

The North American

Informant

VOLUME IV

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Biennial Report of the Central States Mission

(The president's report delivered at the biennial session, held at Kansas City, Missouri.)

I SHOULD like to preface my report with a portion of Scripture found in 2 Kings 6:8, 14-17. "Then the king of Syria warred against Israel." . . . "Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

This is the record of a thrilling incident that took place in the church of God during the early days of the children of Israel. In that day, just as today, the human could see only the physical odds that were stacked heavily against the church. In human strength it was impossible for the church to win. The record states that the servant of the man of God saw this great host compass the city with horses and chariots, and the servant said, "Alas, my master! how shall we do?" Elisha prayed, and "the Lord opened the eyes of the



F. L. Bland, President

young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire around about Elisha."

I must confess to you today, brethren, that when I was called to the leadership of the Central States Mission, it was only characteristic of humanity and natural that I had the same feeling which was found in Elisha's servant. I rose early one morning in November, 1948, because I was to have a conference with Elder M. V. Campbell, president of the Central Union. After talking with him about the needs of the mission, I said quietly in my

own heart, with real earnestness, "Alas, my master! How shall we do?" I am happy to tell you that God opened my eyes, and I saw that "they that be with us are more than they that be with them." Truly, God has been on our side, and it can be said today in the words of Samuel, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

As we look back over the years since the organization of the Central States Mission we can clearly see the good hand of God, which had led us each step of the way. Our hearts overflow in gratitude to Him for His kindness and many blessings to us.

On coming to the Central States Mission during the closing days of 1948, we realized that there were two major problems confronting the mission. Problem number one was a need of faith to believe that though we were small in numbers, yet we could be large in the strength of God to accomplish the work given to His church to do in this part of His vineyard. I am happy to say that both workers and laity realize that when we work together in God's strength the task will be accomplished. Problem number two was to find enough money to pay our debts and to build up our treasury so that the mission workers could be paid on time; also, that we might have money on hand to finance a strong, aggressive evangelistic campaign throughout the confines of the Central States territory.

I am happy to tell you today that God has blessed us greatly along these lines. The finances of the mission will testify to this.

The tithe for the two-year period ending December, 1947, came to \$94,094.25. The tithe for the two-year period ending December, 1949, amounted to \$129,670.15. Mission offerings for the two-year period ending December, 1947, aggregated \$33,337.73, and mission offerings for the two-year period ending December, 1949, amounted to \$56,413.14. You will readily see that in comparing the two-year periods we made a gain in tithes of \$35,575.90, and a gain in mission offerings of \$23,075.41.

Let us take a quick glance into the year 1950. Our tithe at the end of the third quarter shows a gain of \$2,945. Mission offerings for the same period show a gain of \$2,862. Our Ingathering for 1950 reached the all-time high of \$11,722.58, while just two years ago the total Ingathering amounted to \$5,580.21.

Four years ago the membership of the Central States Mission was 799. At the close of 1949 our membership reached 1,164, showing a net gain of 364 since the organization of the Central States. Thus far this year our workers have baptized 87 souls. We have every reason to believe that our membership will exceed 1,200 by the close of this year. As I view the hundreds of thousands of colored people scattered throughout the territory of the Central States who must be warned of the soon coming of Christ, I confess that we have nothing of which to boast in the light of the magnitude of the task that yet lies ahead.

Building Projects

We are thankful to God for the strong building program now under way in the Central States. God has admonished us that in carrying forward the gospel message we should be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. When we invite a person to accept this unpopular message we should be able to welcome him into a reputable, clean, and comfortable place of worship. We have had the

pleasure of dedicating a beautiful and modern church in Wellington, Kansas. Our brethren in Leavenworth, Kansas, have been without a church home for about thirty-five years, but now they are worshipping in a beautiful cement-block edifice, which is built on a spacious corner lot. We think of this structure as the building of faith. While Elder D. B. Reid was conducting a tent effort in Leavenworth, the young pastors, V. Barnes and C. Craig, joined forces with the hired mechanics and worked on the church building by day and at the tent at night. We had a small amount of money but a large amount of faith with works. Now, as a result of God's blessings, we have a beautiful church edifice in Leavenworth.

Our church in Omaha, Nebraska, was lost by fire in 1949, but due to the cooperation of church members, the General Conference, and Union Conference brethren, we were able to rebuild the church, and now we have a comfortable and beautiful church in that city.

