

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

June 26, 1915

The Northern Spanish-American
Mission Fields



Church in Guatemala Destroyed over a Hundred
Years Ago (see page 28)

**\$19,000 Needed to Support
the Work for One Year**

SUGGESTIVE PROGRAM

April 24

"Northern Spanish-American Mission Fields."

Locate places on the map.

Distribute Thirteenth Sabbath Envelopes.

May 1

"Mexico's Needs."

"Cuba."

Refer to map.

May 8

"A Plea from Porto Rico."

"How the Work Began in the Capital of Porto Rico."

Refer to map.

May 15

"Central America."

"Haiti."

Refer to map.

May 22

"Experiences in Haiti."

"The First Sabbath Keeper in Haiti."

May 29

"Guatemala."

Timely Admonitions.

Offering.

Prayer for the Northern Spanish-American field.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Envelopes may be ordered through the tract societies. The prices are as follows:—

1000	\$2.00
500	1.50
10035
2510

Bird's-eye View of The Northern Spanish-American Mission Fields

N. Z. TOWN (Superintendent)

THE group of fields to which this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is given includes the following: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Cuba, Haiti, Santo Domingo, and Porto Rico. These fields have a combined population of 25,000,000 people. Spanish is the official language in all except Haiti, where French is spoken. In the Central American countries about eighty-five per cent of the people are said to be pure Indians, descendants of the original inhabitants of these countries when they were conquered by the Spaniards.

Mexico

In Mexico, with a population of 15,000,000, there is but one ordained minister, whose time is largely taken up with administrative work and as editor, and five licentiates, one of whom is the general agent of the colporteur work. There are in this field about three hundred Sabbath keepers, in over twenty groups, scattered from Monterey in the north to Salina Cruz in the south. The Mexicans respond very readily to the truth, and the message has made good progress, notwithstanding the unsettled political conditions of the country.

Guatemala

In this republic, with a population of 2,000,000 people, a small beginning only has been

made in our work. Elder J. B. Stuyvesant, the superintendent, is the only public laborer. Brother and Sister Stuyvesant are publishing a little monthly sheet called *El Lucero* (The Day-star), which they are able to send post free



to all Central America. A recent number was a translation of the *Review and Herald War Extra*, of which they circulated 12,000 copies. There are at present a perfect number of Sabbath keepers in this field—seven. Elder Stuyvesant calls earnestly for some one to assist him.

Central American Conference

This conference consists of British and Spanish Honduras and the Bay Islands. It is the only organized conference in the group. It is at present self-supporting, and is not expecting any help from this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. But when we consider that they have only one ordained minister and one licentiate and two missionary licentiates in the conference, it is evident that they need more workers. The

Lord has blessed the efforts of the laborers in this field. At the end of 1913 they had five churches and 147 Sabbath keepers.

Salvador

This republic belongs to the Guatemala Mission. It has a population of nearly 2,000,000, among whom there is not one representative of the third angel's message. Nothing has ever been done by us in this field, which is said to be one of the most prosperous and promising fields in Central America. When our schools close this spring we hope to get two or three promising young men to pioneer the work in this field and in Guatemala with our literature. Funds will be needed to place these workers in the field and to help them for a time while they learn the Spanish language.

Cuba

This island, the most populous of the West Indies, is a very promising field for our work. Some of the largest records ever made by our colporteurs in any field have been made in this island. The preaching of the Word in evangelical efforts has also brought good results. They have at present three ordained ministers. Through the circulation of literature, interests have sprung up in many more places than these few laborers are able to visit, and they have urgently requested that more help be sent.

With very meager facilities Brother and Sister S. H. Carnahan have made a good beginning in conducting a training school for native young men and women who desire to enter the work.

At present there are twelve young people engaged in the colporteur work who have gone out from this school. The mission committee earnestly desire to strengthen not only the evangelical work but the school work in the Cuban Mission. To do this they need our help.

Haiti

In no field in the West Indies have we seen better results from the preaching of the message than in Haiti. During 1913, 110 were baptized. Owing to the revolution, during 1914 the workers were not able to report such good results, as they were unable to travel during much of the time, but at present over fifty are waiting baptism in different places.

Porto Rican Mission

This mission includes Porto Rico and Santo Domingo. A good foundation for future work has been laid in this island in the circulation of the printed page. The preaching of the message in San Juan has been especially blessed of the Lord, and a nice company of believers has been brought out.

