



“The Golden Thread . . .”

By CLYDE O. FRANZ

For a number of years it has been the practice of the Division Committee at the close of the year to send special greetings to a group of workers who were formerly connected with the Division staff. Several of these workers are now connected with the General Conference Headquarters office in Washington. Some are now laboring in other divisions. Others have retired from active service.

Along with the letter of greetings we send a short report of the progress of the work in Inter-America. Without fail, we receive replies from most of these workers, expressing appreciation for this information and commenting on various items in the report. We have just received such a letter from Elder W. E. Murray, who served in South America and Inter-America for many years and who was elected a vice-president of the General Conference at the last General Conference Session. We should like to quote one paragraph from Elder Murray's letter:

“Another thing that is very encouraging is the evangelistic activity on the part of both laymen and ministers. I am certainly glad that the golden thread of evangelism seems to be permanently woven into the fabric of your whole activity in the Inter-American Division. This is as it should be.”

Yes, there is a “golden thread of evangelism” woven into all the activities of this Division. Moreover, this golden thread goes back to the very earliest days of the history of the Inter-American Division. Elder G. A. Roberts, who served as president of the Division a number of years ago, puts it this way in a recent letter: “I have always believed the marvelous growth of our work in the Inter-American Division is due to the fact that the Division was started along Home Missionary lines . . . When I came to Inter-America, I found the work going well along these

lines. Inter-America has never lost the mold, and I hope it never will lose the mold.”

What does Elder Roberts mean when he refers to working “along Home Missionary lines”? He simply means that every member was carrying his part of the load, helping in evangelism, in Ingathering, in Sabbath school work, in literature distribution. He means that we must not leave these tasks just for the ministry but that there should be a close unity of purpose and effort between the ministry and the laity. Thus will the golden thread of evangelism be woven.

In the “Review and Herald” of August 13, 1889, Mrs. E. G. White wrote the following message for all our church members: “Our ordained ministers must do what they can, but it must not be expected that one man can do the work of all . . . The Lord requires that far greater personal effort shall be put forth by the **members** of our churches.” In the Australasian Union Conference “Record” of March 11, 1907, she penned these words: “My brethren and sisters, there are souls in your neighbourhood who, if they were judiciously laboured for, would be converted.”

What a challenge and what a promise from the pen of inspiration! My brother, my sister, are you doing your part to ensure that your neighbours shall receive the three angels' messages during 1959? Are you, a member of God's remnant church, helping to weave the golden thread of evangelism into all the activities of the church? A large percentage of the 125,000 members of God's family in Inter-America are actively engaged in Home Missionary lines. If you have not yet joined this valiant company, will you not offer your services immediately to your pastor, your church elder, or the Home Missionary leader of your church?

Evangelism

IN THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

A Dream Fulfilled

The dream of a decade became a reality last year as the new medical launch, "El Mensajero", began offering medical aid to the people along a thousand-mile stretch of the Orinoco River system.

Making three voyages west from Ciudad Bolivar, the largest city on the river and port for ocean-going freighters, the launch visited thirty villages and settlements. On these trips the launch personnel extracted approximately 2,000 teeth from some 700 patients and treated 400 other patients for illnesses ranging all the way from an infected sting-ray wound to tetanus.

The highlight of the second of the three voyages was the work of two visitors, Dr. Ernest von Pohle, whose vision and financial support made the entire project possible, and J. L. Weaver, hospital administrator, both of Tempe, Arizona, U.S.A.

In the village of Santa Cruz, which has a population of about 500, a young lady came to Dr. von Pohle for medical aid. She had been bedridden for nearly three years, ever since her husband had deserted her shortly after their marriage. She was considered by the people of the village to be just as seriously ill as the wife of a local policeman who was doubled up and twisted with advanced arthritis. Dr. von Pohle encouraged this young woman, advising her to forget the worthless husband who had deserted her and to busy herself with manual labor. She responded to this advice and, upon returning home, immediately began to work in the garden and resumed the household duties she had neglected for three years. The neighbors were amazed at this "miracle".

"El Mensajero" was built in the island of Roatan off the coast of Honduras, in Central America. Late in 1957 the launch, in charge of a Honduranian crew and with the river captain-to-be, Elder Glenn Henriksen, aboard, sailed to Venezuela. Jose Armas Rodriguez, Venezuelan colporteur, and a former



Elder G. F. Henriksen removes an infected tooth. His dental clinic is located in the cabin of the medical missionary launch, "El Mensajero".

sailor, with other mission workers, joined Elder Henriksen in sailing "El Mensajero" along the coast of Venezuela to the mouth of the Orinoco River and then up the river to Ciudad Bolivar.

Carol Sands Henriksen, a graduate of the Washington Sanitarium School of Nursing, is the medical director of the launch. A Venezuelan river pilot, Jose Vicente Bellorin, joins Elder and Mrs. Henriksen, along with their nine-year-old son, Scott, in forming the regular crew of "El Mensajero". It is their aim to carry not only the "right arm of the message" but the complete three angels' messages to this vast and newly-entered frontier of the gospel.

—G. F. Henriksen

"There is nothing so offensive to God, or so dangerous to the human soul, as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable." **Christ's Object Lessons**, p. 156.

Missionary Men Organize for Service

About six months ago an enthusiastic group of missionary men organized themselves into a men's missionary society. They were from the churches in the Panama City English district. The purpose of their organization was to promote missionary activities in a special way toward the goal of helping to win more souls for the kingdom of heaven.

During the six months that they have been organized there have been three persons baptized as a direct result of their missionary endeavour. They engage themselves in giving Bible studies, holding cottage meetings and helping with the Voice of Prophecy radio interest. One of their outstanding accomplishments was the raising of \$206.75 to be used on the building of the new Rio Abajo Church. They accomplished this by conducting a large food sale.

We believe the formation of this missionary society is in harmony with the following counsel from Mrs. E. G. White: "Let there be in every church well-organized companies of workers to labor in the vicinity of that church. Put self behind you, and let Christ go before as your life and power. Let this work be entered into without delay, and the truth will be as leaven in the earth. When such forces are set to work in all our churches, there will be a renovating, reforming, energizing power in the churches, because the members are doing the very work that God has given them to do. Let all our churches be active, zealous, filled with enthusiasm by the Spirit and power of God." **"Review and Herald,"** September 29, 1891.

How wonderful it would be if all of God's people throughout the broad circle of the earth could be banded together with strong ties of brotherly love and zeal for the finishing of God's work on earth! How soon the Lord might come if each one would do his individual part!

