



“Hold That Fast Which Thou Hast . . .”

By R. R. FIGUHR, President of the General Conference

A former Adventist minister in a land far away has left us after having proclaimed the Adventist faith by voice and pen for 30 years. He now declares that he has at last discovered that Adventists are wrong in just about all of their teachings. Their belief in the Sabbath, the sanctuary, the investigative judgment, the remnant church, the gift of prophecy, he avows are all error. This he claims to have discovered after three decades. Thirty years is a long time. It is the major portion of one's adult life and comprises the most active years of a minister's life. One cannot help feeling that any minister must have been exceedingly casual in his perusal of the Sacred Scriptures for so long a time not to have discovered much sooner that what he is publicly and privately teaching and urging upon the people as scriptural truth is actually not truth at all, but only gross error.

It is not surprising that some turn away from the faith. We are told that in the last days some will depart from the faith. But that this should happen after 30 years of what should have been dedicated study and active preaching of certain beliefs, vital to salvation, is what astonishes us.

While deeply regretting this renunciation of a faith once so evidently loved and enthusiastically preached, we pass on to the main point in mind. In an article that this man recently wrote he endeavours to explain why he left the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The article was published in a paper never friendly to Seventh-day Adventists. Inadvertently the writer gives an impressively good recommendation of those who have accepted and follow the faith he has just renounced. He writes thus: “But Seventh-day Adventism must not be dismissed as unworthy

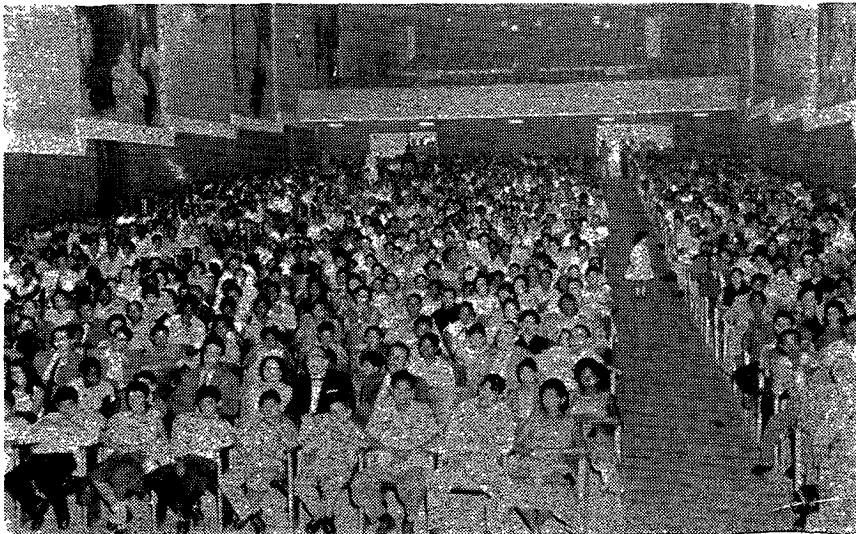
of notice. It has an attractive side and a driving force worthy of a better cause. Their members are selfless in their devotion and loyal to its creed and to its propagation. There is personal sacrifice in giving and service that is altogether astonishing. The expansion of their movement is phenomenal and their activities worldwide. Their members are honorable and lovable in the main. All this makes the task of their enlightenment one of the greatest facing Christendom today.”

A faith that can produce such fruitage in those who accept it cannot be too bad. In fact, it must be very good. After all, here is the acid test of genuine religion—the effect upon the lives of its professors. When we think of men who formerly were dishonest, drunkards, laden with vices, yes, even thieves and murderers, being transformed into “honourable and lovable” people, we cannot but be thankful to God for a message that effects such marvelous transformations. Nor can we help feeling that such a message is due earth's inhabitants today. It is urgently needed in every part of this troubled and perplexed old world. Believing that their message is what the world needs, Adventists are putting heart and soul into its propagation. This explains the “driving force” that the writer observes on the part of this “selfless” and “loyal” people as they proclaim their message. How thankful we are for such a transforming gospel and for the “honorable and lovable” people being gathered out of every nation, tongue, and people. To this faith once delivered unto the saints we must be true.

Let us heed the divine admonition: “Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” (Rev. 3:11). — *Review and Herald*

Evangelism

IN THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION



Opening-night audience at the San Carlos Theatre in Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, listens intently as Pastor H. J. Westphal presents an evangelistic effort. The attendance after three week of meetings was still approximately equal to that shown in this photograph.

Evangelistic Crusade In Ciudad Trujillo

"In visions of the night representations passed before me . . . Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence." —**Christian Service**, p. 42.

Many years have passed since the servant of the Lord wrote these words, but we believe that they are finding their fulfillment in our days, here in the City of Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic.

The night of January 13 marked the beginning of a great evangelistic crusade in Ciudad Trujillo. Leading out in this programme of evangelism is Pastor H. J. Westphal of the Inter-American Division. The following persons are closely associated with Elder Westphal in these meetings: Pastor Alvin J. Stewart, president of the Dominican Mission; Pastor Max Grunzeug, Home Missionary Secretary of the

Mission; Elder Eligio Gonzalez, pastor of the Ciudad Trujillo district; Angel Gomez, Edna Brewer, Maria Luisa Bacigalupe, Leonela Gonzalez, and W. A. Moretta. Mrs. Dora Gomez serves as the secretary of the crusade. The mission treasurer, Ernesto Gil, is in charge of finances, Pastor Eduardo Escobar of the West Venezuela Mission and Ernesto Santos, pastor of the Miami, Florida, Spanish church, have been privileged to associate with this fine group of workers for a time in order to observe the methods used. Elder Westphal will hold evangelistic crusades in Venezuela and Miami later this year.

Seven hundred persons attended the first two meetings in the aristocratic Elite Theatre in Ciudad Trujillo. A large percentage of these had reserved their seats in advance. Among them was the Hon. Virgilio Alvarez Pina, Minister of Cults in the government of the Dominican Republic. Dr. Nelson W. Mejia, sub-secretary of Cults, and his wife were also in attendance at these meetings.

