

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

December 28, 1912

SOUTH AMERICA

RIVER PLATE ACADEMY, IN THE CAMARERO
DISTRICT, NEAR DIAMANTE,
ARGENTINA

PUA TRAINING-SCHOOL, PUA, CHILE

THIS LEAFLET SHOULD BE DIVIDED INTO FIVE-
MINUTE EXERCISES, AND READ IN
EVERY SABBATH-SCHOOL



RIO DE LA PLATA ACADEMY

ISSUED BY THE
SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

WASHINGTON, D. C.



THE DAGGERS INDICATE THE LOCATION OF THE TWO SCHOOLS WHICH ARE TO RECEIVE THE NEXT THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

How the Call Came to Us

WHEN the plan for the \$300,000 Fund was adopted at the General Conference of 1909, South America came in for its share. The believers in that field have been struggling for years to build up a training-school enterprise in the Argentine Republic, and an intermediate school over the Andes range in southern Chile. Splendid work these schools have been doing without proper facilities, and it was hoped by the \$300,000 Fund greatly to strengthen these training-centers.

However, it seemed best to cease the effort on the special \$300,000 Fund before it had reached the two-hundred-thousand-dollar mark, and to concentrate effort on the regular offerings of the fifteen-cent-a-week plan. This left the South American Union schools considerably more than \$10,000 short of what they had been planning on.

At the recent autumn council of the General Conference Committee, a communication was read from Elder J. W. Westphal, president of the South American Union Conference, making a statement and appeal as follows:—

“I have learned definitely now in a letter from the treasurer, Elder W. T. Knox, that we need not expect any more from the \$300,000 Fund for our work than our share of \$175,000. I wrote him not long ago, and urged the necessity of our requiring the full amount, at least for our schools. I do not know, but I hardly expect this letter can make any change in your decision; but, Brother Spicer, you have just visited us, and are acquainted with the situation in our Argentine school. You know what buildings

we have, their condition, and the great needs. We are limping along as best we can; yet we can not offer to our students and to the teachers in the matter of room what they ought to have. In the large schoolroom [the chapel] three classes have to recite at the same time, because the class-rooms above are used as living-rooms for the students. One teacher has his class-room in the vestibule [by the stairway] and the others have to help themselves as best they can; and the whole equipment is far from desirable. I have felt for a long time that we should plan something that will better help our work. The Chile school is as needy as our own.

"Recently I received a letter from my brother [Elder F. H. Westphal, president of the Chile Conference] asking counsel from me as to what he could do to raise means for certain necessary things in their school. He wondered if he would be permitted, when going to the General Conference, to visit camp-meetings in the various States and there make pleas for help. If I had any hope that such a privilege could be procured, I should ask not only for him, but also for us here; but I know that at these camp-meetings your calls are many, and the perplexities are great to know what to do about individual enterprises.

"As I wrote Brother Knox not long ago, we ought to have \$15,000 for our school in Argentina alone to improve conditions and secure the necessary equipment for doing the best work possible in the educational line. This will greatly increase the whole attendance.

"A short time ago Sister Plummer, the corresponding secretary of the Sabbath School Department, wrote a letter to Sister Habenicht, mentioning

what you are doing with the thirteenth Sabbath offering, for specially needy enterprises in various fields, as China, India, and Africa. If there are crying needs anywhere, I know of nothing more needy than our schools. I placed this matter before the South American Union Committee, and the following was voted:—

“That we make application to the treasury department of the General Conference, explaining the urgent needs of our school in the district of Camarero, near Diamante, and that in Pua, Chile, asking for the benefit of one of the thirteenth Sabbath special Sabbath-school donations.’

“I hope that your committee will seriously consider this matter, and give us the benefit of such an offer, while we will do our utmost here to raise what we can for these institutions. I will also write to Elder Knox concerning this. I believe we can make pleas pitiful enough by not exaggerating in the least, appealing to the hearts of our brethren. What do you say? What thirteenth Sabbath offering will you give us?”

The appeal met a hearty response in the General Conference council, and the following action was taken:—

“*Voted*, That we request the Sabbath-schools to devote the offerings for the thirteenth Sabbath of the last quarter of 1912 to the needs of the training-schools for missionary workers at Camarero, Argentina, and at Pua, Chile, aiming at \$10,000 for these enterprises on that day, the overflow above this amount to be devoted to the general missionary work of the South American Union among the Spanish and Indian missions.”

