains of waters, and all things that are therein. They attempted to build on the plains of Shinar a tower which would reach so high up into the heavens that no flood would be able to completely submerge it. It was to be a monument to self-sufficiency.

Up to this time "the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech." Gen. 11:1. There was one universal language spoken by all the dwellers upon the earth. It was probably the same language that was spoken by Adam and Eve. What that language was, we cannot tell.

Nationalities arose with the building of the Babylonian tower on Shinar's plain. God was the originator of the idea of nationalities. He looked down with displeasure upon the people who were refusing to spread abroad upon the face of the earth, and He said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is what they begin to do: and now nothing will be withholden from them, which they purpose to do. Come, Let Us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So Jehovah scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth." Gen. 11:6, 7, A. R. V.

Although they were of one language or speech, the people of that day had clung together in such a way as to fail to fulfill the counsel of God, failing "to fill the earth." So in the experience of Babel we have the beginning of nationalism, and that is why we have so many languages and different peoples in the world today. It is the providential outworking of a situation caused by sin. It is a mystery which the human mind cannot fathom, but one which some day will be made plain to the children of God.

So here we are, some of us born in one country, some in another. None

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## CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

### IMPORTANCE OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL

"You need the Sabbath School and the Sabbath School needs you," is indeed a very definite presentation of the importance of the Sabbath school. No Seventh-day Adventist should deprive himself of the privileges and blessings which the Sabbath school has to offer. Every one—old and young, men, women, and children, laymen, preachers and workers—needs the Sabbath school. There can be no Sabbath school without *you*. At least that is true as far as *you* are concerned. It is only when everyone counts the Sabbath school as for himself, that the school can function at 100 per cent.

Another slogan well worth consideration is this: "If all of the Sabbath school members were just like me, what kind of a Sabbath school would our Sabbath school be?" Pause a moment to analyze this slogan. If you are a Seventh-day Adventist and not a member of the Sabbath school, and all Seventh-day Adventists were "just like you," you readily understand that there would be no Sabbath school at all. What a calamity that would be for the church, for the whole denomination! The Seventh-day Adventist Church would soon cease to function if there were no Sabbath school. Thus *you* are an essential factor in the program of the church.

"The Sabbath school work is important, and all who are interested in the truth should endeavor to make it prosperous."—*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, page 109.

Therefore when any member, layman or worker, fails to take an interest in the Sabbath school, it is evidence of his lack of interest "in the truth." How, in the light of such a striking statement, can any member fail to show his active interest to make the Sabbath school prosperous? A passive interest is a negative and not a positive interest, and again such an attitude betrays a lack of real, living, personal interest "in the truth." The Sabbath school is the church studying the truth.

Yes, the Sabbath school is of vital and fundamental importance in the spiritual life of every member of the church. No member ever graduates from the Sabbath school. The oldest

adult as well as the youngest child needs its vitalizing influence and the blessing that comes from being an active member.

There is a continual danger that the Seventh-day Adventist Church will lose a vision of the importance and value of the Sabbath school in the spiritual life and work of the church. In many of the popular churches, the Sunday school has come to be regarded as mainly for the children and youth and perhaps for a few of the most devout and pious of the saints. Seventh-day Adventists must never allow themselves thus to narrow their vision of the importance of our great Sabbath school organization. The Sabbath school has been through the years the one paramount spiritual and vitalizing force of our church. No member or worker should ever lose this vision. To lose it is to lose interest "in the truth," as so definitely stated in the Spirit of prophecy, in the statement already quoted. Yes, "the Sabbath school is important," and "all who are interested in the truth should endeavor to make it prosperous." Only by an ever active, personal presence and regular attendance can anyone show that he believes in the importance of the Sabbath school.

Let every officer and teacher, and also each active member, unite during 1941 in a most earnest effort to bring in all the "missing members." That there are some—many such—in some places, our denominational statistics abundantly prove. There should be no "missing members." May God greatly stir and awaken us all to a sense of the great importance and value of the Sabbath school work. The Sabbath school membership ought to exceed by far the church membership, for there are always visitors and also the children who are not yet baptized church members. A fair average, as a basis of calculation, is that the Sabbath school membership should exceed the church membership by 20% to 25%. A field of 4,000 church members should have a Sabbath school membership of at least 5,000. We are glad that in some of our mission fields the average of the Sabbath school membership actually is above this suggested proportion.