Pastor Westphal was introduced to the public by Dr. Leoncio Pieter, a well-known lawyer and writer of the capital city. Dr. Pieter extended a warm welcome.

In addition to the meetings in the

Elite Theatre the group is also holding evangelistic services in the San Carlos Theatre each week. This is the largest theatre in the Dominican Republic. Attendance at the first two meetings in the San Carlos Theatre totaled 2,368 persons. Many of these are students of the Voice of Prophecy Bible School.

The two largest daily papers in the Republic spontaneously reported the plans for the meetings before they began and then gave fine coverage of the meetings from day to day. The local radio station has also served as a fine advertising medium for the meetings.

The day before the crusade officially began Elder Westphal received an invitation from the Generalissimo Trujillo to a personal interview. Accompanied by Pastors Stewart and Gonzalez, he enjoyed a very pleasant visit with the Generalissimo, as well as with the president and vice-president of the Republic. Our workers were introduced by the Minister of Cults. Generalissimo Trujillo very graciously invited Pastor Westphal to remain in the Dominican Republic as long as he should desire.

We thank God for the fine reception that Elder Westphal and his co-laborers are receiving in Ciudad Trujillo and for the bright prospects that are opening up as a result of these meetings and the influence of the radio Bible school. We are sure that our Heavenly Father will reward the efforts expended with an abundant harvest of souls.

—Ernesto C. Santos

Will You Help?

The General Conference has asked the Inter-American Division to raise \$9,000 for Disaster and Famine Relief. We have received generous help from this fund in the past. Let us give a liberal offering on . . .

MAY 9.

BAPTISMAL REPORT

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION, FOR THE YEAR, ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1958

Mission or Conference	Baptized during 1958	Goal for Year	% of Goal Reached
Dominican	291	700	41.5
East Cuba	164	300	54.6
Puerto Rico	432	600	72.0
West Cuba	223	400	58.0
ANTILLIAN UNION	1,110	2,000	55.5
Bahamas	53	150	35.3
Cayman Islands	16	130	53.3
East Jamaica	1,170	1,800	65.0
West Jamaica	1,441	2,020	71.3
BRITISH WEST INDIES UNION	2,680	4,000	67.0
British Guiana	253	500	50.6
Leeward Islands	667	650	102.6
South Caribbean	470	810	58.0
Surinam	48	40	120.0
CARIBBEAN UNION	1,438	2,000	71.9
British Honduras	14	120	11.6
Costa Rica	131	200	65.5
Guatemala	302	275	109.8
Honduras	44	200	22.0
Nicaragua	47	225	20.8
Panama	376	350	107.4
Salvador	170	230	73.9
CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION	1,084	1,600	67.7
Atlantic Colombia	208	450	46.2
Colombian Islands	29	40	72.5
East Venezuela	189	200	94.5
Netherlands Antilles	49	100	49.0
Pacific Colombia	243	450	54.0
Upper Colombia	710	850	83.5
West Venezuela	107	210	50.9
COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA UNION	1,535	2,300	66.7
Haitian	1,325	1,300	101.9
French West Indies	472	400	118.0
FRANCO-HAITIAN UNION	1,797	1,700	105.7
Central Mexican	133	200	66.5
Inter-Oceanic	126	400	31.5
North Mexican	214	350	61.1
Pacific Mexican	92	250	36.8
South Mexican	533	450	118.4
Southeast Mexican	384	450	85.3
MEXICAN UNION	1,482	2,100	70.5
INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION TOTALS	11,126	15,700	70.8

APRIL, 1959

A Record Year in Baptisms

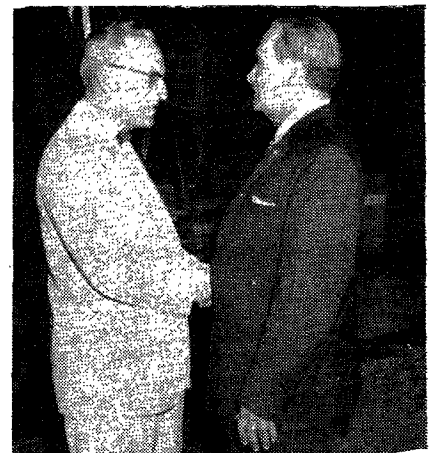
This year there was special rejoicing in the Division office as the baptismal reports for the year were tabulated and it was discovered that Inter-America has surpassed all its previous records for baptisms. The grand total of baptisms, as shown on the accompanying report, is 11,126.

One of the most interesting ways to classify baptismal reports is by the number of persons baptized per hundred members. While the accompanying report does not include this feature, we have calculated the baptisms on this basis and show below the seven local fields with the highest results:

Local Field	Baptized per 100 Members
Upper Magdalena Mission (Col.—Ven. Union)	19.4
Colombian Islands Mission (Col.—Ven. Union)	18.4
French West Indies Mission (Franco-Haitian Union)	16.9
Surinam Mission (Caribbean Union)	15.5
East Venezuela Mission (Col.—Ven. Union)	14.9
Pacific Colombia Mission (Col.—Ven. Union)	12.6
Guatemala Mission (Central American Union)	12.5

It is interesting to note that four out of the seven highest fields are in the Colombia-Venezuela Union. This union had the highest per capita baptisms in the Division during the year 1958.

—Clyde O. Franz



Pastor H. J. Westphal welcomes the Hon. Virgilio Alvarez Fina, Minister of Cults in the Dominican Republic, to the evangelistic meetings in the Elite Theatre in Ciudad Trujillo.

Messages

TO THE CHURCH

A BIBLE-BASED MESSAGE

By ROBERT H. PIERSON

Some years ago in a country where Bible study is not encouraged, a clergyman of the established church discovered one of his parishioners reading her Bible.

"You have become a Seventh-day Adventist!" he cried accusingly.

"No," was the astonished reply. "I am only reading my Bible."

"You have become a Seventh-day Adventist!" the visitor charged again. "Only Seventh-day Adventists study their Bibles in this country!"