In St. Joseph, Missouri, we have a vigorous building program in progress. The brethren there, under the leadership of R. L. Woodfork, are building a modern brick church. At present the basement floor is finished and our people are comfortably housed in that part of the building. They are raising money and have definite plans to finish the auditorium very soon.

One of the greatest needs in church building projects has been in Kansas City, Kansas. Our members have been crowded in an antiquated and inadequate building; however, it gives me great joy to report that under the leadership of Elder Woodfork the church building has been completely torn apart, and now one of the finest edifices in the Central States Mission is fast taking shape. We hope to dedicate this building within a few months.

Elder L. J. Pryor has led the membership in St. Louis into a much-needed renovation program. The basement of the church is now finished into modern classrooms for the church school. They have also

enlarged and modernized the rest rooms. Recently the church had installed a beautiful Baldwin organ and a Baldwin grand piano.

In Kansas City, Missouri, under the leadership of H. J. Miller, modern auditorium has been equipped with pews and pulpit furniture. Just this year, under the leadership of D. B. Reid, a Hammond organ has been installed and will be dedicated free from debt within a few weeks. Plans are being formulated for a new church building in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Despite the fact that we have no full-time Sabbath school and home missionary secretary, the interest in these departments has not been neglected. The Central States Sabbath school department stood in second place in the union in the per capita of giving for 1949. Through our home missionary department the Ingathering work has been a blessing not only in raising funds for foreign missions but also through the comeback fund. We have bought two large pavilion tents and chairs for each tent, so that a greater evangelistic work can be done. Through this channel we have also been able to give financial help to the church building program.

We are now able to count twenty churches and companies throughout our territory. Included among our fifteen workers are three young men who have recently graduated from the ministerial department of our colleges. They are getting the taste of that joy which comes to one when he is used to win souls for Christ.

The North American Informant

Representing the colored work of the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination

Editor George E. Peters
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Editorial Committee: J. H. Wagner, L. Bland, H. D. Singleton, T. M. Fountain, H. Murphy, Louis B. Reynolds.

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Our Greatest Need

I would like to present to you what I consider the most essential need of the Central States Mission. We read in Luke 24:49, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." The gift of the Holy Spirit is surely our greatest need.

We have long talked of the time when the Holy Spirit will take possession of our hearts and lives, and when the loud cry of the third angel's message will take place. Our General Conference president has called us to the task of doubling our membership in four years. In order for this to be done, it means just this: Every worker in the Central States must baptize not less than forty-five souls a year for the next four years. Who are we to say that a Spirit-filled man cannot realize this goal even in the Central States territory? We must be Spirit-filled men and women. Both workers and laity must accept the challenge and go back to their homes and churches with a greater determination to win souls for Christ.

I read in the book *Evangelism*, page 219: "All heaven is astir, engaged in preparing for the day of God's vengeance, the day of Zion's deliverance. The time of tarrying is almost ended. The pilgrims and strangers who have so long been seeking a better country are almost home. I feel as if I must cry aloud, Homeward bound! Rapidly we are nearing the time when Christ will come to gather His redeemed to Himself."

Our greatest need today is to be filled with the Spirit of the living God and have a definite burden for souls. It is for renewed vision of our sublime calling, dedicated to the salvation of men. Today I wish to express my thanks to our loyal group workers for their devotion to the work of God.

We are ever mindful of the kind and faithful counsel given by Elder M. V. Campbell, president of the Central Union Conference, and the loyal help of the entire staff of union

workers. We sincerely thank the General Conference brethren and the Central Union Conference for their liberality in supplying funds for assistance in the operation and erection of our new churches. We are grateful to the loyal and faithful believers for their devotion to the cause of God.

Above all, we give thanks to God for His manifold blessings in our behalf; and with Elisha of old we exclaim, "They that be with us are more than they that be with them."

F. L. BLAND, *President,*
Central States Mission.

NORTHEASTERN

L. H. Bland, Pres. V. Roberts, Sec.-Treas.
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News Notes

THE Lord is continuing to bless us in our educational work. We have opened all our schools with many added facilities. We have been fortunate in adding to the staff of the Northeastern Conference teachers this year, the following persons: Miss Meryl Joseph, who has connected with Northeastern Academy; Miss Erma Lofton and Miss Rebecca Riley, teachers of our Manhattan Elementary School; Cornelius Hill, connected with the Bethel Elementary School in Brooklyn; and Emerton Whidbee, principal of Berea Elementary School in Boston, Massachusetts.