The River Plate Academy

This is the leading South American training-school. *Colegio Adventists del Plata* is the Spanish name. It has grown up on the plains, or pampas, of central Argentina, in the province of Entre Rios. Entre Rios means "between the rivers," for the province is between the great Parana River and the Uruguay, with the mighty river Plate formed by their junction at the southward.

Early in the history of our South American work German-Russian believers were raised up in this province. In 1899 a general meeting was being held in a tent pitched on the farm of one of our brethren in the settlement of Camarero, near Diamante. A young Swiss German from Uruguay came to that meeting. He had sold out his interest in a business, turned all his little store into cash, and landed at the meeting, saying he had come to go to school, in order to secure a training for the work of the Lord.

That was the beginning of our school work in South America. No plans had been formed; but with the first recruit appealing for a training for the work, the little band of believers inaugurated an enterprise that has brought already great blessings to their work. A little plot of land was given for the school; and in April, 1900, building work was begun upon it, the young man from Uruguay helping to put up the school that he had prayed for.

That first school building is now part of the girls' dormitory and the boarding-hall. A few years ago a college building was put up, with chapel below and class-rooms above. But they have had to use the upper story for the boys' dormitories. The last word reports 96 students on the grade rolls, besides

a score or more of young people at the near-by sanitarium, who are taking part of their instruction as nurses in the school.

Prof. Walton C. John is principal, and Elder W. W. Wheeler, an old teacher, was this year called from the superintendency of the Ecuador Mission to take the Bible department. Now Prof. and Mrs. H. U. Stevens, of Union College (Nebraska), are just getting settled at Camarero, Brother Stevens having been released by Union College to take charge of the growing school work in Argentina.

Millions of souls in those Catholic lands are to be warned, and this school is to train and inspire sturdy young men and women to finish the work.

The college building stands on a knoll, and like the sister sanitarium building alongside, is seen from afar over the plains. Strangers traveling over the railway, some miles distant, nearly always ask what those buildings are; and the porters explain that it is the Seventh-day Adventist headquarters for Argentina. We must help to make the training-school what it should be as a light to all South America.

“From South America's hill-girded shores
I come a suppliant at your doors.
Haste with the Spirit's flaming sword,
Haste in the name of Christ your Lord,
And help our fettered band to free
From Rome's dark craft and tyranny.”

The Chile School

Southern Chile is the California of South America. Between the mountain ranges are fruitful valleys, where wheat-fields and vineyards and orchards pour out abundant stores. Such melons as those Chilean women bring to the railway stations are never to be forgotten, travelers say.



SCHOOL AT PUA, CHILE. BUILT

South of Santiago, the capital, about a day's journey by rail and an hour or less by team, is the Pua Training-school. Its grounds were cleared from timber, and it is a school in the country, and "in the rough." But now for years it has been turning out young people who are doing good service in the field. Elder George Casebeer, a former Walla Walla College student, is principal, and Sister F. H. Westphal is matron, business manager, and helper all round. The school plan is simple in these struggling educational plants that have few believers to be their

stay and support. The Pua school wants to finish off a few more rooms for living quarters, to get a few facilities for class-rooms, and for taking care of the large number who are coming as the message reaches the people of Chile. God's blessing is bringing the young people through into service in spite of difficulties and poverty of equipment. Just now Elder F. H. Westphal writes of the good work our books



AT RIGHT THE FIRST SCHOOL

are doing, as the students of Pua and other persons are spreading our publications. The Catholic ecclesiastical authorities are rousing up in Chile, and asking their members to find out where our people live, where they meet, how they work, and what books are being sold among the people. Surely now is the time, as Elder Westphal says, to push the work, while the way is open. This thirteenth Sabbath offering is to hasten the training of the workers,

Over Rough Paths

Most of the workers in South America are young men, and they are ready to rough it in the work of the message. The trail lies through many a fanatical region, where the priest is king. Our first colporteur to enter Bolivia was condemned to death for scattering our paper, but a friendly lawyer secured his release. However, only last year Brother O. H. Schulz found that after he had taken subscriptions for our health journal in Bolivia and passed on to other towns, not a subscriber received the paper. The priest had ordered the postmasters to throw away the papers. Yet, though threatened with stonings and death, the workers are pushing through Bolivia with our literature.