One of the most urgent needs in this island is a small chapel in San Juan. Up to the end of 1913 our brethren met in the front room of a little native house in one of the poorest sections of the city. In order to reach the place one had to wade through the sand ankle deep. It was not a place to which they could consistently invite the better classes of people. About a year ago they left this place and hired a hall on one

of the main streets. They thought they had secured a very favorable place for their Sabbath meetings and for an evangelical effort, but the next week after they moved in, the adjoining room was let to a saloon keeper. The partition between the two rooms being only of single boards and this not reaching to the ceiling, the brethren found it almost impossible at times to continue their services, especially in the evening, when the men gathered in the saloon and began drinking, playing cards, etc.

Our brethren think that for \$2,500 they could get a lot and build a little chapel which would serve their purpose very nicely. They also think they could raise \$1,000 of this amount among the believers on the island, but would need help for the remainder. Elder Wm. Steele, the superintendent, has been calling long and earnestly for this help. Should he not have it?

We have referred only briefly to the conditions and needs in this new group of mission fields. Their total requests to meet the demands at the present time are as follows:—

Cuba,	\$4,325.00
Haiti,	2,300.00
Porto Rico,	1,986.74
Mexico,	8,893.19
Guatemala,	1,500.00
Total,	<u>\$19,004.93</u>

This call represents only the most pressing needs. How near shall we come to supplying them with this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering?

Mexico's Needs

G. W. CAVINESS

THE work in Mexico has been growing quite rapidly the last few years, and we now have some three hundred Sabbath keepers scattered from one end of the country to the other.

In the north at Torreon there is a company of about thirty and a splendid interest among outsiders. More than thirty Roman Catholics are taking Bible studies with one of our workers there. Recently, in a small place about twelve miles from Torreon six or eight have begun to keep the Sabbath. In Torreon Brother and Sister Gomez have for about five years given us the use of a room in their house. The room is not large enough to contain those who attend at present. We need a place of worship there and also a place for a school.

In Monterey we have a nice company, which consists of about twenty-four that are now members of the church and a dozen more awaiting baptism, with possibilities of gathering in still more with proper effort. We need a place for worship at this place.

In San Luis Potosi Brother and Sister Thurber are now located. Sister Thurber is teaching Brother Paulson's children and might have quite a school with others if we had a place. Here we are also renting a room for meetings.

Near San Luis Potosi, in Mesquitic, our brethren have a little chapel that they have built with a little help that we have given them.

In a small place, Moctezuma, our brethren have put up a small place for meetings and the building only lacks a roof and finishing. In a recent report of a visit to this section of Mexico, Brother Marchisio [Mar-ke'se-o] speaks of how this chapel at Moctezuma has been built. He says:—

“Last year the church in Visnaga out of their poverty gave \$11.00 to help put up the walls for the church in Moctezuma. While I was with them this time they offered to pay for ten beams. I helped for ten more to put the roof on this small building. They offered to carry them to the place, which means they will have to carry them about forty miles on donkeys' backs to save freight expense. Then they promise to help put them up. From this you will see they are doing almost more than what they can.”

In the city of Guadalajara we now have treatment rooms and a chapel, which is sufficient for all present needs there.

In the southern part of the country in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec we have four or five companies. So far they meet in private houses. A little help just now from the homeland to assist Mexico in providing a small chapel here and there would do a wonderful amount of good.

The Catholic Church has its great buildings on almost every corner in the large cities, and every small village nearly has its church building. The people are inclined to think unless they see something tangible and real that it

cannot amount to much. There is a sort of superstitious feeling about a building erected for the service of God. The peons seldom pass such a building without taking off their hats. A building erected to the service of God, even though it be small and unostentatious, would have a decided influence upon the people and would be a very great help in our work.

The Bible says, "He that observeth the wind shall not sow, and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap." Now I believe that this has reference to Mexico just now. I feel that we should not consider too much the clouds of war but go right on with our work.

Our meetings in Mexico City are well attended; in fact, our place will hardly hold those who come. For the last two or three Sabbaths every seat has been occupied. Word from Visnaga and San Luis Potosi states that all is well there and some eight or ten are waiting to be baptized. Brother Robles reports excellent meetings in Torreon. He also went out to a little village about fifteen miles in the country, and has a company there of six keeping the Sabbath. The prospects are good in all parts of the republic. Our brethren are holding on and others are joining them, and I ought to be in the field all the time.