It is a high honor, a reputation we should zealously justify, to be labeled special students of the Word.

John Wesley once said, "I want to know one thing—one way to heaven, how to land on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book! O give me that book! At any price, give me that book of God! I have it; here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be a man of one Book."

Seventh-day Adventists also say, "We want to know one thing—the way to that better land where we may forever fellowship with our Lord and Master, Christ Jesus." As did Wesley, we believe that the way to that golden shore is revealed in only one book, the Bible. "Give us that Book! At any price, give us that Book," we cry. "Let us truly be a people of one Book."

The teachings of the remnant church are Christ centered and Bible based. We believe that Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life." We believe that "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (Jesus)" (John 14:6). It is our profound conviction that "neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). We are convinced that the place to find Christ is in Christ's book, the blessed Bible.

Substitutes for the Word will not suffice in things eternal. Jesus declared, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7). Man-made philosophy may delight the ear and please the fancy, but it cannot save the soul.

The Bible is a wonderful book. It is a true book. It is a fact-filled and interest-packed book. Its variegated contents range through theology, history, science, philosophy, ethnology, ethics, romance, drama, public and per-

No Other Way

BY MARGARET LOCKE

Self on the cross and Christ on the throne—
No other way for a crown of my own;
No other way fair Paradise to gain,
All other efforts are worthless and vain.

Self on the cross—'tis hard, but 'tis sweet,
Thrilling with joy when escaping defeat;
All on the altar, eyes on Christ's face,
Hope in His mercy, trust in His grace.

Self on the cross each moment, each hour;
Not of myself, but through Him comes the power.

Striving to follow the Master alone;
No other way for a crown of my own.

sonal relations, and other topics that have captured human interest and attention through the centuries.

An Inspired Book

The Bible is more than a good book, a true book, a wonderful book. Man may write a good book, a true book, even a wonderful book. But man has never produced a volume that compares with the Holy Scriptures. The Bible **lives!** Through its sacred pages the living God moves and speaks to human hearts. It is a book of divine origin destined from the beginning to fill a unique need among the human family. No other volume has successfully challenged it.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16,17).

Evidence of the Bible's divine origin is both ample and convincing. Only God can foresee the future. Only His Book contains prophecies whose fulfillments are established as historical fact. "I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done" (Isa. 46: 9, 10). With God the future is present and He alone is able to declare accurately what the next day, the next year, or the next century will reveal.

Years before the events took place inspired prophets of God foretold such events as the rise and fall of Babylon, of the Medo-Persia kingdom, Greece, and Rome (Dan. 2:31-33), Artaxerxes' decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (Dan. 9:25; Ezra 7:7,8), the anointing of Christ as Messiah and His crucifixion (Dan. 9:25), the proclamation of the gospel to the Gentiles (Dan. 9:26,27), the pagan persecution of the Christian church (Rev. 2:10), the 1260 years of papal supremacy (Dan. 7:25, etc.).

Only God could have guided the hands of the holy men who chronicled these events for our admonition and learning today. "Prophecy came not at any time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21, margin).

A Power-filled Book

The Book of God contains the power of God. The Bible is more than an accurate history, an enthralling story, a sublime philosophy; it is a living, throbbing power able to change men spiritually, physically, and mentally, making them new men in Christ Jesus.

"The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-

edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, . . . and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

The Word once changed a would-be assassin in South America into a submissive child of God. It changed a perverse West Indian sorcerer into a preacher of righteousness. It transformed a drunken Central American antagonist into a stalwart leader in the local Adventist church. It led a Brahman printer in Dutch Guiana to renounce heathenism even at the cost of giving up family and home. It has rescued such men as Jerry McAuley and John B. Gough—apparently hopeless alcoholics—and made them into effective temperance welfare workers.

The power of God's Word has dethroned kings, established governments, opened and closed the heavens, convicted the sinner, lifted the fallen, revived the backslidden, perfected the saint, healed the sick, cleansed the leper, delivered the oppressed, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, cheered the discouraged, united broken homes, bound up broken hearts, cooled tempers, revived hope, saved lives, and ransomed souls. Only the living God possesses such power. Only He could author such a book.

Study of the Word Enjoined

"Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). To be people of the Book we must be students of the Book. Truth on the shelf, in the closet, or on the table will never save us. Truth to be effective, redemptive, must be in the mind, in the heart, in the life. It is well to be "in the truth"; it is even more essential to have the truth **in us!**

No occasional, superficial skimming of the Word will suffice. "The most valuable teaching of the Bible is not to be gained by occasional or disconnected study . . . Many of its treasures lie far beneath the surface and can be obtained only by diligent research and continuous effort. The truths that go to make up the great whole must be searched out and gathered up, 'here a little, and there a little.'" —**Education**, p. 123.

And when we read we must read aright. "There is much reading of the Bible that is without profit, and in many cases a positive injury. When the Word of God is opened without reverence

and without prayer; when the thoughts and affections are not fixed upon God, or in harmony with His will, the mind is clouded with doubt; and in the very study of the Bible, skepticism is strengthened." —**Steps to Christ**, p. 110.

A time of great trial is just ahead for God's people. Only a prayerful study of the Word will prepare us to stand the test. "None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict." —**The Great Controversy**, pp. 593, 594. How much we need to treasure up the precious promises of His Word to strengthen us for the days just ahead.

The Secret of Power

"The study of the Bible will ennoble every thought, feeling, and aspiration as no other study can." It expands the mind, sharpens the perceptions, and

ripens the judgment. "It gives stability of purpose, patience, courage, and fortitude; it refines the character, and sanctifies the soul." **Ibid.**, p. 94.

What a matchless power the Advent church of prophecy would be in the world if every member were a giant in the Scriptures. What a tremendous stir we would create in every corner of the globe. We would be known not only for our efficient organization, our per-capita giving, and our worldwide medical-welfare program; the people would know us because of our sanctified characters, our patience, our courage, our stability of purpose, our good judgment. In short, they would know that indeed we have been with Jesus.

"O give us that Book! At any price, give us that Book of God!" Let us always be people of the one Book!