In Peru one of the colporteurs tells of dodging police officers, armed with rifles, who had orders to "keep that Seventh-day Adventist colporteur away." Young people from the Camarero school have been with Brother and Sister F. A. Stahl among the Indians in the Lake Titicaca region, sharing the perils and the hardships of breaking through the barriers of unrestrained fanatical prejudice. Once a Catholic bishop cursed the workers and ordered their destruction, but the Lord saved them.

As one enters the Parana River from the Rio Plata, — going upward by steamer to visit the school, — an island fortress prison appears off to the right, toward the Uruguay coast. And there it was that one of the young students from the school was imprisoned for his loyalty to the Sabbath while undergoing military service. We have all heard of the floggings that he received, one time until he fainted.

and of the months of trial, under first one set of officers and then another. Pressed to give in, the young man, feeling all the weakness that common flesh is heir to, gave the final answer, "I must be loyal to God, if it costs my life." The trial was not in vain, for through the young brother's fortitude, the matter was taken up with the national government and a law passed exempting Seventh-day Adventist youth from military duty on the Sabbath.

Now we are to answer the call that comes from our brethren for help in training these South American young people to carry the message, to which they have given their hearts and lives.

Big Figures

Our brethren in South America are battling with a great task. Things are on a large scale there —big countries, great rivers, mighty mountain ranges, and a field intensely dark spiritually after four hundred years of Catholicism.

The Amazon rises in Peru only sixty miles from the Pacific Ocean, and runs over 3,000 miles to the Atlantic, the greatest river in the world, with more than 27,000 miles of navigable waters in its system, branches, and main stream. Our work is started near both its source and its mouth, but what a field to cover! A thousand miles up the Amazon is the city of Manaos, with electric street-cars, electric lights, and a large business with ocean steamships.

One may see ocean steamers a thousand miles up the Rio Plata and the Parana, and the river-boats run on up to Paraguay to a point over two thousand miles from Buenos Aires.

Buenos Aires is a growing city about the size of Philadelphia. The big cities of the New World are New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Buenos Aires, and Rio de Janeiro.

The Argentina Conference, where our training-college is, has an area one third of that of the whole United States. You could put twenty-one Iowas into the Argentine Republic. With only four ordained ministers in the Argentine Conference employ we need not wonder that our brethren want to strengthen their school work. Brazil is a little larger than the United States.

Our Pua school is in south central Chile. Pua has a long stretch below it and above it, on the map. Chile's length would stretch from Maine to California. Peru's territory is about the size of the United States west of the Rockies.

So our little schools have a great task in seeking to train workers to cover these vast areas; and there are only 3,500 believers to keep things going. They have done nobly, but they call for help. Our Sabbath-schools now have the privilege of supplying one of their great needs.

Facts About South America

1. Christopher Columbus, or Cristobal Colon, as the Spanish call him, was the first of the navigators of the fifteenth century to discover the continent now called South America.

2. It is a continent containing eleven republics, besides the three Guianas, which belong to Great Britain, France, and Holland.

3. The population is about 42,000,000.

4. It is almost twice as large as the United States, containing 6,880,000 square miles.

5. Peru is nearly equal in area to all the United States lying west of the Rocky Mountains.

6. Argentina contains 1,200,000 square miles, or is nearly as large as twenty-nine states the size of Pennsylvania.

7. Chile, if stretched across the United States, would reach from Portland, Maine, to San Francisco.

8. The Andes Mountains are about 4,400 miles in length, the highest peak being nearly 24,000 feet high.

9. The Amazon River rises about sixty miles from the Pacific Ocean, and flows across the continent to the Atlantic Ocean. The Amazon system has at least 27,000 miles of navigable waters.

10. The religion of the Catholic Church is the prevailing religion. Rev. Alan Ewbank, a missionary in South America, says, "If you start away to the north and go right down to the south of the continent, you can travel in heathen lands, among people who do not know who God is. The whole of that southern continent, except the fringes around the edge, should be colored heathen."

Another writer says, "With a paganized and repaganized Romanism, with vast areas unpenetrated by any form of Christianity, and millions of people as pagan as the primitive Indians, what is the religion of South America?" — "*South America a Mission Field*," page 38.