—G. W. Williams

MESSENGER

THE BLESSEDNESS OF PERSECUTION

By R. L. KLINGBEIL

A vision of God, marvelous as it is, is not the final goal of God's people. The last three Beatitudes turn our gaze back to a world at enmity with the principles of righteousness. The pure are placed in the midst of the impure. The righteous are sent among the unrighteous with a task to fulfill. Purity is imparted not merely as a treasure to be held, but also as a trust to share with others. God intends that purity be permitted to flow throughout the world as a purifying stream to benefit others.

When Jesus dwells within the heart, peace will reign supreme. Peace is the product of purity. When He resolves the conflict between secret intentions and actions, division of loyalty also ceases. Harmony is restored, peace is enthroned.

"Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." The peace a Christian enjoys is not purchased at the fearful price of compromise with evil. Neither is it the possession of one whose inheritance makes him "naturally" tolerant. It is the noble fruit of decisive action, of an intelligent and courageous choosing of God's will.

It is inevitable that people who live at peace with themselves should also seek to create peace around them. In doing so they are the children of God. Of Jesus it is written in Zechariah 9:10, "he shall speak peace unto the heathen". The children of God will follow Christ's example.

That there exists much need for peacemaking in this present world requires little proof. Man's nature is convulsed. Irregular imaginations disturb the passions. The insurgent passions, in turn, dethrone reason. The passions are then in anarchy. The anarchy of the soul is passed on to the life. What a scene of turbulence is presented in the aggregate mind of un-

regenerate humanity! Society writhes in contention.

The child of God seeks to diffuse peace in this situation. First, he displays a peace-loving disposition. He is conciliatory and yielding except where principle is involved. He will sacrifice anything but truth to obtain harmony. Second, he makes efforts by mediation. While others delight in being social incendiaries, the peacemaker finds his greatest pleasure in quenching the flames of passion and malignity. Third, he seeks the salvation of souls. This is the ultimate and most important part of peacemaking. No effort toward peace can be permanent except as it leads to harmony with God. The strife with heaven must be ended. Peacemaking, to be lasting, must result in the reconciliation of the conscience and the will.

Peacemakers are God's ambassadors on earth. Often misrepresented as meddlers or proselyters, they will nevertheless work tirelessly, with the tact that love supplies. To go and share is Christian. No life can be Christian that is not Christianizing.

Hostility Against Peacemakers

But this "loving aggression" often invites stern opposition. Peacemakers soon realize that men love darkness rather than light. They hate to be disturbed. Invitations to noble living are received, not merely with indifference, but often with active hostility. This latter attitude is so common that Jesus warned, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!"

No thoughtful Advent believer can fail to reflect seriously upon the present good will that our great movement enjoys in many places. Whereas we would not wish persecution upon ourselves or anyone else, might it not be true, at least in part, that the fair weather we enjoy is due to our in-

activity in peacemaking? May it be that we are compromising to just such a degree as will not arouse animosity? To be sure, we appreciate the value of frequent recognition by the press and other public agencies. We recognize them as heaven-granted opportunities to broadcast the gospel. But let us not forget Paul's words, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have borne persecution in the cause of righteousness, for to them belongs the Kingdom of heaven" (Weymouth). It is good for the peacemaker to know something of the nature of unpeace. Thus his peacemaking will be more effective. His words will ring with greater authority.

Stanley Jones tells the story of Judson, who after having experienced incredible hardships while confined in stocks for many months, nevertheless asked, immediately after his release, to be permitted to go to a certain city to preach the gospel. The king of Burma was willing enough to send any number of preachers. He refused, however, to let Judson go. "Not with those hands," he protested. "My people are not fools enough to listen to and follow your words, but they will not be able to resist those scarred hands." Judson's hands were eloquent.

To the persecuted belongs the kingdom of heaven, yet not to all who are persecuted. Many are persecuted for unrighteousness' sake. They have invited distress as a result of their own follies. The greater portion of suffering comes to men and women because of their own sins.

When persecution comes to a Christian, let him first carefully examine his heart to see whether his trials are the result of mistakes in conduct or of the practice of righteousness. When hardship of any kind enters our experience,

HOW TO CHECK LOSSES IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP — PART V

By FORDYCE W. DETAMORE

it is wise to engage in self-examination to see whether we be in faith or not. It is easy to attribute suffering at the hands of others to unrighteousness on their part and to righteousness on ours. Nevertheless, the mistreatment we suffer may be nothing more than the fruit of our own folly and stubbornness.

Persecution provides an excellent opportunity for self-examination. Even if the infliction of punishment be deserved, it may still produce a desire for the better life. To the righteous, however, persecution is a source of joy. They do not rejoice in the actual experience. No normal person can delight in pain for its own sake. "Blessed", says Jesus, "are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." The blessedness Christ pronounces rests, not upon the persecution, but upon the character that calls it forth in this world.

"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad." To a genuine Christian, mistreatment speaks eloquently of God's approval. Paul was never closer to his Lord than when his feet were set in stocks, or when his back was bruised from cruel beatings. He suffered great physical distress, but all the while he experienced a wonderful sense of acceptance with God. He was doubly blessed: first, because he was persecuted strictly for righteousness' sake, and, second, because he had learned the difficult lesson of being joyful in the midst of dire distress.

How blessed can a Christian really be? He looks forward to possessing the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom within and the kingdoms of the earth. In addition, he conquers the kingdom of pain. Whereas the unbelieving, rebellious soul rises up in self-defense at the approach of pain, God's child bears it, submits to it, but then uses it to his own spiritual advantage.

If the one who is poor in spirit can share other people's troubles in meekness of spirit, if he hungers and thirsts after righteousness, while maintaining a merciful and redemptive attitude toward others, if he can endure pain heroically and trustfully, he is indeed most blessed. Such a one bears in his character the stamp of God. He will receive the seal of God's approval and enter into the joy of his Lord.

—Review & Herald

New members in the church need more than the right hand of fellowship the first Sabbath. They need the hand of friendship every Sabbath.

One of the places of greatest possible service in the church is found in the church foyer—right at the front door of the church. The most representative members should be chosen to greet those who enter, kindly Christians who like people, and whom people like. There should be two, so that as one waits at the door the other can be registering visitors. The same ones should serve regularly, so they will recognize strangers.

The wise pastor will also take up his post in the lobby each Sabbath morning, in order that he may greet the members and meet newcomers after they have registered. There is no quicker way to know the pulse of the whole church and its friends than through the handshake at the front door each Sabbath morning.