We trust that the offering for this quarter will be a liberal one so that the needs of Mexico may be met in such a way as to advance the work much more rapidly in the future than in the past.

Tacubaya, D. F. Mexico.

Cuba

A. N. ALLEN

THE workers in Cuba are very glad that the detached Spanish fields of the West Indies and Central America are to be remembered by the Sabbath schools this quarter. We feel that good will result to the work in these fields in other ways than the offerings received.

There are a number of important cities in Cuba, Havana being the largest, with a population of 350,000. The people are of Spanish descent. There are also many colored people, descendants of slaves. The Roman Catholic religion prevails, though since their independence a liberal spirit is rapidly coming in. The conservative customs of Spain are fast being replaced by American and European ways.

These changes favor the spread of the gospel and make it much easier to get into the homes of the people, and also for the people to meet for worship. The reading habit is also growing among all classes, and novels, daily papers, and magazines are fast becoming one of the needs of even the poorest.

In all these things we see God's hand. As he opens the way to the hearts of the people, we endeavor to press in with the message. Last year six thousand dollars' worth of our literature was placed in the homes, and this year we have fifteen colporteurs actively scattering the printed page.

Our greatest need is trained and efficient evangelical workers. Lady Bible workers, and a thoroughly qualified ministry must now be prepared. For this purpose the General Conference authorized the opening of a small training school last fall. About fifteen young people went out from it this year to sell our literature. Among them is a class of seven young lady colporteurs, whose picture accompanies this report. Some of these young ladies we hope to see develop into Bible workers.

Gradually we are finding that to reach the people effectively we must adapt our methods to the customs here. For instance, it is very difficult for men to labor in the homes as in the States, as the men of the house are often away. For this reason we plan to develop a strong band of lady Bible readers to supplement the efforts of the ministry. We also hope to see some of our young men secure sufficient education to enable them to enter the ministry.

I wish to ask every member of the Sabbath schools to consider for a moment two real pictures. The first is of an evangelical effort held in one of the easier fields of the world. A lot is secured in the most desirable location, a large tent is hoisted, and is comfortably seated, beautifully lighted and decorated, the very best music and singers are secured, the meetings are thoroughly advertised, eight or ten select workers unite with a strong local church in bringing together a large hearing, and then the message is proclaimed by men of long training and experience. Medical workers are also called out

to attend the sick in the vicinity, health lectures are given, a stereopticon is also used to illuminate the subjects. The effort is kept in



Colporteurs in Cuba

full activity for three months, and is then followed up by competent laborers. The result is that ten or fifteen souls are added to the kingdom. And can any one say that the price paid was too great, when the Son of God died for them?

The other picture is of a very small band scattered over hundreds of miles of unworked territory, one or two in a city, going from door to door, humbly seeking some soul who will listen to the truth. The city of Havana, with its 350,000, has only Elder J. E. Anderson and wife. And Sister Anderson, besides her Bible

work, is also field Sabbath school secretary. Santiago de Cuba, with over fifty thousand, has only a lady Bible worker, Mrs. Adela Burgos. Miss Grace White, besides attending to the Spanish correspondence of the office, is doing Bible work in Santa Clara. Elder H. C. Goodrich has the whole Isle of Pines to work. The superintendent of the mission divides his time among the interests and scattered workers as circumstances demand. Yet in our weakness God's power is made manifest and each year a few more are redeemed from sin to accompany us throughout eternity.

If with the limited resources God is able to save some, what might be done if the harder fields were remembered with the same profusion of resources as the less difficult? Today, dear Sabbath schools, you have the opportunity of equalizing these conditions, to some extent at least. Our money will do much more in bringing souls to Jesus now than a little later. We need many thousands of dollars to put the work in these fields on vantage ground and take advantage of present openings.

Please look again at the contrasting pictures I have drawn of the work as carried on in the homeland and in this difficult field, and ask yourself this question, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

We shall await anxiously the result of this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. May God lead some to place themselves on the altar and come over and help us.

Santa Clara, Cuba.

A Plea From Porto Rico

MRS. M. E. STEELE

THIS morning as the bright light of the tropical sun is streaming into my windows, reflecting the glory of the Creator and reminding us of his great love, I am constrained to write briefly of the needs of our little island field, this tiny spot on God's great universe, which, though small as regards surface, is not so small that the great God of love does not take note of it. How thankful we are that he is no respecter of persons, that he loves all with the same tender love and has made of one blood all nations to dwell on the earth.