"Romanism brought the most horrible Inquisition, which crushed many lives and brought ruin to many others, suppressed free thought and free speech, destroyed candor and developed secretive-

ness and deceit, and its direful effects endure to this day. Romanism came among image-worshippers and left them image-worshippers. For their idols it substituted other man-made images, and taught them to worship these new figures." — *Id.*, page 40.

11. Protestantism entered South America in 1555 by some French Huguenots who settled on an island in the Bay of Rio de Janeiro. In 1567 this colony was destroyed by the Portuguese at the instigation of the Jesuits.

12. In 1735 the Moravians began work in British Guiana. In 1835 the Methodist Episcopal Church began missionary operations on the continent.

13. In the South American Union we have five conferences, and nine mission fields. We have at the present time 77 organized churches, comprising a membership of 2,800. Including those in companies and mission fields we have 3,044 Sabbath-keepers.

14. When Elder A. N. Allen went to Lima, Peru, recently, a brother endeavored to comfort him with the thought that he and his family would not be far from their relatives, who live in the republic of Panama. Panama is eighteen hundred miles from Lima, and it would take no more time, and cost no more, to go from San Francisco, Cal., to Hamburg, Germany, than to go from Panama to Lima. For one who has never traveled in South America it is difficult to realize the great extent of territory. To say that it has an area of more than 6,000,000 square miles, a width of 3,200, does not seem to make a lasting impression of its extent. One must actually be in the country and travel its length and breadth to realize its extent.

Words of Counsel

"The home missionary work will be further advanced in every way when a more liberal, self-denying, self-sacrificing spirit is manifested for the prosperity of foreign missions; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in the countries afar off. It is in working actively to supply the necessities of the cause of God that we bring our souls in touch with the Source of all power." — *Testimonies for the Church,* Vol. VI, page 27.

"The missionary spirit needs to be revived in our churches. Every member of the church should study how to help forward the work of God, both in home missions and in foreign countries. Hardly a thousandth part of the work is being done that ought to be done in missionary fields. God calls upon his workers to annex new territory for him. There are rich fields of toil waiting for the faithful worker. And ministering angels will cooperate with every member of the church who will labor unselfishly for the Master." — *Id.*, page 29.

"Besides the education of those who are to be sent out from our older conferences as missionaries, persons in various parts of the world should be trained to work for their own countrymen and their own neighbors; and as far as possible it is better and safer for them to receive their education in the field where they are to labor. It is seldom best, either for the worker or for the advancement of the work, that he should go to distant lands for his education. The Lord would have every possible provision made to meet these necessities." — *Id.*, page 137.

Missionaries From This Country Now in South America

J. W. Westphal and wife; G. E. Hartman and wife; E. M. Trummer; Dr. R. H. Habenicht and wife; Dr. G. B. Replogle and wife; W. C. John and wife; Arthur Westphal; Miss Lillian Voris; Miss Meda Kerr; H. U. Stevens and wife; C. E. Knight and wife; C. D. Lude and wife; O. Oppegard and wife; Mrs. Calista Nelson-Emmenegger; F. H. Westphal and wife; G. W. Casebeer and wife; C. J. Foster and wife; John Lorenz and wife; F. A. Stahl and wife; O. H. Schulz; John Osborne and wife; A. N. Allen and wife; O. H. Maxson and wife; W. R. Pohle and wife; R. B. Stauffer and wife; F. L. Perry and wife; Miss Nora Davis; Miss Maude Carner; Miss Cassie Wilson; F. W. Spies and wife; John Lipke and wife; Henry Meyer and wife; E. C. Ehlers and wife; A. B. Stauffer; W. W. Wheeler and wife.

Notice to Church Treasurer

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering taken up in our Sabbath-schools is for a *definite object*. It is designed that *every dollar* of this offering shall go each quarter to the line of work for which it was given. In order that this may be done, church treasurers, in remitting to the conference treasurers, must specify the amount of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, and the field to which it is to go; otherwise it will be impossible to keep a correct record of the amount of this fund.

Remember, therefore, that it is not sufficient, in remitting, to state the amount of the total Sabbath-school offerings to missions, but *be sure to state how much was given on the thirteenth Sabbath.*