—**Review and Herald**

HOW TO CHECK LOSSES IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Part VI

By **FORDYCE W. DETAMORE**

In this article—the last of the series of suggestions on helping members to remain firm and win back the lost sheep—let us approach the question from two angles. First, what can the individual himself do to ward off the danger of backsliding? Second, what can the church and the pastor do to forestall the possibility of his backsliding?

Here are some specific suggestions to the individual member—safeguards to spiritual survival.

1. Take time to pray, at least every morning and every night. Never, never, neglect personal prayer. Do not neglect family worship either. In a census I conducted at one of our colleges and another in one of our academies the young people revealed the tragic fact that in nearly 50 per cent of their homes the families did not follow the plan of family worship. This one shortcoming alone is a most significant distress signal, indicating spiritual weakness and contributing to spiritual delinquency.

2. Take time to read your Bible daily. A day or two without food, and you will become weak. The same applies to spiritual food. Anemic Christians are easy prey for the enemy

of souls. Study your Sabbath school lesson daily.

3. Read the Spirit of prophecy writings. True, in some lands where it has not yet been possible to print the Spirit of prophecy books we have full-fledged Adventist believers. But the Spirit of prophecy does help to make stronger members. What a wealth of material it provides us! Read the volumes for yourself and you will be amazed at the broad, wise, balanced counsel for day-by-day Christian living—always practical and applicable to individual needs.

4. Attend Sabbath school and church weekly, and as often as possible all other church appointments. Never let casual excuses keep you from attendance at the house of prayer.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; . . . and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:25). That surely applies now. Those who are regular in Sabbath school and church attendance rarely backslide. Be in your Sabbath school class every week, and be sure to remain for the preaching service.

Plan your program as far as possible

so you can attend other services of the church, such as the MV meeting, the prayer meeting.

5. Read the "Messenger", the union paper, and other periodicals and books, in so far as time allows. Reading the "Messenger" keeps you posted on the activities of the world movement of which you are a part. Special articles are featured that will help to revive the first love and to keep the spiritual life warm and bright.

6. Keep up to date with your tithes and offerings. Never lag in paying your tithe. You will be surprised how this one matter alone will affect you. We never like to face someone we owe after the amount is past due. So some avoid meeting God at church on Sabbath when they have defaulted in the matter of their tithes.

Plan to do your part in bearing the heavy financial load of the church. Participate actively in the annual In-gathering campaign. You do not want someone else to carry your share of the load.

7. If you stumble and fall, repent and start anew. "My little children these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1).

This is important. Far too many give up easily after a fall. Be assured that Jesus stands ready to help you. He is the One who suggested forgiving seventy times seven. He will never forsake you. Accept His forgiveness and do not squander spiritual vitality grieving over past mistakes. Profit by them, yes; forsake them, indeed; brood over them, never. The happiest person in the world should be the Christian—saved by grace.

8. Live on the sunny side of life. Be a positive, not a negative, member in the church. Be a helper, not one constantly needing spiritual help. Talk courage, never discouragement. Utter words of healthy commendation, never of condemnatory criticism. Caustic words are as cankers on the lips of their authors. Look for the good in others. Avoid the evil. Scatter smiles and sunshine, and they will all come back to you in spiritual health and happiness in this life, and one day you may bask in the eternal sunshine of Heaven's love.

9. Finally, keep busy—ever working for others.

That brings me to the second set of suggestions. A living, growing church and a wide-awake pastor will feature an active program of church work.

Moody is often quoted regarding his advice to new converts asking how they might be sure of remaining steadfast. His reply, "Work. Work. Work!" This is good advice for today, too. A living church is an active, aggressive church. A living Christian is an active, working member.

The pastor and the church must unite in planning suitable activities for individuals as well as for groups. Some specific suggestions may be helpful.

1. Through a church census learn the abilities and special interests of each member. For example, learn what musical instruments are played and what hobbies some have developed. Ascertain past leadership activities of the members in their former associations, such as Sunday school teachers, Scout or Girl Guide leaders, Rotary Club leadership, et cetera.

2. Place each member in some position requiring action and work, such as Sabbath school teacher, MV assistant, pianist, Dorcas member, church development association (planning the betterment of the physical church plant such as landscaping, remodeling, expansion), Bible study training band, literature band, public speaking seminar, welfare band, public relations bureau, Pathfinder counselors or instructors, et cetera.

It is not enough to place individuals in groups. Insist on the leaders in these groups training, developing, and using the talent of those assigned to them.

3. Conduct classes in public speaking, in the giving of Bible studies, and in directing music. These three classes will develop and train members for participation in public lay evangelism—the greatest challenge of any line of missionary activity.

In every church we have talent that could be used for public evangelism, cottage meetings, and Bible studies. Our evangelistic campaigns have always been most successful where there has been active lay evangelism. What need there is for the church to be at her

first task of carrying this message of hope to the millions!

Aggressive training classes in such subjects as public speaking, conducting, and the giving of home Bible studies would, in a short time, develop a vast army of workers prepared to finish the task God has committed to the remnant people.

4. Launch an all-out public evangelistic campaign, combining the efforts of laity and pastor. Let us remember that the pastor's primary field of labor is not waiting on tables, inventing and oiling machinery, conducting drives and campaigns, but evangelism.

It will be found that an active program of evangelism solves almost all church problems. If the church's financial load is heavy, the best way to lift it is to bring in new, energetic members filled with the zeal of their first love. Evangelism reduces contention, if any exists. When all the church unites in carrying the battle to the enemy, prosecuting an aggressive, militant warfare, there is neither time nor inclination for petty bickering within the ranks. Evangelism is also the most direct and quickest way of reclaiming lost sheep. Church members are able to bring to public evangelistic meetings friends, relatives, and backsliders who usually will not attend a regular church service. No other type of meeting reaches the heart so directly and personally as a revival-evangelistic type of service. In this atmosphere backsliders more readily respond. Finally, nothing helps better to hold our own members than to utilize their services in the conducting of public meetings. Members rarely backslide while busy working for others.