A careful check should be made on Sabbath school and church attendance every week. A Sabbath school teacher owes it to the church, to his class, and to the individual members of that class to get in touch with absentees. A pastor who does not visit his flock will not be aware of their needs and will not be able to present messages to meet these needs. Neither can a Sabbath school teacher be doing all that he could unless he becomes acquainted with his students in their homes.

Personal Attention to Every Member

Personal attention to every member, every new member, and every visitor will mean a growing church. It is unforgivable that persons may be absent for weeks without being missed and visited. Where a Sabbath school member has been absent for two or three weeks, the teacher should by all means inform the pastor. Elders, deacons, and deaconesses must also be ready to go out into the highways and byways to search for the missing. Church members can do much to free the pastor to spend more time doing what he alone can do.

The "sponsor plan" is helpful in orienting new members into full church

fellowship. Each new member or family should be assigned for sponsorship to an older member or family of the church. The sponsor will take a personal interest in the new member or new family, making him acquainted with many other members as rapidly as possible. The sponsor may invite the new member to his home for Sabbath dinner—a natural way to acquaint him with new diet ideas. The sponsor will study with him perplexing doctrinal questions that may arise. And most certainly the sponsor will visit the new member if he absents himself from church, quickly informing the pastor should real signs of backsliding develop.

Church socials should be conducted regularly from time to time, giving opportunity for members, new and old, to become better acquainted in a friendly, informal way. These socials should be under the direction and planning of wide-awake leaders, who will make visitors and new members feel welcome. On these occasions excellent contacts can be made, not only in making new members feel at home, but also in becoming acquainted with those who may become members.

When church members mingle together in friendly social contact, there is less likelihood of bickering and dissension breaking out in a church. It is imperative in all church activities that church leaders strive to preserve the spirit of sincere friendliness and warm love. In such an atmosphere backsliding is not an imminent danger. If members find real friendship within the church it will be harder for Satan to pull them away.

In visiting former members one fact has impressed me greatly — that very few backslide because of doctrinal differences. Some discussions on checking the losses in our churches would lead one to imagine that the great need is for more thorough indoctrination. However, this does not prove to be the case. I doubt that even five per cent go out because of a difference in doctrine or even because of a lack of indoctrination when baptized.

It is a surprising fact that very, very few backsliders ever mention doctrinal

differences or doubts as their reason for separation—almost never, in fact. If there is a difference on church beliefs, nine times out of ten, it will have to do with church standards and not with church doctrines. They have found it difficult to live up to the church standards, and so have concluded that, in honesty, they should dissociate themselves from those who do hold high standards.

For that reason we need to stress more the joy of being a Seventh-day Adventist. We talk too much of the sacrifices we make. Actually, what sacrifice have most Adventists made? Let us talk less of our sacrifices and more of the sacrifice of Jesus. Let us talk less of the negatives and more of the positives. We need to make our faith appear bright and cheery to others, for such a faith we certainly have. Scowls, growls, gloom, pining, and repining are all bad advertising for the church. A church that wins and holds men for Christ must be a bright, cheery, friendly church.

Holding Our Young People

Let us next consider the problem of young backsliders. Why do we lose young people from our ranks? Because the standards are too high? Certainly not. It is often the way we "inflict" those standards on young people that drives them away. You do not raise the spiritual standards of a young person by nagging at him and by constantly pounding away on a few conspicuous and irritating "don'ts".

So, we need to stress the positive. Here are a few "do's". The greatest single favor we can do a young person, next to helping him accept Christ, is to persuade him to go to one of our own schools. This is imperative, for the pull of the world in outside schools is almost irresistible. A large number of young people who eventually backslide begin straying through a lowering of standards in sports, in social contacts or requirements, or because of affairs on Friday night or the Sabbath.

Every church should plan a well-rounded social program. It is tragic that many churches are neglecting this and that many church leaders fail to see the importance of arranging for proper Christian activity within the church program. Such a program will provide a well-planned Saturday night social hour. It will include Sunday outings such as

picnics, hikes, boat or bus trips. But it will embrace far more than this. It will incorporate also such organizations as a young people's choir, a junior choir, a young people's orchestra, a junior orchestra. It will certainly include a vigorous Pathfinder program and a young people's leadership club. It will provide all forms of band work—literature band, carol-singing bands, and a sunshine band to visit the homes of shut-ins.

If we expect to hold the young people, there must be activity and plenty of it. A church that is not prepared to go to great lengths to provide proper Christian recreation and missionary activity for the church and young people is not a church that can expect to hold them. The blood of these lost young people will be on the church.

One more point should perhaps be included here. The young people in our

MISSIONARY PERIODICALS

During the months of April and May our publishing houses are offering special prices on the missionary periodicals, "Signs of the Times" and "Message Magazine". Subscribe for yourself and your friends through your Church Missionary Secretary or your Book and Bible House.

churches need ample and cheery rooms in which to meet. Far too many meeting places for children and young people are left dingy and dreary. A group of church leaders (often including the pastor), members, and young people with a good supply of brushes, paint, brooms, and rags, plus a dinner supplied by the women of the church, can accomplish a great deal in bringing the children's and young people's departments out of the catacombs that exist in some churches.

We often lose young people, especially young women, after their marriage. It is surprising how many have followed a similar pattern in falling away. The young mother-to-be, rather self-conscious, absents herself for a time. After the arrival of the little one she proudly appears at church. But two things become apparent that first Sabbath—her babe distracts others,

especially if there is no mothers' room, and because the little one distracts her also she feels that she gets little out of the service. A young mother's reserves may survive the first such experience, but when two or three more follow, she finally throws up her hands and says, "There's no use. I don't get any thing out of the service anyway, and, furthermore, the baby is too little to understand. I may as well stay at home." Her attendance becomes more and more irregular, and almost imperceptibly she joins the ranks of backsliders. This is especially true if the husband is not an Adventist. I need not here take the time to dwell on the fact that a high percentage of marriages to nonmembers lead to apostasy.

Young mothers need a helping hand. This can best be supplied by other young married women who will call on them in their homes and offer to help with the children at Sabbath school and church, and if need be, offer to bring them and their children Sabbath morning. Also, the pastor should call on each young mother. He can tell her of the next child-dedication service, and if her husband is not an Adventist, invite him to be present.

This special service, together with the enrolling of the new arrival in the cradle roll, with the personal interest and sponsorship of another young woman, will bind young mothers to the church. As a postscript, remember to plan appropriate showers for the poorer members of the flock as well as for the better known. These little kindnesses will ever be remembered.