May God greatly stir and awaken us all, as members and workers, to follow His plan and purpose in the great Sabbath school organization of this denomination, to the end that 1941 may show a decided change and advance for the

better in our Sabbath school membership and life.

Our aim ought to be: "You need the Sabbath School, and the Sabbath School needs You." Every member of the church and every member of every Seventh-day Adventist family ought to be a Sabbath school member.

A. R. OGDEN

## CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION MISSION

### IN STRANGE WAYS

It has been very interesting to me to note the different means the Lord uses to carry His message to those who are honest in heart and will receive it. Recently, while visiting the little church at San Andrés, in the Province of Chiriquí, Panamá, I heard of a man who lived in an adjoining valley and who was very much interested in the Adventist doctrines and who had received his first definite impressions from some representatives of a certain lodge. I desired very much to meet this man, and one day Brother Teófilo Quiroz, who is the elder of this little San Andrés church, and I saddled our horses and started out to find this Mr. Espinosa. It was a long trail over to his place, and at least six hours of horseback riding was required to cover the distance.

I was surprised to find that Mr. Espinosa was recognized as the leading citizen of that district. He owned a beautiful, large cattle ranch, and had perhaps twenty men working for him. His place was very well kept, his workmen well organized, and he had the appearance of being a business man. Nevertheless, he had time to entertain us very courteously and to shower us with questions about the Bible.

The thing that I particularly wish to relate here is how he became interested in this message. It seems that the representatives of the lodge mentioned were making a drive for members through the rural district, and they naturally attempted to secure as members persons of means and influence. Mr. Espinosa is quite a religious man, and when he was approached by these men, he pointed out to them that he felt that his social interests should be devoted to the church, and declared he had no desire to join a lodge. How-

ever, they argued that the lodge, as they understood it, was better than the church, that it virtually took the place of the church, and that the church was in error in many respects. In order to clinch this part of their argument, they presented to him a Bible, one prepared by their organization. It was a true version of the Scriptures, and contained additional helps. He promised them that he would study it and be prepared to give them his answer when they returned.

Several months later, the men made their second visit. He opened his house to them and made them feel at home. Anxiously they awaited his answer. After the evening meal, he opened the subject by saying:

"Gentlemen, I very much appreciate your having called on me and opened my eyes to the truth." This statement from him gave his visitors much encouragement. But he further continued: "You showed me things in the Holy Scriptures which I did not know existed. I have studied over and over again the prophecies you referred me to and have also read other prophecies with deep interest. I have found that your statements about the Roman Church are true. It is not the true church, but the fallen church. However, I must disappoint you by saying that even though you are correct in this, yet you have not gone far enough. Until you can show me that your organization is keeping the commandments of God and is preparing a people to be received by the Lord at His second coming, I can have no further interest in your lodge except to thank you for having started me thinking in the right direction."

After telling us this story, Mr. Espinosa then told us how he had obtained little bits of information here and there about the people who do keep the commandments of God and who are looking for the coming of the Lord. He said, "I am keeping the commandments the best I know how, but I need more help, and I trust that you can stay here with me for several days so that I may be taught the true path of righteousness and that I, in turn, might be able to teach others who are here with me in this place."

To me this is only another demonstration that the Spirit of God is definitely at work and that He has means, of which we have no knowledge, of opening the doors and carrying the mes-

sage to honest hearts. It is also noteworthy that once this interest is aroused, the seekers for truth immediately search diligently for God's servants, humble Seventh-day Adventists, who are living out in these remote districts. And such men as Mr. Espinosa, leaders in their communities, financially and socially, are willing to sit at the feet of humble, uneducated men, and receive from them this wonderful third angel's message.

G. C. NICKLE

## ANTILLIAN UNION MISSION

### EXTRACTS FROM THE MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER REPORT FOR THE ANTILLIAN UNION MISSION

It is with a sense of responsibility that we review the work of the Missionary Volunteer Department of the Antillian Union Mission. Again and again the challenge has come to us to recognize the importance of this phase of our work, and to do our part in training leaders for the crisis—standard bearers in the army of youth.

Our purpose will be to present a field-by-field account of the present situation in the union.