We have a world to warn. Neither pastor nor layman can go home until the world task is done. Should we not accept the call to a greater evangelism, and arise to finish our task? Said the Master, "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (John 10:16).

May we each be found in his place when the Great Shepherd of the fold shall count His sheep, and may He find not just ninety-nine but all safe within the fold when the final storm breaks!

—Review and Herald

For all the Family

ARE THESE DISEASES STILL DANGEROUS?

By T. R. FLAIZ, M.D.

Several years ago when diphtheria was running in epidemic proportions in a certain community of South India, the handsome Indian prince was convinced that his children, healthy as they were, did not need the protection of the new inoculations recommended by our hospital staff. He had been told by well-meaning but ill-informed friends that these inoculations might be dangerous, or harmful, and that they originated from objectionable sources. The earnest urging of the hospital staff failed to change the Indian prince's mind regarding the desirability of the protective measures they offered his beautiful children.

A few weeks later the physician was called to the palace to care for one of the sons who was critically ill. Tragically enough, help was sought too late for the tracheotomy to give the lad his one chance for life. Diphtheria had done its devastating work. The other child was, of course, immediately inoculated against this disease, but it was too late to help the brother who had not been favored with this protection. How much better it would have been if this father had acknowledged the danger soon enough and had protected the child against this disease that still takes a large toll of life in some parts of the earth.

Even in those areas of the world where modern medicine and improved sanitation have greatly reduced the incidence of such disease, the danger is still present. No parent is excusable for allowing children to go unprotected against diphtheria, polio, pertussis, scarlet fever, smallpox, and tetanus, for they take a comparatively large toll of children and young people not inoculated.

There are still some who object to this type of protection against polio. If these well-meaning people could follow us into some of the hospital

wards where the victims of this disease are cared for, they would surely ask for more, not less, protection.

There are some who are scarcely aware that tetanus is a very real danger to children, young people, and adults alike. The child who steps on a nail or drives a sliver deep into his hand or foot has a definite chance of developing tetanus (lockjaw). Parents who have refused their children protection against this disease would, I am sure, change their minds if they could stand at the bedside of a tetanus patient and observe the cruel convulsions, the contortions of the face, resulting from the painful muscular contractions which often end in death. A simple injection of an innocuous material would have protected the child against this horrible fate.

Probably one of the reasons for a certain amount of apathy regarding the dangers of these diseases is the fact that few parents have encountered them. Many feel that even if the disease does develop, there are the "miracle drugs" that will take care of everything. How pathetically wrong they are in this understanding is best known to the physicians who must care for children and young people overtaken with such infections.

There is a further misunderstanding on the part of many parents regarding the nature of these diseases; namely, that even in case the child does get diphtheria or tetanus, there is an antitoxin that almost always saves the patient. What these parents do not know is that this tetanus and diphtheria antitoxin is of itself dangerous and can be given only under the most carefully controlled conditions. On the other hand, the inoculation against these diseases is a very simple matter associated with practically no dangers of any kind.

True, the antitoxin, if given in time,

saves the life, but there is the accompanying risk—far less, of course, than the disease itself, but nevertheless a risk—that the child may be sensitive to the serum in which the antitoxin is developed. It must be borne in mind that the person who has received antitoxin serum once is thereafter in considerable danger from a reaction should further antitoxin become necessary in case of another infection perhaps years later. It is therefore unwise to rely upon the antitoxin to fight the disease when there is such a simple and secure protection in the inoculations offered.

Many inquire as to the most desirable plan for immunization of children against the more dangerous of these diseases. As now generally practiced, the program provides a combined diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus injection, three injections one month apart beginning about the third to the sixth month of life. One year later a booster injection of this inoculation, known as the DPT immunization, will bring protection to the maximum. Thereafter, once in three years will provide the necessary protection. The physician or school physician will know when to dispense with each of the elements in these inoculations.

The polio protection should be given when the child is perhaps six months of age in a series of two injections one month apart. These should be followed by a third after a period of six or seven months. No parent can be excused from serious responsibility if through neglect of this protective program the child should contract polio. As parents, let us be sure that our children are properly protected against the very critical dangers of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, and smallpox, all of which can be excluded as a danger by proper inoculation.

The fact that you have never seen a case of diphtheria or of smallpox or of tetanus is not adequate reason to believe that your child is safe from these dread killers.

Are your children properly protected?

—Review and Herald

Adventist Youth

FRIENDS OF GOD — Part III

By ARTHUR L. BIETZ

Fear is a real problem in the mind of youth. No age has posed greater uncertainty than ours. Youth has been asked to make the greatest sacrifice in war and social upheavals. How can youth be focused on courage? This is not possible without the friendship of God.

There is a new mode of thought that has gripped thinking youth all over the world: it is known as the thought of despair. The idea is that the more you think the more you will be brought to darkness and despair with respect to life itself. It must be so without the friendship of God. The mind alone can lead youth only to the brink of disaster. Friendship with God can bring light and rest to the mind. Fear goes when love and friendship come in. Does not the Bible say that perfect love will cast out all fear?

Friendship Overcomes Pettiness

A famous football coach was asked if the team had a chaplain who prayed for them before they played. He responded that they had such a chaplain, but they had discovered through the years that the prayers always worked better when the players were big. This is a sage observation. Our prayers will work better when we overcome pettiness. Too many young people are majoring in minors. We need to major in majors.

God wants us to overcome pettiness, but without friendship this will be impossible. Only those who feel themselves loved by God are able to love others and can thus be free from pettiness. Adventist youth cannot be provincial in outlook. The whole world is our field of mission. To every nation, kindred, tongue, and people is the mission of Adventist youth. This will demand a true greatness that transcends all pettiness.

Some think that the Bible is dull, but the fact is that too many dull minds are reading the Bible. There is nothing

dull or uninteresting in God. There may be a lack of interest in the theological discussions, but there can never be a lack of interest when God becomes our friend.

To experience theology is not the same as experiencing God. God cannot be wrapped into words, however good they may be. Christian experience is not just a way of life; it is life itself. Truth is not just words; but truth is Jesus Christ. Truth is never really experienced apart from friendship with God Himself.