—Review & Herald

"The gospel is to be presented, not as a lifeless theory, but as a living force to change the life. God desires that the receivers of His grace shall be witnesses to its power. Those whose course has been most offensive to Him He freely accepts; when they repent, He imparts to them His divine Spirit, places them in the highest positions of trust, and sends them forth into the camp of the disloyal to proclaim His boundless mercy. . . .

"All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life."

—Desire of Ages, pp. 826, 827

Adventist Youth

FRIENDS OF GOD — PART II

By ARTHUR L. BIETZ

(Sabbath sermon presented to the young people at the General Conference session, Cleveland, Ohio, June 28, 1958. — Editors.)

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Friendship adds a plus factor to life. When Christ gives us His friendship we come truly alive. Two and two now equals more than four. Life is no longer a mere mathematical equation. To be a friend of God means to experience adventure and zest. There is never a dull moment for a person who has experienced the friendship of God. Loneliness is now a thing of the past.

Every human being was intended to find fulfillment. God does not cherish uniformity. Every person is unique and different. Love may well be defined as the capacity to discover the uniqueness of another person. God has a plan for every life. That plan cannot be discovered apart from Him. Since every person is created in God's plan, his fulfillment is discovered only as God reveals that plan in friendship. I can never find out who I was meant to be apart from friendship with God. He alone can reveal to me who I am, and who I was meant to be. Many have not discovered who they are. They do not know who they are meant to be. Every young man and woman must know that friendship with God alone can reveal their true identity.

About twenty years ago I was conducting an evangelistic meeting in the city of Mankato, Minnesota. In that city was a young man who was a barber. This young man and his wife attended the meetings and accepted Jesus as their friend. At the point of accepting the friendship of Jesus this young man and his wife began to discover who they really were and what God's plan was for them. They went to Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is now in this audience as one of the outstanding evangelists in the Seventh-day

Adventist Church. He is about to baptize his one-thousandth person into the friendship of Jesus Christ. Now let me ask you, suppose this young man had not accepted Jesus as his friend, would he ever have discovered his true identity? The answer, of course, is No. The plus factor was added to the life of this young man only when Jesus became his friend. The same is true of every young person.

I have the privilege of being a minister of the gospel. I would never have discovered what God wanted without having given myself to His friendship. Not one of us can discover the complete will of God at once. I am still discovering from day to day what God intends for me to become. In constant friendship with Jesus there is growing adventure and self-discovery.

God wants youth to develop great minds and great hearts. The human mind has, according to one authority, 10,000 million brain cells with an almost infinite number of possible inter-correlations. The greatest unemployment problem exists in the human mind. The more we learn the more we can learn. We may be happy that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has always believed in education and the training of the mind. We have been told that God's ideal for us is higher than our minds can reach. This is a challenge toward greatness.

Nothing less than the best is good enough for God's children. Those who try to equate Christianity with ignorance and lack of education are not revealing God's intention, but only their own incompetence. Adventist youth may be sure that the establishing of schools and colleges where the youth can be trained to the highest degree is definitely within God's ideal for them. The increase of knowledge that has been foretold in prophecy is for God's children to explore. Daniel and his companions did not fall below the educated of their time, but stood above them. It is to be

so even for Adventist youth of our day. Friendship with God will lead toward great minds and great hearts. Nothing less than this will do for the finishing of God's work on earth.

God Initiates the Friendship

It is wonderful to know that God begins the friendship with us. It is He who makes the approach in friendliness. On occasion young people will say to me that they do not feel that their prayers go above the ceiling. Well, prayers do not need to go above the ceiling. We do not need to stretch ourselves between here and Paradise, where God dwells, in order to be heard of God. Jesus has said "I am with you always." Prayer is entering into a conversation with God, who has come to us by His Spirit. We do not need to crawl up to heaven. This would be a futile and exhausting experience indeed. God comes to us.

A young lad was lost in the woods. A search was instituted. The father finally found his little boy. The little fellow, on seeing his father, remarked, "Where **have** you been? I had such a hard time finding you".

God is not lost. Nor does He have to be found by us. God has come to us. We need to allow ourselves to become aware of His presence.

When God is truly our friend we no longer conceive of Him as an absentee God who occasionally thrusts Himself into the picture of a hostile and ungodly universe, breaking His own laws, in order to manifest Himself with spectacular show. God must be thought of as an ever-present friend and living God. Now all of life is conceived of as a miracle momentarily dependent upon His friendship and creative will. Now we can understand what Paul meant when he said, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Now every pulsation of life is equated with God's loving care.

You see, our peace is not in the fact that we understand God perfectly. How small God would be if our little minds could fully grasp or understand Him.

(Continued on page 11)

With the Departments

One of the Thirty Thousand

Nineteen hundred fifty-nine is the laymen's year in Inter-America! The call of God, "Enlist for Service", has gone out to all our churches and our members have responded enthusiastically. Thirty thousand laymen in action is our goal! Listen to the story of one of these 30,000.

It was a lovely Tuesday morning. We were climbing higher and higher on the stony road when Brother Green, one of our active laymen in the East Jamaica Conference, turned to me and said, "Elder, has God not said that He will send 'hunters' to hunt them out of the holes and the rocks of the mountain?" This brother is a real "hunter" for God, a tailor by profession. He had closed up his shop in Spanish Town and was taking us out to his outpost where he is witnessing for Christ.

Brother Green had gone from house to house, had preached to the people in the open air, but had been unable to secure a home or a shed for his systematic lay preaching. He was determined not to turn his back to the enemy but simply to go forward conquering for God. So he decided to buy a piece of land and build his own booth where he could invite the interested friends. Very soon he found a small lot, paid twelve pounds for it and started to build. The building material — bamboo — was carried to this lot from a place two miles away. With the help of some interested friends the "evangelistic center" went up. It was surprising what he had done using the same material for everything — the walls, the roof, the pulpit; and the seats all made out of bamboo. And there he stands twice a week and preaches the everlasting gospel. Seven persons have accepted Christ already and were baptized a few weeks ago. Another five are looking forward to baptism in the near future. He has another thirty in his baptismal class.

"I tried to quit some time ago and for six months I didn't do anything for the Lord", Brother Green said. "Then I had a dream. The Lord sent a boy to tell me that I was not supposed to stop.

I started over again and I am not going to stop anymore. I can't stop the work until the Lord stops me." It was inspiring to meet this active layman who is a fine soul winner for God. I felt I had been stepping on holy ground where one of our consecrated laymen is working for God. Have you enlisted for service?