Dear reader, come with me this morning and we will make a few short calls among our brethren. As we go into their homes we note how poorly furnished they are, lacking in nearly everything that we consider positive necessities, for the people are very poor. Nevertheless they are contented, and on their faces we see something reflected that reveals to us a little of what the love of God has wrought for them. Here we are, at the home of one of our sisters. You will note that her furniture consists mainly of an ironing board—she is a *planchadora*, “ironer”—and a few chairs. Her earnings are about ten dollars a month. On that she pays her tithe and gives offerings, clothes herself and a boy she has taken to raise, buys her food and fuel. She is only one of many, for all are poor.

Going to church on Sabbath we find them in their places, for they are very faithful in their

attendance. Considering their circumstances, their offerings are large. My brethren, their self-denial puts many of us to shame. Last year the Sabbath school offerings were considerably more than fifteen cents per member. How many of our large, well-to-do conferences can say as much? As you glance around you will note that the place we are pleased to call "our church" is only a very ordinary dwelling house, and scarcely large enough to hold our congregation without any strangers being present. Many of the brethren in the homeland would not care to go into such a "church," yet for this small place the rent is very high.

Our people are faithful in paying their tithes and respond cheerfully when a special offering is made for other fields. They as well as we are desirous of having a more suitable place for worship, a place where we may not be ashamed to bring the stranger, and where the stranger may not be ashamed to go.

What shall we do with the many children in our congregation? Must they go uncared for? A church school is one of our urgent needs. O that I might write something that would give you a glimpse of this field as it appears to us who are daily associated with it. Then I am sure you would do your utmost to give more liberally than you have ever done before, so that these neglected Spanish fields may have a few of their needs supplied.

Porto Rico, W. I.

How the Work Began in the Capital of Porto Rico

WILLIAM STEELE

As Brother Oberg was canvassing for "Coming King," he met a man (who had a laundry) who was a subscriber to our paper, "*Senales de los Tiempos*" (The Signs of the Times). On being canvassed for "Coming King," he asked which day the book taught was the Sabbath. The question was evaded and the canvass continued, as Brother Oberg thought the man only desired to begin an argument. The man persisted, saying he had read a paper that said Saturday is the Sabbath, and having looked up the texts in the Bible he had found it was true; therefore he did not want the book unless it taught the same thing. Needless to say the book was purchased. The result was that he soon accepted all points of present truth. The man who was thus converted is Brother Lopez. Soon after, we held our first week-of-prayer meeting. A few English speaking brethren were here from other islands. These had been found in much the same way as the brother above mentioned. The Spirit of God was manifested in a marked manner, and several decided for the truth. At the close of the meetings five were baptized.

During the week we were impressed that it was time to make an effort in the capital, and earnestly sought the Lord to direct us to the best place to make the beginning. We were impressed to go and visit a certain subscriber

to our paper, so, accompanied by Brethren Oberg and Lopez, we went. We met there a lady who had known Brother Lopez for many years, and as she was a conscientious Christian she had tried to convince him of sin. When she learned that he had given his heart to the Lord she was so overjoyed that she immediately embraced him, feeling as the father must have felt on the return of the prodigal.

On learning that Brother Lopez was a Seventh-day Adventist she told him that she too had begun that very day to keep the Sabbath, having been convinced through the reading of one of our papers that had been loaned her. A never-to-be forgotten praise service was then held. This sister suffered much persecution from the members of the church to which she had belonged, but remained faithful and is now one of our most devoted members.

A strong Macedonian cry having come from a town in the interior, we went to Moca. God has blessed and prospered his truth. Six are already baptized, and fifteen more are ready for that ordinance. Brethren, we need the aid that your fervent prayers will give us as well as your financial help. We are making every effort to build a little chapel in this town. It will cost something like \$200.

Result of Loaning a Book

While canvassing for our paper, I came in contact with an American who was teaching in the public schools. He became interested, and invited me to spend the night in his house. The

evening was passed in talking of God's love and of the message that he is sending to the world today. I then loaned him a copy of "Daniel and the Revelation." Soon after, he returned to the States. A year or so later I was rejoiced to learn that both this man and his wife had accepted the truth. They were convinced of the truth from reading the book. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

Porto Rico, W. I.