We may believe many things about God without ever knowing the friendship of God. We may believe the historical Jesus without ever knowing the living Jesus, who transforms our lives. Many may have changed their minds about God, but they have never had their hearts transformed by the love of God. Any god who merely calls for intellectual defense or attack is merely a local, tribal deity—local in the sense that he is only the god of opinion. The thinker is greater than the thought, so if God is to be known, He must be known by friendship first, then the mind can give its reasons for that friendship. The friendship comes first. Without the friendship the beliefs are dry and meaningless.

True Friendship Puts God First

It is of the nature of true friendship that the friend is the one who always receives first consideration. If you have a true friend you wish to make him happy. Self is no longer the centre of your thinking. The friend becomes the joy of your activity. Whenever people who call themselves Christians think first of themselves they have not experienced friendship with God.

Too many people set themselves up as judges of others. They criticize and find fault. They actually feel that God has called them to do this for the good of others. This misconception is

due to the fact that they have never caught the idea of true friendship. When God is our true friend, our greatest desire is to please Him.

"I want you to meet my friend." This statement is repeated again and again by people who are proud of their friends. It follows that when we have experienced the friendship of God we will want to introduce Him to others. "We are ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5:20). Don't bring people an argument; bring them your friend Jesus Christ. Too many bring a bit of advice when they ought to bring Jesus.

"Ye are my witnesses," says the Lord. A witness is one who has had a personal experience with God. No one can witness of that which he has not received personal knowledge. Now we delight in bringing God and man together in order to build new friendships, because we ourselves have been enriched by the friendship of God. Now we bring Someone and not merely something.

Why should you delay to come when God extends His friendship to you? Will you accept that friendship offered to you today? Your greatest need is the need for friendship. Let God fulfill that need in your life today.

—Review and Herald

\$9,000

Yes, the goal for the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering is \$9,000. Please respond with a liberal . . .

OFFERING

when this great need is presented in your church. Remember that Adventists all over the world will be giving on . . .

MAY 9.

Let's show our leaders in the General Conference and our brethren in other divisions that we appreciate the help Inter-America has received in the past from this fund.

With the Departments

A Challenge on May 9

"Storms, earthquakes, whirlwinds, fire, and the sword will spread destruction everywhere, until men's hearts shall fail them for fear and for looking after those things that shall come upon the earth." —**Testimonies**, Vol 4, p. 53. We here in Inter-America probably know more about the destructive forces of nature than the people of any other part of the world. Believing the above prophetic writings we must know that calamities will become more frequent and more terrible as we approach the end.

In the past when hurricanes have blown away our buildings and earthquakes have shaken them down we have turned to the General Conference for assistance. Whenever the need has been beyond our ability to handle, they have always responded to our plea. The funds of the General Conference come from Seventh-day Adventists around the world. To replenish the funds that are used for disaster and famine relief, the General Conference is asking the Adventist people the world over to give a sacrificial offering on Sabbath, May 9. A goal has been set for each field in the Division. These goals can only be met as each one of us as individuals does his full part.

Each family has a few weeks between now and May 9 in which to pray and plan for their part in this world-wide relief endeavor. Ellen G. White in **Ministry of Healing**, page 49, says this, "Though your resources may not be sufficient to feed thousands, they may suffice to feed one. In the hand of Christ they may feed many. Like the disciples give what you have, Christ will multiply the gift." Surely we who so often in the past received help because our fellow Adventists in distant lands have made these funds available will do all in our part to show our appreciation by raising more than our share of this world offering.

"Every opportunity to help a brother in need, or to aid the cause of God in the spread of the truth, is a pearl that you can send before hand and deposit in the bank of heaven for

safe keeping. God is testing and proving you. He has given His blessings to you with a lavish hand and is now watching to see what use you are making of them, to see if you will help those who need help and if you will feel the worth of souls to do what you can with the means that He has entrusted to you." —**Testimonies**, Vol. 3, p. 249.

As we plan for this offering, let us remember the words of Paul. "He which soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly; he which soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully."

— L. F. Bohner

30,000 lay preachers in 1959—this is our goal! Here is another report from . . .

One of the 30,000

"I want to do something for God", said Philip Bohmann, a young twenty-four-year-old layman in British Guiana, when he stood before a large congregation in the central church in Georgetown. He came from one of the villages on the river-side and told us his experience. He followed the divine blueprint for missionary work and started with visitation. Going through the village he made 150 missionary contacts, prayed in many homes and left more than 200 tracts with the neighbor families. Visiting them over and over again he soon found those interested in God's message. Then the organized Bible studies were planned and he systematically went through the entire message. Now, as a true soldier of Christ, he was able to report to the great congregation that seven of these interested people had already been baptized. Others were still searching for God.

— V. W. Schoen

The Pound Project

At eventide on Monday, December 8, 1958, a large group of members of the Rollington Town church in Kingston, Jamaica, gathered in the annex to the church building. There was an animated expression on the face of each one as eyes were frequently

focussed on a pile of groceries stored at one side of the hall. Had some wholesale merchant directed his customer's Christmas goods to the wrong address?

Sister Miller, the Dorcas Leader, and her gallant sewing circle were particularly active and on their faces were looks of triumph mingled with surprise and thankfulness. This was as it should be, for the group had gathered to thank God for the pile of gifts that had been brought in earlier in the afternoon by the congregation to be distributed to the needy poor at the usual Christmas treat.

It was but a short time before that the novel idea of each member bringing one pound weight of gifts was suggested to the church. Enthusiasm was so aroused about this Pound Day project that one member became apprehensive about space to store the gifts until the day of distribution; and there was good reason for fears, too, because this member, Brother Reid, donated 100 lbs. of flour, 100 lbs. of meal, 100 lbs. of rice, 100 lbs. of sugar, and 100 lbs. of peas! On this magnificent foundation rose a mountain of gifts as each member brought his or her pound or pounds, each giver receiving God's blessing, not equal to the measure of the gift, but according to the charitable spirit which prompted the gesture. Consequently, each cup was running over with blessing, for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Paster H. E. Nembhard thanked the gathering for the splendid demonstration of brotherly love, after which he introduced the chairman, Pastor A. D. Laing, Home Missionary and Sabbath school secretary, whose inspirational address was the highlight of a thanksgiving programme of hymns, recitations, and dialogue. Prayer by Brother Holmes concluded the service and each person left the building joyous with the thought that the poor shall be made happy.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity: but the greatest of these is charity."