—V. W. Schoen

MAY 9

What is going to happen on May 9? Every Seventh-day Adventist should be interested in that date because that is the day when the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering will be taken. Our share in the world-wide goal is \$9,000.00. If each member will come prepared to give a liberal offering, we will reach twice as much. Let us announce it well in advance and come to worship God on MAY 9 with an extraordinary offering.

**Home Missionary Department
Inter-American Division**

Dorcas Holiday Activities in Jamaica

One of the benefits of Christmas is the spirit of generosity that pervades the air. Those who are in more favoured circumstances think of the unfortunate. This is truly the spirit of Christ.

It was a very pleasant sight on Monday, December 22, to witness over 160 boys and girls with their parents gather on the slope of Cedar Grove, a mile from the West Indian Training College in Jamaica, to receive refreshments and toys that were provided for them by the Dorcas Society of the College church. They were invited to form a circle and their hearty singing was indicative of the joy that filled their hearts. Present at the distribution were Pastor and Mrs. A. C. Stockhausen of the British West Indies Union, Mrs. B.E. Hurst, wife of the Union Publishing Secretary, Mr. and Mrs. Don March of

West Indian Training College, and the writer. The gifts and toys, candies and cakes, were contributions made by kind friends and church members. We were made conscious that joy comes in sharing with others. Brother and Sister March and Sister Hurst have taken a very keen interest in this new interest at Cedar Grove. At present there are over 20 baptized believers in this company, and each Sabbath there are as many as 180 children that assemble for Sabbath school.

The following day, December 23, over 300 persons were given a Christmas treat at the Mandeville church grounds. This was sponsored by the Home Missionary Department of the church with the leader, Brother Stanley Wiles, in charge. The people were invited to assemble in the spacious tabernacle where they united in singing Christmas carols. Brother D. Morgan, Educational Secretary of the West Jamaica Conference, invited God's presence, and the writer addressed the gathering. More than one-half of those assembled to receive the Christmas gifts responded to a call to accept Jesus. Those who were capable of studying the Bible for themselves were given cards to enroll in the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Course, and they have promised to give diligent study to God's word during the New Year. We were reminded of the words of inspiration: "Let everyone have a self-denial box in his home and when he would spend pennies and shillings in self-gratification let him remember the needy and starving and those close by his own door . . . As long as there are hungry ones in God's world to be fed, naked ones to be clothed, souls perishing for the bread and water of salvation, every unnecessary indulgence, every over-plus of capital pleads for the poor and the naked." **Welfare Ministry**, pp. 269, 273.

—M. G. Nembhard

"Let a living faith run like threads of gold through the performance of even the smallest duties. Then all the daily work will promote Christian growth." **Christ's Object Lessons**, p. 362.

Around THE UNIONS

Antillian

Antillian Union Plans for 1959

Although the annual meeting of the Antillian Union Committee was held in Havana just six weeks before the end of the revolution, all the committee members were present with the exception of Nicolas Bences of the East Cuba Conference, who found it impossible to attend. Although this meeting started just three days after the Division Committee ended and the Secretary-Treasurer, Elder C. L. Powers, was absent because of illness, Elder Ray L. Jacobs and his efficient office staff had everything ready for the meeting.

Throughout the meeting there was evidence of a most remarkable spirit of Christian fellowship and co-operation. The men were of good courage and set a baptismal goal that was nearly double the attainments of 1958. All were determined to bend every effort to make 1959 an outstanding year in evangelism. We believe that, with the blessing of God, these leaders together with their associates in the ministry and the faithful laity of the Antillian Union will experience the best soul-winning year in the history of the union.

Within the Antillian Union is located the Division's senior college ministerial training center, the Antillian College. Much time was spent discussing the future of the school, and the Antillian Union Committee certainly went "all out" in an endeavour to build up the school. For 1959 they dedicated nearly one-half of the specials for the entire union to the college. In addition to this they voted that all the union's share of the 1959 Ingathering campaign be used by the college with the hope that very soon a large addition can be made to the men's dormitory. Although the college has been established for the benefit of all of the Spanish-speaking unions, the brethren in the Antillian Union certainly are absorbing the lion's share of the total cost of this important institution.

—L. F. Bohner

British West Indies

The B.W.I. Union Continues to Grow

Annual committee meetings of the British West Indies Union are always interesting because of their accent on growth. The last annual committee was no exception. Elder Roland S. Blackburn, the Secretary-Treasurer, reported that during the last eighteen months there had been a net gain of 2,731 members. The tithe for 1958 showed a six and a half per cent increase and Ingathering more than twenty-five per cent. The latter figure is largely due to the splendid Ingathering campaign that the West Jamaica Conference conducted.

The baptismal goal was set at 3,780 which is substantially more than the goal suggested by the Division. Unless something unforeseen develops the workers and laity of the British West Indies Union will undoubtedly surpass the goal they have set for 1959.

The growth that was evidenced in the statistics of membership, tithe and offerings also resulted in the need for additional ordained ministers. Roy Ashmeade of the East Jamaica Conference was recommended for ordination as were Alfonso Reid, Siebert Anderson, Robert Williams, Linford Williams, and E. A. Henry of the West Jamaica Conference. Recommended for ordination at the time of the Bahamas Mission Session were Nevel Scavella and Silas McKinney.

West Indian Training College is helping not only the British West Indies Union but also our other English fields to look forward to additional growth with the raising of the ministerial course to full senior college level. Time was given to the consideration of the growing needs of this fine institution.

We can be assured that President Allan Stockhausen and his fine group of associates will continue to set new records for the British West Indies Union during 1959.

—L. F. Bohner

Caribbean

Year-End Committee Meetings in the Caribbean Union

Eighteen representatives from the various fields and institutions of the Caribbean Union met at Union headquarters in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, from December 2 to 8 to lay plans for the year 1959.

One of the most important projects now being fostered by the Caribbean Union is the new hospital plant that will soon be erected in a suburb of Port-of-Spain. The faithful doctors, nurses and others associated with them in the medical work in Port-of-Spain have done a fine work with very inadequate equipment and quarters during the past several years. They now look forward to the day when they will be able to open a modern and efficient hospital plant on the five and one-half acre tract that has been donated by government for this purpose.

Good progress was reported in each of the local fields by the presidents of these organizations. Elder J. G. Fulfer reported that the Leeward Islands Mission now has a membership of 7,094. The South Caribbean Conference has the largest membership of the local fields. Elder A. A. Ward, president of this field, reported that their membership has now grown to 8,727. The British Guiana Mission is another large field, with a membership of 4,497. The president of this field, Elder L. A. Kraner, told of recent advances made in the Davis Indian Mission, which is a part of this interesting and growing mission field. Elder Jan Brinkman, the enthusiastic president of the Surinam Mission, told of God's blessing and guidance in the opening up of new areas in Dutch Guiana.