**BAHAMAS:** My first visit to this interesting island group was made last October. It afforded a first-hand glimpse of some of the problems faced by Elder Meeker and his co-workers. Professor and Mrs. Rathbun—who through the years have been friends of young people—are assisting in various ways. Sister Rathbun's faithful promotion of the literature work in the Bahamas, while not strictly an M. V. project, has been an inspiration to the youth in effective missionary endeavor.

It was impossible to hold a convention or rally in Nassau, but it is our hope that one can be arranged soon. Meanwhile, we are confident that our younger workers, Brother Nembhard and Brother and Sister Lindo, will give valued support, by organizing the M. V. work in the outer islands.

It was my privilege to spend some time with Miss Eulalie Lawrence and her assistant in the Nassau church school. A Junior M. V. Society has been organized by the boys and girls of this thriving school, a unit that will mean much to the future of the M. V. work in the Bahamas.

**CUBA:** The Cuba Conference has

demonstrated a good interest in the work of the Missionary Volunteers. Early in 1940 the 37 societies of this field showed a membership of 821, of whom 732, or nearly 90%, were reporting. The excellent record of these young people in literature distribution was further advanced by the sale of *El Centinela* as a special project.

**HAITI:** A recent investiture service, the first held in Haiti, marked the beginning of Progressive Class promotion in the capital of the republic. At this meeting 11 young people were admitted to the Friends' class. A feature of the program was the awarding of a Bible to a little 11-year old girl who, at a previous meeting, had recited 101 Morning Watch verses, giving the reference for each.

**JAMAICA:** Scattered over the green hills and valleys of this beautiful island is a veritable army of Missionary Volunteers. For the first three quarters of 1940, the membership of the 127 societies averaged 2,300, with 81.2 per cent reporting.

With a Progressive class study group at Mandeville and in other societies, it is evident that this program will be well-developed in the near future. It is estimated that at least 100 are now ready, or nearly so, for investiture in the various classes. •

**PUERTO RICO:** The average total membership of the 33 societies up to October, 1940, was 335, a gain of 80 over the previous year. An average of 231 are active, reporting members. The Harvest Ingathering funds collected by the young people of Puerto Rico amounted this year to \$407.87.

**SANTO DOMINGO:** The interest in Progressive Class work is growing, and all phases of missionary endeavor are carried on with enthusiasm, including radio work, singing bands, literature distribution, and personal work. September's report showed 94% of the 542 members reporting. During the quarter 5,108 Bible Readings were reported. Treatments given numbered 1,360, and a total of 4,500 pieces of literature were distributed.

Thus our picture of the Missionary Volunteers in the Antilles shows an army of young men and women whose slogan is "Forward, Youth!" Over varying terrain they go, meeting and surmounting difficulties of every sort, but marching, ever marching on.

V. E. BERRY,

*Missionary Volunteer Sec'y.*

## MEXICAN UNION MISSION

### SUCCESS IN LIFE

No doubt material possessions contribute to health and security, but if the whole life of men is spent in securing them, that is to say, if the acquisition of material riches is the dominant passion of their life, we must admit then that such persons are not the happiest.

The mania of gaining material possessions damages or harms the character of poor people as much as it does the character of rich people. It is the principle which produces the damage, for the man enslaved by this passion will lose sight of the finest and greatest values in life.

A man whose eyes are set on heavenly things, finds pleasure and joy in this world when he lends a helping hand to his poor neighbors. He does not think only of saying words of encouragement to those who are weary and heavy-laden. He helps them in a practical way with his strength and his substance. He is a representative of those who have a vision of future, inspired by the Spirit of God. His heart is clean of all selfishness, purified from worldly thoughts. This type of man contributes in a large way to make life enjoyable and profitable. How fortunate is the town or city which has such a man!

He will contribute to the happiness and welfare of the town in a larger measure than men who only think in terms of dollars and cents. There are many mercenaries, but at the end they will see that their estimate of life was wrong, and that they shall reap as they have sown. He who has chosen for himself a higher moral goal, and has dedicated his life to blessing his fellow men, will hear the sweetest words ever pronounced by the Lord: "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

MRS. C. E. MOON

The disciples "understanding of truth and their power to withstand opposition were proportionate to their conformity to God's will."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 594.

## IT PAYS

By W. A. BERGHERM

While in the office of the Salvador Mission, one of the colporteurs came in from his work in the city. I was informed that he had secured five orders already that day for the good book "The Great Controversy." I was told also that these orders were from leading men of the country. Upon further inquiry, I was shown his prospectus, and found there among the first names the signature of the president of the republic, followed by those of several other officials and leading men.