Central America

ISAAC BAKER

GREETINGS from Central America to all the brethren and sisters. The Word says the everlasting gospel is to be preached "to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." This we believe includes the Spanish-speaking people wherever they may be found. There have been English workers in this field (Spanish Honduras) for a number of years, but only a few of them could speak the Spanish language. With the exception of a few books sold, but little has been done to take the third angel's message to this people.

That we may see how they appreciate the truth when it is brought to them, I will give one or two extracts from some of their testimonies:—

One says: "Permit me to testify of the benefit I have received in the knowledge of God's holy truth. About six months after having received the message I strove hard to keep the Sabbath. I had all the bad habits of the world. My heart felt the wounds of sin. I humbled myself before Jesus Christ, lying prostrate on the earth, asking him in humble prayer that he would help me to avoid transgression, and remove from me all my vices. I give thanks to Jesus Christ for having answered my prayers. With three others I was baptized February 24. Now I have peace in my soul. I am striving to win souls that are lost. I request prayers for me and the rest of the brethren, that the Spirit of God may be in us to propagate his message among our people."

Another says: "The message was given me Jan. 22, 1914, and on the 24th of the same month, which was the Sabbath, I joined in prayer with two other brothers, and they continued praying every day alone. While at work I would hide myself from the public and pray that God would direct and teach me, because I knew nothing. I was working at Santiago. A brother that was with me persuaded me not to stay there, but to go with him to La Ceiba, and while there I received the holy baptism. I give praise and honor for the privilege of participating in the observance of this pure and holy truth."

This illustrates how these poor people, blinded by the traditions of the Catholic Church, appreciate the truth when it is brought to them.

Think of 745,000 people, and only one ordained minister in the field, and his time all taken up in the English work among the islands and along the coast. We have no licensed minister, no regular Bible worker, no regular canvasser. How can the truth be given to this people in this generation without more help? Who will say, "Here am I, send me"?

Spanish Honduras, C. A.

Haiti

ALBERT F. PRIEGER

THE people of Haiti are all descendants of the people of Africa carried over here by the Portuguese and sold to the French, who ruled Haiti over one hundred and eight years ago. During the French revolution and later in the war with England, they freed themselves, and since 1804 Haiti has been ruled by the black men. They are the most unhappy people in this world, so far as peace is concerned. In the two years that we have been among them, we have seen four different presidents take the chair. The island is cursed with revolutions. Men work here for twenty cents a day, according to United States currency. Markets are poor, and materials from foreign countries higher in price than in the United States.

The state religion is Catholic, and superstition reigns supreme. Many indulge in *Voodoo worship, which does not lift them any higher. It is wonderful the change the gospel makes upon

these people. They love to meet together for worship, and they work for their fellow men and neighbors, standing up loyally for Jesus.

During the last revolution all men were ordered to take up arms. One of our brethren who had studied medicine, refused to do so. He was willing to serve the government in some other capacity; but the authorities insisted that he bear arms. Three times he was, with others, lined up to be shot, and three times he escaped untouched. Four others were, upon their refusal to serve, sent to the president, who ordered them sent to prison, but two days later they were released. Another young man, whom I had baptized the year before, was arrested for refusing to serve. He stated that his mission was to save not to kill men. The soldiers were taking him bound to the president. On their way they heard that the president was fleeing, and they then left our brother lying bound near the roadside. He lay there two days in the broiling sun before people found and unbound him. Very many have been shot, yet none of our brethren have lost their lives, and only one was wounded, being shot in the foot. When the soldier aimed at him once more, another man stepped between, saying, "Do not hurt him, for he is a good man."

These are the people we plead for. We have a number of bright young men and women who could readily be trained for service, if we but had a school to prepare native teachers. It need not be a large one. We need a mission home very much for our foreign workers, to cut

down expense, and keep our workers in health. Thus equipped we would soon have a number of native workers ready for service.

We are sure that in the earth made new, many of the redeemed from Haiti will join with our more favored brethren in songs of praise, standing on the sea of glass, before the throne of Jesus our King.

For in the islands of our dark man
Where this gospel sheds its light,
Hearts as loyal as the white man's
Will be seen, when faith is sight.

Haiti, W. I.