The Caribbean Union College is an educational lighthouse in this part of the Caribbean. Elder B. L. Archbold reported that the enrollment at the college is the largest in its history. There are 472 students enrolled in the elementary, secondary, and college levels of this fine institution.

MESSINGER

The biennial session of the South Caribbean Conference was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, just prior to the union committee meeting. At this session Elders A. A. Ward and W. W. Thomson were re-elected as officers of the conference.

Immediately following the union committee meetings the workers of the British Guiana and Leeward Islands Missions met in their respective fields in a special series of workers' meetings. In addition to the union personnel, Elders V. W. Schoen and Clyde O. Franz attended these workers' meetings.

Elder F. S. Thompson, president of the union, and his faithful and enthusiastic associates in the union and local fields look forward to 1959 as a challenge to attempt greater things for God in evangelism and in every other phase of God's work. Remember them in your prayers.

—Clyde O. Franz

Dedication of Gardens Church Building

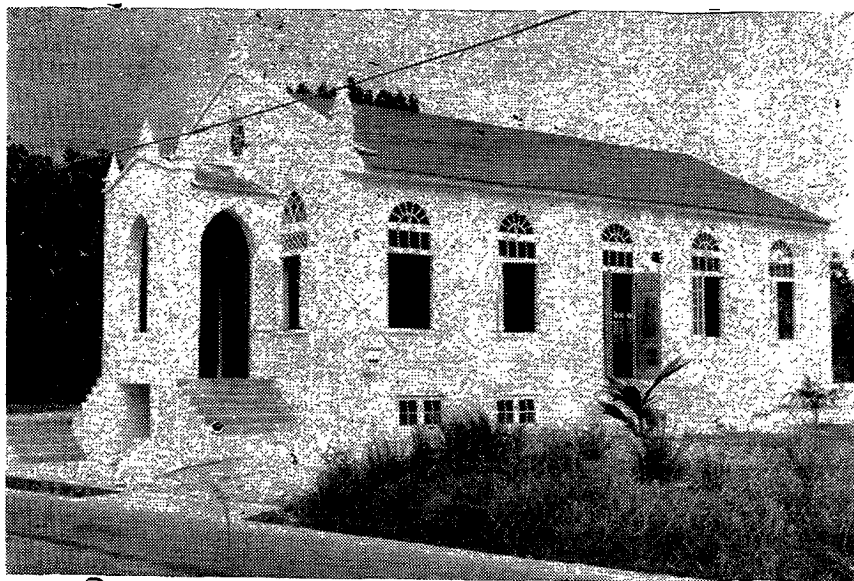
The Gardens Seventh-day Adventist church on the Island of Barbados was the scene of great rejoicing on the afternoon of Sunday, December 21, as the members, friends, and honoured guests joined together in a service of dedication for a new church building.

The Gardens church was organized in the year 1906. The members erected their first building in 1927, and built another new building in 1937. The erection of the present building began in 1957, and was completed as a result of many prayers, much hard work, and the sacrificial giving of members and friends of the church, under the direction of the present pastor, Elder M. E. Nebblett.

The service of dedication was preceded by a door opening ceremony at which time the Hon. Dr. H. G. Cummins, Premier of Barbados, gave a brief address.

Among those participating in the dedication service were Elder C. O. Franz from the Inter-American Division, Elder F. S. Thompson and K. W. Whitney from the Caribbean Union, Elder B. L. Archbold of the Caribbean Union College; Elder M. E. Nebblett, pastor; Elder W. W. Weithers, former pastor; and Mr. Egbert Hinds, local elder.

—James G. Fulfer



The Gardens, Barbados, church building. This fine edifice was dedicated on December 21, 1958.

Central American

Central American Adventism Is Onward

The Central American Union consists of seven countries—Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and British Honduras. There are more than 12,500 Seventh-day Adventists in this Union. Few areas of the world the size of the Central American Union have such diversified conditions to challenge the workers of of the Advent Movement as does the Central American Union. Think of the many international boundaries, the laws of seven separate governments which must be taken into account as the work is carried on, seven separate types of money with which to deal, and the customs and manners peculiar to each country. All of these conditions make the program of our workers in Central America interesting and intriguing. Our workers in Central America do not consider these conditions as obstacles but rather face them as opportunities which bring to the fore some of the finest qualities in men and women.

The Advent truth has grown and continues to grow in Central America. The colporteur work during 1958 enjoyed one of the best years on record. Evangelism is going forward at a stronger pace than ever. This is particularly true in the Panama field where

more than 500 persons were baptized into the faith during the past year. Adventist church buildings and chapels in all of the countries are full and overflowing. Lay preaching is an important phase of Central America's evangelistic program. Adventist education is as strong in Central America as in any other union of the Division. The Colegio Vocacional de America Central, which is the main training centre for Central American Adventist young people, has become altogether too small for the many Adventist youth who desire and seek a Christian education on the higher levels. Medical work in Central America will be greatly strengthened with the completion of the new Hospital Ruben Dario which is being built at La Trinidad in central Nicaragua.

At the time of the annual year-end Central American Union Committee meeting which was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from December 7 to 11, 1958, the new leaders of the Union, Elder Fernon Retzer, President, and William V. Wiist, Secretary-Treasurer, challenged the delegates from Central America's seven fields with a goal of 1,600 baptisms for the year 1959. We believe that this goal will be reached and surpassed, for we are living in the days when the work of God on earth must be finished. God will bless His work in Central America. Please pray for our workers and fellow-believers and the preaching of the truth in the Central American Union.

—Arthur H. Roth

Colombia-Venezuela

Cooperation, Unity and Courage

The year-end meeting of the Colombia-Venezuela Union Committee was held on the campus of the Colombia-Venezuela Union Training School at Medellin, Colombia, from November 21 to 28. Representatives from the union staff, the seven local fields, and from the Training School were in attendance. Elders C. W. Bozarth and Clyde O. Franz represented the General Conference and the Inter-American Division.

In his report to the committee, Elder A. R. Norcliffe mentioned that the Colombia-Venezuela Union has been considered the "baby" union of the Division because the membership of the union has been the smallest of the seven unions. He pointed out, however, that the membership has tripled in the past ten years and the total membership of the union is now approximately equal to that of two of the other unions in the Division.