Brother Bernardo Hernández, the field missionary secretary of that mission, had secured this order from the president, and assisted the colporteur in securing orders from a few of the other officials in the list. Naturally, with such a start other orders were much more easily secured.

Who knows what the influence of these books placed in the hands of the prominent officials will be? We recall the statement made by Sister White: "Take the books to business men, . . . men who take an active part in the world's

work, to teachers and leaders of the people. Thousands can be reached in the most simple, humble way. The most intellectual, those who are looked upon as the world's most gifted men and women, are often refreshed by the simple words of the 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 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."—*"Colporteur Evangelist,"* pp. 37, 38.

## NATIONALITIES ARE OF GOD

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of us had anything to do with our being born into this world. We do not choose our color, neither our language, nor our race. We are all here by a divine decree put into effect thousands of years ago. This decree will be modi-

fied in that glorious day when He shall come whose we are, and we "shall be changed." Then there will be again one universal language and one people, and God Himself will be our God indeed.

In Acts 17:26 (A. R. V.), we read a bit more about this plan of God for the nations, and their place in this world. "Having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us."

Sometimes we wonder why certain races of men inhabit certain sections of the world. Some of these races have been where they are for millenniums. Scientists who do not accept the Bible account of the dispersion of the nations, have set forth many theories. But the word of God is clear, showing that He wishes all those nationalities to see Him and to find Him, and to be "born again," by the working of the Holy Spirit upon the heart.

It is not strange, therefore, that the last message of mercy which is calling men everywhere to come out of Babylon, not only out of the confusion of religious errors, but also out of the confusion of languages which was set in operation centuries ago, is going forward with ever increasing speed to "every nation and tribe and tongue and people." This last message is to perform one of the greatest miracles ever seen in the universe of God, the welding together by the bonds of love men of every language and nationality in the whole world, into one people. The message pushes its way through national barriers. Heart is united to heart, soul with soul. One consuming passion burns in the hearts of the truly con-

NOMBRAS	ESTADO	DONDELE Y DURECION	ORIGEN	DIA DE ENTRADA
1. <u>Simón de la Cruz</u>	W	Gran Piedad, Pinar	Presidente de la Rep. de la	
R. P. de la Cruz		42 C. P. N. 58	Reactor de la Universidad	(S)
2. <u>W. A. Alfaro</u>		12 C. P. 4	Decano Fac. de Ingenieros	
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The prospectus of the book "Great Controversy," opened at the page showing the signature of the president of El Salvador at the head of the list.

## DIVISION DIRECTORY

G. A. ROBERTS	-	-	-	President and Ministerial Assn. Sec'y.
W. C. RALEY	-	-	-	Secretary-Treasurer
E. R. SANDERS	-	-	-	Assistant Sec'y-Treasurer
H. L. NIELSEN	-	-	-	Assistant Auditor
W. A. BERGHERM	-	-	-	Field Miss. Sec'y
W. L. ADAMS	-	-	-	Educational, Missionary Volunteer, and Home Commission Secretary
W. AMUNDSEN	-	-	-	Home Missionary and Sab- bath School Secretary

## INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

W. C. Raley, *Editor*  
G. A. Roberts, *Assistant Editor*

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verted Christians, to preach the "everlasting gospel," as contained in the judgment hour message, in order to prepare a people to meet God.

The cementing of hearts is now going on in spite of the endeavor of Satan to introduce dissension and strife among God's chosen people. Soon the final act of the drama of life will be enacted and the whole universe of unfallen worlds will see "a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and palms in their hands." Rev. 7:9, A. R. V. None of this number will boast of nationality or language superiority, nor isolate themselves from others by erecting racial barriers. They will have become one people, "one body unto God through the cross." The love of Christ is the welding power, and seals them by the blood of the Lamb.

Our work today is to fulfill the prayer of Jesus in which He asked, "That they all may be one; even as Thou Father art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." John 17:21.

Let us repeat this prayer with Him. Say it this way, "That we all may be one, . . . that the world may believe that God sent Jesus." Shall we not surrender to that prayer, laying aside our nationalities, our language differences, our pride of race, in order to become true citizens of the spiritual kingdom of Christ. We have certain obligations to the land of our nativity, and we must render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and ought to show respect for civil government. Nevertheless we are children of God, waiting for the change which shall soon come and by which we shall be transformed into the image of God.