— W. P. Falconer

Home Missionary Leader
Rollington Town Church

Around THE UNIONS

British West Indies

Good News from West Indian Training College

Elder A. C. Stockhausen, in a letter dated February 16, sends the following encouraging information regarding the enrollment at West Indian Training College, Mandeville, Jamaica:

"It might interest you to know that there are now 540 students enrolled at West Indian Training College. Twelve of these are taking grade 15; 46, grade 14; and 77, grade 13; 100 are in the elementary school; and the rest are in the Academy. We have 150 girls in the girls' dormitory and 120 boys in their building, which means that we have had to put five boys in a room."

— C. O. Franz

Caribbean

"Let Your Light so Shine . . ."

Last month's issue of the MESSENGER included an article reporting the dedication of the Gardens, Barbados, church building. The church furniture for this lovely new temple was donated by two gentlemen, one an Adventist, the other not a member of the church, as the result of a chance visit between the latter and a faithful deacon of the Gardens church. We bring our readers this story in the words of Elder M. E. Nebblett, pastor of the church:

"The story of the donation made to the Gardens church by Mr. Charles Martin and Brother Clyde Harris began when Mr. Martin was here in Barbados on a fishing expedition during the winter of 1957. He took a walk on the beach one morning to seek information from fishermen and came upon Brother C. Beckles, head deacon of the church, making repairs on his fishing boat.

"The two men conversed for some time. Then Mr. Martin offered Bro-

ther Beckles a cigarette which he refused. Mr. Martin asked why he did not smoke and our brother gave as a reason that he was a Seventh-day Adventist. Mr. Martin said that he was somewhat acquainted with our organization since the owner of one of the firms he represented (Brother Clyde Harris) is an Adventist.

"Brother Beckles mentioned the fact that we were constructing a new church building on the main road, not far from the seashore, and Mr. Martin suggested that they go and see it. As he looked around in the building, Mr. Martin remarked that the man he had previously referred to as an Adventist was in the church furniture business and he promised to ask him if he would not join him in furnishing the pews and other church furniture for this new church building.

"Mr. Martin took the name of our local church elder and in February, 1958, a letter arrived from Brother Harris, asking for an estimate of the cost of the church furniture. I sent this estimate to him and in June, 1958, Brother Harris sent us a check to cover the cost of the church furniture, stating that Mr. Martin had paid one-half of

the amount. We subsequently ordered the lumber for our pews and other furniture from British Guiana."

— C. O. Franz

Central American

ORDINATION OF EFRAIN MURILLO

On January 14, 1959, in Guatemala City, Efrain Murillo, district leader in the Guatemala Mission, was ordained to the gospel ministry. The ordination sermon was preached by the writer. Other ministers taking part in the service were Elder Clayton Henriquez, MV and Educational Department secretary of the Central American Union, and Elder R. E. Kepkey, president of the Guatemala Mission.

Pastor Murillo has been working in the Central American Union since 1952. He first was called to the Nicaragua Mission, where he worked for one year as colporteur leader and three years as evangelist. Later he was transferred to Guatemala, where



Pastor and Mrs Efrain Murillo, with their children Anna Luisa and Efrain Obed.

he also served as colporteur leader for a short time, and at the time of his ordination he was in charge of the district in the City of Guatemala. On December 31, 1952, Elder Murillo was married to Miss Eugenia Gonzalez Vargas. Their home has been blessed with two children, Anna Luisa and Efrain Obed.

We wish for Elder and Mrs. Murillo and their family the Lord's richest blessings as they continue their service for their Master in this Union.

— Fernon Retzer

Colombia-Venezuela

A Visit to the Gulf of Uraba

From Medellin, Colombia, to Turbo, one of the seaports of Colombia, is a trip of some 250 miles over perilous roads through the Andes mountains, alternating with beautiful plains and meadows. The 17 hours required for this trip by bus offer the traveller every type of panorama. It is necessary to cross more than 100 rivers, among them the majestic Cauca. The ravines, streams and lovely waterfalls impart a dreamy and romantic atmosphere to the landscape.

All along this route we found families of believers and many groups of students of the Radio Bible School. In some cases it was necessary to leave the main road and follow a river bed in order to visit these people in their homes. Others live on roads that are impassable because of the mud. In order to reach a group of believers at Quebrada de los Indios it was necessary to cross 22 ravines interspersed with beautiful open fields. Finally, after two hours, we reached the little Adventist chapel that stands as an eloquent testimony to a people who wait for their glorious Saviour. Everywhere we went we found believers awaiting our visit. Many baptismal candidates expressed their joy as they joined the Adventist church.

We flew in a small plane over the Gulf of Uraba, from Turbo to Necocli, thus saving considerable time. Demetrio Garcia had invited the brethren and Radio Bible School students from 14 places to meet us at Necocli. Some of them had travelled as much as 40 miles to attend this meeting. More than

200 persons attended the night meetings. On the Sabbath we met in a theatre. In addition to the evangelistic services we held special courses of instruction in evangelism for the 80 delegates present. This was the first time that such meetings had been held in Necocli.

Later, in the church at Horizonte, which is about two hours travelling time from Necocli, we held another series of meetings. Horizonte is a center for several groups and meetings were held in the daytime as well as in the evenings here.

In this Gulf area the little groups of believers multiply in a marvelous way. Very often our members move to locations where there are persons who have enrolled in the Voice of Prophecy Radio Bible School. Thus a new group of active believers is established. Then the process repeats itself. Upon visiting these groups each year the district pastor finds that the flame of evangelism has penetrated to new areas.

— Tirso Escandon H.