At this meeting Elder W. T. Collins was appointed Educational and Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the Union, replacing Elder Glen Maxson who was recently appointed Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the Inter-American Division. Elder B. L. Roberts was invited to serve as president of the Upper Magdalena Mission. The other union departmental secretaries and local field officers were all reappointed for the ensuing biennial term.

The three Radio Bible Correspondence Schools in Colombia, Curacao, and Venezuela have contributed a great deal to the progress of the church in the Colombia-Venezuela Union. More than four hundred persons were baptized in 1958 as a result of the work of these schools. It has not been possible during recent years to arrange for the Voice of Prophecy broadcasts to be heard in Colombia. The radio Bible Correspondence School in Colombia had to depend on the work of our faithful members in finding persons who were interested in enrolling in the Bible courses. However, Elder Tirso Escandon announced to the Union Committee that

stations in Medellin, Cali, and Barranquilla have now agreed to carry the Voice of Prophecy broadcasts. We thank God for the increasing evidences that our work in Colombia is to be allowed a measure of freedom and liberty not previously enjoyed.

A fine spirit of cooperation, unity and courage characterized these committee meetings. We left Medellin with the conviction that the work will continue to make great progress in this most interesting union territory.

—Clyde O. Franz

Franco-Haitian

Territorial Changes in the Franco-Haitian Union

Any normal baby develops fast, necessitating changes. Changes were certainly the order-of-the-day in the Franco-Haitian Union annual meeting at the end of its first year of existence. There were not only changes in personnel but changes in territorial lines.

The former Haitian Mission was divided into the North Haiti and South Haiti Missions. French Guiana was separated from the French West Indies Mission, giving the Franco-Haitian Union four local fields.

Changing territorial boundaries brought in many changes in administration. Pastor Aime H. Linzau is the new president of the French West Indies Mission with Brother J. J. So' Brien continuing as secretary-treasurer. French Guiana, which formerly was a part of the French West Indies Mission, will now operate as a separate mission with Elder Ernest Veuthey as president and Guiscard Sablier, the Union treasurer, will look after the treasury work.

The newly formed North Haiti Mission, with about seventy per cent of the membership of the former Haitian Mission, will be administered by Pastor Josés Brutus, president, and Napoleon Grunder, secretary-treasurer.

The president of the South Haiti Mission is Elder Anthony Henry with Isaac Jean-Baptiste as the secretary-treasurer.

No changes were made in the union staff other than the appointment of Samuel Monnier, former president of

the French West Indies Mission, as Home Missionary, Sabbath School, Temperance, and Press Secretary, replacing Ralph Combes who is returning to the United States.

With all of these new, enthusiastic and energetic leaders, most of whom are of Inter-American origin, we believe that this, the youngest union in the Division, will show most encouraging gains during 1959. Elder A. Orville Dunn, President of the Union, and his faithful associates ask that you remember them in your daily prayers.

—L. F. Bohner

Mexican

Adventism in Mexico

The Republic of Mexico which comprises the Mexican Union has more people that must hear the Advent Message than does any other union in the Inter-American Division. Thirty million people live in Mexico. One of the greatest cities of the world, the fourth largest in the Western Hemisphere, is Mexico City, the capital of the Republic. Seventh-day Adventism's headquarters for the work in the Mexican Union is in Mexico City. The leaders for the six missions in Mexico, together with the Mexican Union staff, met in the capital from November 23 to 27, 1958, to lay plans for the preaching of the Advent message in that great nation during 1959. Our Mexican brethren proposed to win at least 2,250 souls for the Master during this year. There are now more than 22,000 Seventh-day Adventists in Mexico.

Four institutions serve the Advent cause in Mexico—three schools and one hospital. The hospital and the Union's major school are located in northern Mexico at Montemorelos, Nuevo Leon. Another school at Navojoa, Sonora, serves the Adventist young people of the Pacific Coast. And the newest of Adventism's schools in Mexico serves the young people of south Mexico from Pueblo Nuevo in the State of Chiapas.

Evangelism is the watchword of the workers in the Mexican Union. Public evangelism is a comparatively new thing in Mexico. Up until recent years it has been difficult to conduct evangelistic campaigns such as are conducted in other areas of our Division;

and while evangelism still must be conducted on a basis that varies considerably from what is done in many places, yet it is with satisfaction that we can announce to our people that workers of real evangelistic talent are coming to the fore among our Mexican brethren. Eider David H. Baasch and Roy F. Williams, President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Mexican Union, are leading out in a program of vigorous evangelism in the progressive land of the Aztecs.

As you kneel in your daily devotions, our brethren in Mexico long to have you remember them before the throne of God.

—A. H. Roth

Friend of God

(Continued from page 6)

Our peace is in the fact that God understands us. Our happiness is not in the fact that we love Him perfectly, but rather in the fact that He loves us with a perfect love. Our joy is not in the fact that we can comprehend God, but rather that we are lovingly comprehended by Him. We do not depend for our salvation on what we can do for God, but we rejoice because of what His friendship is doing for us.

Young people are often very lonely. There is perhaps no time in life when loneliness is a greater factor than in youth. This loneliness often leads youth to the despair that accounts for many foolish acts and delinquent attitudes.

Doubt is much more a problem of the heart than of the mind. You see, doubts are really dissolved in friendship rather than in intellectual debate. The best cure for doubt is friendship with God and with God's children. The mind cannot solve the mind's problems. Only friendship can bring the mind into balance with itself. Friendship provides reasons the mind can never fully understand. This joy of friendship with God passes the understanding. If you wish relief from moments of doubt, despair, and loneliness, you will find it **only** in friendship with God and His children.

— Review & Herald

(Editor's Note: This article will be concluded with Part 3, which will appear in the April issue of the *Messenger*.)

Special Notices and Requests

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

The annual "Youth Instructor" listing of Seventh-day Adventist amateur radio operators around the world is scheduled to appear this year in the June 9 issue. To be included in this listing, information concerning your call letters, name, address, type of transmission bands, et cetera, must be in the editorial office by April 30. Send a post card or letter to "The Youth's Instructor", Radio Log, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C., U.S.A.

ARMENIANS Special Notice

Four hundred Adventist Armenians in the Middle East Division are requesting that we print an Armenian periodical. If one is published quarterly or monthly, we wonder how many Armenians in other parts of the world would subscribe? Any Armenians who would care to become subscribers for such a periodical kindly contact Raymond H. Hartwell, Secretary, Middle East Division of the General Conference, P.O. Box 2020, Beirut, Lebanon.