Today the household of faith employs over 800 languages and modes of speech. What a revelation it is to the world to see this movement going forward in such a way so as to have unity and harmony among its people! Yes, we are one people, the "remnant people" of God, having one faith, one Lord, one baptism. Soon the work will be finished. Jerusalem above will open her gates to receive the citizens of the heavenly kingdom. Oh, what will it mean to be there! May God shed His love abroad into our hearts so as to bind us one to another, holding us close

to Himself so that when the soon-coming storm breaks upon the world we may hold fast to the blessed hope and have confidence in each other.

#### A COLPOREUR EXPERIENCE

Elder R. I. Keate, president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, recently related the following experience:

I was working my territory the second time. I went to a house where I had sold "Coming King" the year before. I found company at the home, and the man of the house paid no attention to me. He said that he did not want anything. I asked him to allow me to show him what I had, but he said, "No, I am busy." As I was turning away, the lady of the house said to her husband, "Isn't that the man who sold us 'Coming King' last year?" He turned to me and asked the same question. After learning who I was, he said, "Put me down for one of those books." I told him that I would like him to see the book. He said, "No, just put me down for one." I took the order, but was rather shaky about it. While delivering, I met this man on the road. He not only received the book, but trusted me so much that he did not even open it there. He seemed to feel that he could trust me.

This shows the possibilities of the residential plan of canvassing.

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PRINCIPLES

##### The Responsibilities

The responsibility for Christian education of the children and youth has been properly placed upon the parents of the children first, and then the church as a whole must assume some portion of the responsibility. It is stated also that the conference should have a fund from which some help can be given. Some seem to think that those who have children ought to be freed from the educational cost. Parents have the same obligation toward their children in their education as they have in providing the clothing they wear and the food they eat.

When conditions are such that the parents cannot do all that they really ought to do in this line, then it is the privilege of the church as a whole to step in and do what parents cannot do. The responsibility is not then shifted, but this help is to be given as missionary work of the highest order.

W. L. ADAMS

#### HOME MISSIONARY GEMS

##### Christ's Methods Give Success

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

"If we follow Christ's example in doing good, hearts will open to us as they did to Him. Not abruptly, but with tact born of love, we can tell them of Him who is the 'chiefest among ten thousand,' and the one 'altogether lovely.' This is the very highest work in which we can employ the talent of speech. It was given us that we might present Christ as the sin-pardoning Saviour."—*Christ Object Lessons*, pp. 838, 339.

"Those who have been most successful in soul-winning were men and women who did not pride themselves on their ability, but who in humility and faith sought to help those about them. Jesus did this very work. He came close to those whom He desired to reach."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 194.

WESLEY AMUNDSEN

#### HE WAITS

"Our heavenly Father waits to bestow upon us the fulness of His blessing. It is our privilege to drink largely at the fountain of boundless love. What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children, and yet there is much manifest reluctance on our part to make known our wants to God. What can the angels of heaven think of poor helpless human beings, who are subject to temptation, when God's heart of infinite love yearns toward them, ready to give them more than they can ask or think, and yet they pray so little, and have so little faith?"—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 97, 98.

#### OBITUARY

Louise Charlemagne, of the island of St. Lucia, B. W. I., gave her heart to the Lord in 1934. She was a faithful worker in His vineyard until the time of her sickness. After a very brief illness she fell asleep in Jesus on Dec. 6, 1940, at the age of 46, in a clinic near her home at Baragua, Cuba. She left her husband and an adopted daughter to mourn. The funeral services were conducted by Brother H. J. Farrell.

B. L. THOMAS

**EL CENTINELA APPRECIATED**

In the mail there come many good letters of appreciation for the magazine *El Centinela*. This week a letter from Australia comes with a request to renew the subscription of a Spanish family in Melbourne. The mother and daughter greatly appreciate the good material found in our missionary paper.

A Roman Catholic reader from Bayamón, Puerto Rico, asks for literature to study further the truths of the word of God. From Sogamosa, Colombia, comes a series of questions about the state of the dead, and the writer closes thus: "As a curious child who begins to ask questions about everything which attracts his attention, I come to you for the answer." Truly *El Centinela* does answer a great need in the Spanish-speaking field of our division.