Mexican

New Dormitory at Navojoa School

Wednesday, January 28, was a big day for students and teachers at the Pacific Agricultural and Industrial School in Navojoa, Sonora, Mexico.

The writer and Pastor David H. Baasch, president of the Mexican Union, were privileged to be present on this memorable occasion when the new girls' dormitory was ready for occupancy by the young ladies who had been eagerly anticipating this day.

Previous to this they had been living in the basement of the building which housed the dining room and kitchen.

The visit of the King's Heralds Quartet, accompanied by Elder B. Perez Marcio, speaker for the Spanish "Voice of Prophecy" programme, and Elder L. L. Reile, Radio and Sabbath School Secretary of the Inter-American Division, was an added highlight in the day's activities. This distinguished group arrived during the morning and after a brief inspection of the campus

they were escorted to the west wing of the new building, which will temporarily be used as the school dining room. There, before teachers and students of the school, the quartet made the roof and walls of the new building ring with their beautiful harmonies.

At 8:30 p.m. the school family gathered in the new dining room, and after a very tasty meal a short programme was presented, officially welcoming the young ladies to the new dormitory. Appropriate speeches were made by the director of the school, Professor Dan W. Palmer, Elder David H. Baasch, president of the Mexican Union, and Elder Jose Castrejon, president of the Pacific Mexican Mission.

— Roy F. Williams

THE TESTING PROCESS

"God tests and proves us by the common occurrences of life. It is the little things which reveal the chapters of the heart. It is the little attentions, the numerous small incidents and simple courtesies of life that make up the sum of life's happiness; and it is the neglect of kindly, encouraging, affectionate words, and the little courtesies of life, which helps compose the sum of life's wretchedness. It will be found at last that the denial of self for the good and happiness of those around us, constitutes a large share of the life record in heaven." —*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 133.

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

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Inter-American Brevities

❖ Elder Kenneth L. Fleck, president of the Honduras Mission, reports that 76 decisions for baptism were made as a result of the evangelistic meetings recently held in the Bay Islands by Elder R. E. Dunton. Twenty-two persons have already been baptized and 54 others are studying in the baptismal classes.

❖ Building plans have been approved for a new church building at San Cristobal, Venezuela, and it is hoped that construction on this project will be well along by the time these lines appear in print.

❖ Elder George Brown, dean of men at Caribbean Union College, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, has accepted a bursary appointment to West Indian Training College in Mandeville, Jamaica. After completing the senior ministerial course, Elder Brown plans to return to his home union, the Caribbean Union, for further service.

Voice of Prophecy Group Visits Inter-America

Elder L. L. Reile, radio secretary of the Division, sends the following report of the trip that he and Elder Braulio Perez, speaker for the Spanish language Voice of Prophecy programme, are making in the Mexican and Central American unions. Elders Reile and Perez are accompanied by the King's Heralds Quartette.

"In twelve days we have had twenty meetings and travelled over 3,300 miles in Mexico. Most of the meetings have been held in public halls—a new day in Mexico—and to capacity crowds. Many times the aisles have been full. We have received hundreds of new enrollments in the Radio Bible School courses.

"The programme of the Voice of Prophecy has been well advertised and we are confident the evangelistic programme of the church has been helped. In one town, Cuasavá, Mexico, the entire evening programme was broadcast over the radio. In Ciudad Obregon, Mexico, we put on a special half-hour radio programme."

— C.O.F.

❖ From the heart of Colombia, MV leader Ramiro Quevedo reports that the youth of the Ibaguè MV society have very successfully held a Voice of Youth effort. Even ten-year-old Yecid Arevalo and eleven-year-old Arnaldo Martinez preached. These youth, under the blessing of God, have found joy in seeing eleven souls baptized, and there are thirty more in the baptismal class.

❖ Elder and Mrs. Jose de Sa, of the Quilengues Mission Station in Portuguese West Africa, are spending several weeks at Antillian College in Santa Clara, Cuba. They hope to obtain information and ideas that will be helpful to them in their school work in West Africa.

❖ Twenty-seven students from the Miami Junior Academy recently visited the Division office, accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Violet Weiss. These young people expressed great interest in the geography, history and progress of the Advent message in Inter-America.

"There are three watchwords in the Christian life, which must be heeded if we would not have Satan steal a march upon us; namely, Watch, Pray, Work." —*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 283.

Should We Give Less?

"In the days of Israel the tithe and free-will offerings were needed to maintain the ordinances of divine service. Should the people of God give less in this age? The principle laid down by Christ is that our offerings to God should be in proportion to the light and privileges enjoyed. 'Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.' Said the Saviour to his disciples, as he sent them forth, 'Freely ye have received, freely give.'"

—*Patriarchs & Prophets*, p. 528.

Plans for New Hospital Buildings in Port-of-Spain Trinidad

For a number of years the staff of our clinic and hospital in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, has looked forward to the day when they will be able to move out of the temporary quarters that this unit now occupies. The government of Trinidad has made available a five and one-half acre tract in a fine location in the suburbs of Port-of-Spain as a site for this new hospital plant. Elder F. S. Thompson writes as follows regarding the progress the Caribbean Union is making in planning and collecting funds for this project:

"The architects have been working on our hospital plans for the past two or three weeks. We are supposed to have something from them within a week or two. If these plans are suitable we shall send them immediately to the Division and the General Conference for final approval. We hope that some beginning can be made on the hospital foundations by the middle of the year.

"Some days ago the editor of the *Trinidad Guardian* sent a reporter out to us with the word that he felt we were due very much more publicity for this project than we have thus far received. The reporter stated that he had come for information that might be used in the Sunday edition. The information was given to him and a very fine article was printed in last Sunday's paper.

"On the following day we had an appointment with the vice-president and local manager of the Alcoa Steamship Company. This company had promised \$25,000 for the hospital project. These men came to our office together with a photographer from the *Guardian*. A picture was taken of the presentation of the \$25,000 cheque to J. C. Boger, business Manager of the hospital. This came out in Tuesday's paper. As we go out in our Ingathering work this seems to be the talk of the town."

— C.O.F.