A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust. Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might. So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell on self, but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love, — this is the subject for the soul's contemplation. It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness.

—Steps to Christ, p. 75.

What Is Prayer?

JAMES MONTGOMERY

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire.

Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire,
That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear;
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try;
Prayer, the sublimest strains that reach
The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
Returning from his ways;
While angels in their songs rejoice;
And cry, "Behold! He prays!"

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air;
His watchword at the gate of death—
He enters heaven with prayer.

The saints in prayer appear as one
In word and deed and mind;
Where with the Father and the Son
Sweet fellowship they find.

Nor prayer is made by man alone:
The Holy Spirit pleads,
And Jesus, on the eternal throne,
For sinners intercedes.

O Thou by whom we come to God—
The Life, the Truth, the Way!
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod;
Lord, teach us how to pray!

—Review & Herald

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

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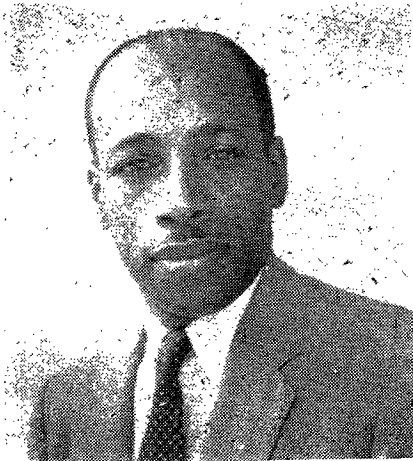
Published monthly as the Official Organ of the Inter-American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Box 760 Coral Gables, Miami, Florida, U.S.A.
Price: \$1.00 a year

Printed by the College Press, Caribbean Union College, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, W.I.

All Communications relating to editorial and circulation matters should be addressed to "The Messenger", Box 760 Coral Gables Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

★ All articles bearing the credit line "Review and Herald" are reprinted from the Review and Herald, general church paper of Seventh-day Adventists.

Inter-American Brevities



Elder M. E. Nebblett, who was ordained to the gospel ministry on December 20, 1958.

Ordination of M. E. Nebblett

The Steel Shed auditorium at Queen's Park in Bridgetown, Barbados, was the scene of a very solemn occasion on Sabbath afternoon, December 20, when Brother Milton E. Nebblett was ordained to the gospel ministry.

Elder Nebblett was born in Spanish Honduras and is a third generation Seventh-day Adventist. He is a product of Christian schools and a graduate of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. He has laboured in Trinidad and British Guiana, and during the past year he has done outstanding work as a district pastor and evangelist on the island of Barbados.

Those participating in the ordination services were Elders C. O. Franz and V. W. Schoen of the Inter-American Division, Elder F. S. Thompson of the Caribbean Union, and Elder J. G. Fulfer of the Leeward Islands Mission.

— James G. Fulfer

“Those who are always busy, and go cheerfully about the performance of their daily task, are the most happy and healthy. The rest and composure of night brings to their wearied frames unbroken slumber. The Lord knew what was for man's happiness when He gave him work to do.” — Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 529.

❖ Elder Braulio Perez, speaker for the Spanish-language Voice of Prophecy programme, accompanied by Elder L. L. Reile, Division radio secretary, and the “King's Heralds” quartette held a series of Bible School rallies in the Mexican and Central American Unions during the month of February.

❖ At the beginning of 1958 the Franco-Haitian Union set a baptismal goal of 1,700 souls to be baptized during the year in its territory. Guiscard Sablier, secretary-treasurer of the Union, reports that their baptismal goal was reached before the end of the year. We rejoice with our faithful believers in Haiti, the French West Indies, and French Guiana over this fine accomplishment.

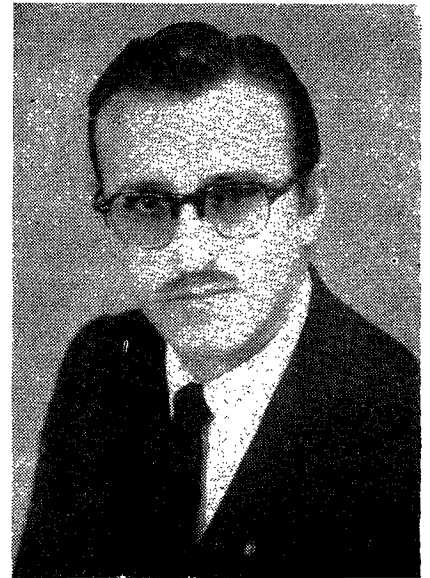
❖ Elder E. L. Minchin, associate secretary of the General Conference Missionary Volunteer Department, and Elder G. E. Maxson, Division Missionary Volunteer secretary, were the principal speakers at Voice of Youth revivals held in Mexico City and Montemoreles, Mexico, from February 12 to 28.

❖ The Division staff bid farewell on December 21 to Rebeca Mazlumian who returned to her home in Buenos Aires, Argentina, after serving as a translator and secretary in the Division office for a period of three years. Hilma Pacheco, whose homeland is Colombia, has accepted the invitation of the Division to take over the duties formerly carried by Miss Mazlumian. We welcome Miss Pacheco to the Division staff.

❖ Dr. G. H. A. McLaren and family arrived in Kingston, Jamaica, February 3. Dr. McLaren will serve as surgeon at Andrews Memorial Hospital.

“JOTS AND TITLES”

“Every Christian is a steward of God, entrusted with His goods. Remember the words, ‘Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful’ (1 Cor. 4:2). Let us be sure that we are not robbing God in any jots and titles; for much is involved in this question.” 9T 246.



Elder G. E. Maxson, the newly-appointed Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the Inter-American Division.

G. E. Maxson Joins Division Staff

The Division staff recently welcomed Elder and Mrs. G. E. Maxson with their children David, Benjamin, and Glenda, to their new home in Miami. Elder Maxson has been appointed by the General Conference to serve as the Missionary Volunteer Secretary for the Inter-American Division.

Elder and Mrs. Maxson are not by any means strangers to this Division. They have served in Colombia and Venezuela for more than ten years. During approximately half of this period Elder Maxson served as a pastor-evangelist. He is thus acquainted with the problem of local churches. For two years he was president of the West Venezuela Mission. For the past three years he has served as the Missionary Volunteer and Educational Secretary of the Colombia-Venezuela Union, with headquarters in Medellin, Colombia.

Since his appointment Elder Maxson has already visited parts of the Central American and Mexican Unions and will soon be acquainted with our young people in all the seven unions of Inter-America. Welcome, Elder and Mrs. Maxson!