From Camaguey, Cuba, have come several letters of appreciation for our missionary magazine. The president of a cultural center there has sent us several tracts published by it for free distribution among the people in order to educate them regarding temperance and social problems. One tract deals with the problem of venereal disease, another treats of the drug habit, another sets forth the evils of alcohol, and still another speaks of the home, etc. On the front page of each leaflet appears a statement that the material contained is a reproduction of an article found in *El Centinela* of Cristobal, Canal Zone. In several newspapers and bulletins of Cuba have been reproduced articles from *El Centinela*, due credit being given for them. In Bulletin No. 39 of the organization "Ignacio Agramonte," of Camaguey, Cuba, appears the following statement:

"*El Centinela* is a magazine published in Cristobal, Canal Zone. Its contents are full of culture as also based on a program of salutary morals. Its representative in Camaguey is Señorita Agustina Seoane Rodríguez, in Lanceros 7. We recommend the reading of it because it is a Herald of Health."

A wholesale druggist of Barranquilla, who has been a reader of *El Centinela* for a long time, has sent us two nice calendars for 1941 as a token of his appreciation of our good work.

A reader from Cali, Colombia, says: "All through the year I have read *Centinelas*, and as long as I can keep it up, my hungry soul shall always seek the instructive reading of its valuable pages."

A fine letter from Caracas, Venezuela, contains a page of praise for *El Centinela* and for the book "Consejero Médico." This lady concludes by saying: "I am a lover of good reading matter, and for this reason I appreciate the value of your magazine, and I thank you for all these kindnesses."

Space does not permit us to present more of these letters which have re-

cently come to bid us a Happy New Year for 1941. One of the highest government officials of a Central American republic sent us a special air letter, as an official message, telling us that he greatly appreciates this magazine, which someone doubtless has been sending him as a gift.

Let us keep *El Centinela* going strong in every field! R. L. ODOM

**HOMeward BOUND**

By W. A. SPICER

Have we not been seeing the landmarks passing swiftly, showing that the staunch old gospel ship is truly homeward bound?

Is it really true? Everything in earth and sea and sky, in the world and in the work of God seems to cry it with a new voice, as we have long sung in the old hymn,

"I asked again: earth, sea, and sun  
Seemed with one voice to make reply:  
'Time's wasting sands are nearly run,  
Eternity is nigh.'"

We do not say it because we are Adventists. We are Adventists because everything in the word of God and in the world says that eternity is nigh.

As Adam and Eve looked back upon their dear lost home, seen through the angel-guarded gate, it must be that only one thing kept their hearts from breaking—the promise of the Redeemer who would one day lead them home again. That promise has sustained the children of God through the ages. But when the time of the prophecy came and this remnant church keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus appeared, it was seen so surely that the glad time was no longer afar off, but very near, when Jesus would come to lead His children home. That surety has become more sure, and sweeter and dearer, as the days have gone by. This year's events have, it seems to me, spoken more decisively than those of any past year, that we are nearing home. A few years ago the Spirit of prophecy moved Sister White to describe just such things as we have been witnessing, and the servant of the Lord cried out: "I feel as if I must cry aloud, 'Homeward bound!'" Let us cry it out, from land to land, in half a million voices, the world around, "Homeward bound! Homeward bound!"

Things long foretold are fast fulfilling. God is speaking to the multitudes.

"Multitudes, multitudes," cried the prophet, "in the valley of decision!" And it does appear that literally God is using events to bring men to decision. Some will recall that word in the "Testimonies," Vol. 6, saying, "There are thousands upon thousands, millions upon millions, who are now making their decision for eternal life or eternal death."—Page 406.

What a wonderful thing that God is able to deal with men in terms of "millions upon millions." No wonder He hesitates not to tell us that He will cut the work short in righteousness as the time fully comes.

Here is His plan of work for the very last: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh." Joel 2:28. We have been seeing it in recent times as never before. As brethren and sisters from old church centers have gone out in all kinds of work, they report finding many people now interested who never before seemed to have ears to hear. In distant lands we have seen whole peoples turned by the Spirit toward light. One chief of a spirited tribe was asking for teachers. Our missionary reminded him that we had long waited to enter his country, but he would not open the way. "Yes, I know," said the proud old chief, "but it is different now. Something has changed our hearts." We see it over land and sea. And as souls are awakened to search for light, how glad are we that God has been awakening us. His servants, to fit us to go out and help the people! This has come about also according to the prophecy: "And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit." Joel 2:29.