[*Voodoo worship: "The superstitions (collectively) prevalent among West Indian and southern United States creoles, mulattoes, and negroes, and dealing with charms, conjury, snake worship, and witchcraft, and, according to some, in their more degraded forms, with cannibalism and human sacrifice." — *Standard Dictionary.*]

WITH untiring zeal those who have received the light of present truth should go forth to give this light to those who sit in darkness. With consecrated efforts, by self-denial and self-sacrifice, they are to labor in the strength of the God of Israel.—"*Testimonies for the Church,*" Vol. IX, page 60.

Experiences in Haiti

MRS. MARGARET PRIEGER

DURING the recent revolution in Haiti several of our leading brethren were tested and tried. Five of our faithful brethren in Grande Reviere, a small town fifteen miles from Cape Haitien, were ordered to take up arms for the government. These brethren refused to take any part in the warfare. They were ordered to be sent to the minister of the interior in Cape Haitien. They were marched fifteen miles, and arrived in the city about seven in the evening. They came to the mission home and told us of the trouble they were in. We appealed to the commander of the gunboat in their behalf, but could not receive any help. So we told them to do as they had been told, and to go to the minister of the interior the next morning, which they did.

The spokesman, who is elder of our church, in the address that he made to the minister, unfortunately used a word that displeased the minister, and the brethren were sent to prison. The prison is a very foul dungeon, and very few people ever come out alive. While they were in the outer prison they preached on the coming of the Lord, the Sabbath, and other points of present truth to their fellow prisoners. As a result of their work, several converts awaited baptism. They endured much persecution from prisoners who were not in sympathy, and finally they were placed in the inner prison, which is a very small room, containing only a

bench to lie on, and is full of vermin and filth. These brethren were kept in the inner prison until the rebels entered the city, October 23.

It is the custom in Haiti for the government to kill all prisoners just before it falls, and orders were given for all of the prisoners to be shot at midnight. The day before, which was the Sabbath, a little company of believers in Cape Haitien had a special season of prayer in behalf of these brethren; for we knew that our only help, and their only help, was in God, who had promised to deliver his people. When the rebel chief notified the authorities that they were coming in, the outgoing government officials gave orders that all the foreigners and all the prisoners should be killed. The captain of the gunboat, hearing of this, sent 120 marines on shore to protect all foreigners. It so happened that one of the machine guns was placed in a position where it faced the prison. When the government officials started up to the prison, they saw the American marines and became frightened and ran away. The jailer then released the prisoners in the outer prison. But our brethren were in the inner prison, and there seemed to be no way of escape. The brethren were praying earnestly that they would be released, if it were the Lord's will. If not, they were willing to die for their faith. Just as the jailer was leaving the prison, he thought of these brethren and opened the door, and they walked out. At midnight, after the excitement had died down in the city, these brethren knocked at the gate of the mission house, and we gladly wel-

comed them and listened to the story of their deliverance.

The Needs of the Haitien Mission

We need a mission home. The country is full of filth and dirt, and diseases of all kinds reign supreme. The workers need a home apart from the city, where they can keep well, and will not be forced to return to the States every two years.

The only schools are those taught by the nuns and priests, and they teach nothing except the geography of Haiti, the history of Haiti and France, and the Catholic Catechism. A number of the influential people here have urged us to start a school, but we cannot do so because of lack of funds and workers. Teachers could be obtained if the means was provided.

Haiti, W. I.

The First Sabbath Keeper in Haiti

HENRY WILLIAMS

My wife and I came to this country in 1877. We were Roman Catholics, but became dissatisfied with their custom here, and joined the Wesleyans. In 1880 a Royal Mail steamer came here from Southampton, and the captain left some Seventh-day Adventist literature with the agent, who gave it to the minister, and the minister distributed it. I got some tracts and some numbers of *The Signs of the Times*. The first tract which I read was called "Sunday and

the Sabbath." I was convinced of our error, and gave it to my wife to read. She too found that we were worshiping on the wrong day, and we decided to keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment.

As the first Sabbath keeper and pioneer, I wrote to the brethren at headquarters, and they sent me reading matter for distribution. I am now seventy-four years of age and not very strong, but I am still engaged in the good work. At the present time every month I distribute 120 papers. I praise God that I am spared to see the message spread so far in Haiti, and that I am able still to do some work in the vineyard of the Lord. My wife sleeps in Jesus and I am left alone without a relative of any kind to cheer me on my pilgrimage, but Jesus is closer to me than a brother.

Haiti, W. I.

Guatemala

MRS. J. B. STUYVESANT

WE are informed that our group of Spanish-speaking fields is to have the benefit of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 26. You have asked us to write of the needs in our part of the field. But where shall I begin? It is all one crying need on every side, and if "the need is the call," then our call is a loud one.