People seldom improve when they have no model but themselves to copy.



## APPLICATION FOR INFORMATION

After having read these bulletins on the Literature Ministry, you may desire to secure more information about having a more definite part in scattering the printed page; if so, please fill in the blank below, stating that phase of the work in which you are interested, by placing an X in the spaces indicated, and mail it direct to your local conference or mission office.

In case you wish to enter the colporteur work, either as a full time colporteur or to work only a portion of your time, please fill in the blank which appears below, and send it to your local conference or mission office. You may also send it direct to your local field missionary secretary.

..... (Cut here) .....

## APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Knowing that the time is short, and that we must hasten in the finishing of the work, and believing that the colporteur work is one of the most effective agencies in winning people to the truth, I hereby promise to make this work a subject of special prayer, and to answer, "Here am I," if the Lord calls. I shall be pleased to talk with you about the work. My interest is in

<b>Large</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Maga-</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>Part</b>
<b>Books.....</b>	<b>Books.....</b>	<b>zines.....</b>	<b>Time.....</b>	<b>Time.....</b>

Mark X in the proper place

My name is .....

Address .....

City ..... State .....

# THE LITERATURE MINISTRY

*Bulletin No. 12*

## *World to Receive Light Through Books and Periodicals*

"The great and wonderful work of the last gospel message is to be carried on now as it has never been before. The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals. Our publications are to show that the end of all things is at hand. I am bidden to say to our publishing houses: 'Lift up the standard; lift it up higher. Proclaim the third angel's message, that it may be heard by all the world. Let it be seen that "here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12. Let our literature give the message as a witness to all the world.'"—*"Testimonies," Vol. 9, p. 61.*

## *Preach By Books and Periodicals*

"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. Let every human intelligence who professes the name of Christ testify, 'The end of all things is at hand; prepare to meet thy God.'"—*Id., pp. 61, 62.*

(45)

### *Now Time to Work With Vigilance*

"As a people we are to be reconverted, our lives sanctified to declare the truth as it is in Jesus. In the work of scattering our publications, we can speak of a Saviour's love from a warm and throbbing heart. God alone has the power to forgive sins; if we do not speak this message to the unconverted, our neglect may prove their ruin. Blessed, soul-saving Bible truths are published in our papers. There are many who can help in the work of selling our periodicals. The Lord calls upon all of us to seek to save perishing souls. Satan is at work to deceive the very elect, and now is our time to work with vigilance. Our books and papers are to be brought before the notice of the people; the gospel of present truth is to be given to our cities without delay. Shall we not arouse to our duties?"—*Id.*, p. 63.

### *Men of Spiritual Stamina Wanted*

"Christ calls for young men who will volunteer to carry the truth to the world. Men of spiritual stamina are wanted, men who are able to find work close at hand, because they are looking for it. The church needs new men to give energy to the ranks, men for the times, able to cope with its errors, men who will inspire with fresh zeal the flagging efforts of the few laborers, men whose hearts are warm with Christian love, and whose hands are eager to go about their Master's work."—*Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 103.

### *Can Work Until Close of Probation*

"As long as the message of mercy is to be given to the world, there will be a call for effort in behalf of other institutions and enterprises similar to that for the relief of our schools. And as long as probation continues, there will be opportunity for the canvasser to work. When the religious denominations unite with the papacy to oppress God's people, places where there is religious freedom will be opened by evangelistic canvassing. If in one place the persecution becomes severe, let the workers do as Christ has directed. 'When they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another.' Matt. 10:23. If persecution comes there, go to still another place. God will lead His people, making them a blessing in many places. Were

it not for persecution they would not be so widely scattered abroad to proclaim the truth. And Christ declares, 'Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.' Until in heaven is spoken the word, 'It is finished,' there will always be places for labor, and hearts to receive the message."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 478

### *Wonderful Possibilities For Good*

"The work of the canvasser-evangelist, whose heart is imbued with the Holy Spirit, is fraught with wonderful possibilities for good. The presentation of the truth, in love and simplicity, from house to house, is in harmony with the instruction that Christ gave His disciples when He sent them out on their first missionary tour. By songs of praise, by humble, heartfelt prayers, many will be reached. The divine Worker will be present to send conviction to hearts. 'I am with you alway,' is His promise. With the assurance of the abiding presence of such a helper, we may labor with faith and hope and courage."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 34.

(See The Other Side)