The combined population in the republic of Guatemala and Salvador is 3,298,000, or about the equal of the combined population of Ver-

mont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Delaware, Idaho, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Montana. To work among these people we have one ordained minister and his wife. Not one canvasser, not one Bible worker, not one native helper.

The people here are like those in every country where Rome has ruled. I send you a picture of an old church which was destroyed by earthquake more than a hundred years ago. To my mind this is a fit symbol of the greater ruin to be seen in the lives of this people. The vulture on the top fitly represents the system that has preyed on their souls and bodies for hundreds of years. Drunkenness and immorality abound, and the "holy" (?) days are the most terrible of all.

The people are poor. Farm laborers receive from two to five pesos per day, which is worth from six to fifteen cents. A carpenter can be hired for forty-five cents a day. You can readily see that we cannot sell a great deal of high-priced literature to them. To buy one copy of our Mexican *Senales* (Signs) requires the full day's pay for many of the poorer class. The need for very cheap literature, and the fact that any paper published in the country is carried post free throughout the five republics of Central America, led us to buy a small hand press and start a little paper, *El Lucero* (The Daystar). Many thousands of copies have been distributed, reaching every post-office in Central America.

I enclose a picture taken on a recent trip,

showing some of the members of one of the many tribes which make up the Indian population of Guatemala, amounting to more than one million, ninety-two per cent of whom cannot read, and few of whom can speak the Spanish



Group of Guatemala Indians

language, every tribe using a separate dialect. Very little has ever been done for these poor people by any mission, but two stations have been established with great success. A doctor came and began self-supporting work. He lived among the people, helped them, won their confidence, and has built up a strong church. The Presbyterians have worked in another district among them, and have raised up a church of two hundred members with a native pastor.

They testify that these Indians make good strong Christians when converted, but as so few of the adults can read, the only way to reach them is to go and live among them. When I was giving out literature last month, one of the women in this picture begged for a paper. When asked if she could read, she said, "No, but our uncle can, and he will read it to us." I was glad to leave that paper and thus know that one group at least had warning of the soon coming of our Lord. Many old men and women who could not read called to some boy or girl, and when I left their huts, I could hear the children's voices reading the good message to those who stood around.

One thing that gives us hope is the fact that the president of our republic is making the education of his people a special line of work, and that there are boys and girls in every town who are being fitted to receive this message through the printed page.

Salvador

Salvador, with its large population, has never, as far as we can learn, received any of this message except through papers we have sent from here. There are very few missionaries of any society working there yet. I said in my heart, O, where are the men who will enter Salvador with the truth, before Spiritualism and other false doctrines take root? Now is our opportunity in these fields, with quiet government, free mail for our papers, and no serious opposition. But who can say at what moment this

may all be changed? We need a larger press, a man to help in the printing office and other work here in the city, and some strong young people to work with the small books and papers. We need medical help. Thousands die every year because they have not money to pay the doctor. The other day we saw a poor boy in the railway station of a town of ten thousand inhabitants who had lain twenty-four hours with a broken leg unattended because he had not the money to pay the doctor's fees.

But what do we not need? I can truly say there is room in this field for every class of workers we have in our denomination, provided they will fully consecrate themselves to this work with a determination to endure hardship and disappointment, and to stay by it until the work is finished. There are men and women who are willing to come, we are sure, but it takes money to bring and support them. This affords a blessed opportunity to all to have a part in the blessed work by sending them out and maintaining them in the field.

Guatemala, C. A.

"Think of our missions in foreign countries. Some of them are struggling to gain even a foothold; they are destitute of even the most meager facilities."—"*Testimonies for the Church*," Vol. 6, page 450.

UPON us rests the weighty responsibility of warning the world of its coming doom. From every direction, from far and near, are coming calls for help. God calls upon his church to arise, and clothe herself with power. Immortal crowns are to be won; the kingdom of heaven is to be gained; the world, perishing in ignorance, is to be enlightened.—“*Testimonies for the Church*,” Vol. VII, page 16.

WHAT joy would it bring to our workers and to many hungering souls in this needy field should your school make Sabbath, June 26, A Dollar Day.

“SOME one needs your willing gifts.”

ISSUED BY THE

SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

TAKOMA PARK STATION,

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WASHINGTON, D. C.