These teachers have joined in with our present teaching staff, and each school, as a result, has gotten off to a good start. The pastors of our churches where each school is located have pledged to work and cooperate with each teacher.

Recently the Manhattan Home and School Association sponsored Mrs. Marguerite Daly, one of the conference secretaries, in recital at Hunter College. Proceeds were for the purchase of a school bus.

At the present time the Northeastern Academy, under the principalship of Elder J. L. Moran, has launched a book drive to build up its library.

Northeastern Junior Campers

FOR the week end of September 29-October 1, more than 125 Junior boys and girls, with their counselors, spent a most profitable time at the beautiful Christian Herald Children's Home at Mont Lawn, Nyack-on-the-Hudson, New York. The weather was ideal, and everyone who attended the gathering enjoyed being in God's out-of-doors for a few days.

Sabbath morning these Juniors were joined by others who came to enjoy the blessings of the day. Elder R. A. Nesmith, Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the Atlantic Union conference, was guest speaker. It was most stimulating to listen to Elder Nesmith as he explained to the Juniors the link between God and nature. Those who had never thought of the beauty of the trees, the flowers, the mountains, and the hills began to see the significance of observing nature. Each one left the service ennobled and uplifted.

That night the youngsters were treated to a campfire (indoors). Marshmallows were passed out, and all had a wonderful time roasting them before retiring. The week-end activities came to a close after the Sunday morning hike, and each Junior returned to his home with new vigor, rejoicing in the fact that he had spent such a profitable, enjoyable week end.

J. E. ROACHE, *M. V. Secretary,*
Northeastern Conference.

Soul-winning Work in Liberia, West Africa

By P. E. GIDDINGS, *Educational and
Missionary Volunteer Secretary*

THE most permanent results in the soul-winning work in Liberia, West Africa, have been produced through our schools. Heathenism is not merely a vacancy where Christ is absent; it is a power, a great negative power, from which its victims are unable as well as unwilling to withdraw themselves—that is, unless they receive that training that

leads souls to Christ. How often we find those who refuse to accept the greater power of Christ in exchange for the power they have known from childhood.

When a boy or a girl is trained for the work of God during the formative years of his or her life, we may expect a certain stability in the worker and a permanency in the work.

Our schoolwork started in this country many years ago under very trying conditions, but in spite of the many limitations we can see the benefits of Christian education. As we look over the field we find only those trained in our schools filling responsible places in the organized work. A typical example of Christian training is shown in the life of John Newman, one of our pupils. He writes:

"I wish only to refer to some experiences which I am impressed to write this morning. The time is not far off when the test will probably come to many others. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield further to such powers rather than subject themselves to mockery, insult, and even death.

"To tell my life story from its beginning would be a difficult task. I am sorry to say that I have no record of the year of my birth. I was born of heathen parents who worshiped gods made by the hands of men and who never learned of our Lord's second coming. At my birth it was declared by some sage woman of the neighborhood, who had taken a lively interest in me several months before it was possible for me to become acquainted with her, that I was a posthumous child, which really means in this part of Africa that my mother died shortly after my birth. (Two hours after.) I was, therefore, destined to be unlucky throughout my life. I was placed in a position to be the so-called godson of the witch doctor and, as a result, I would be privileged to see ghosts or the spirits of the dead. Both these privileges, they believed, were inevitably attached to all unlucky

infants born under such conditions as mine.

"When I was about the age of ten I was given the name Begum, which means "witch boy." Now, living in the home of the witch doctor, nothing was to be hid from me, because I was to qualify as a highly trained medium for the service of the devil. Just a few months after this incident my father was called to the front in the skirmish over the Liberian and French boundary lines. This was in 1939. I was then taken from the home of the devil doctor and placed in the care of my father's aunt. But this grand-aunt soon completed arrangements with the bush doctor for me to join the bush society, in order further to qualify me to meet the superstitious expectations of my tribe. As a result of two years of service in the bush society I was prepared to take the place of the devil doctor in case of his death.

"It was not long before I left the bush society, and my uncle, who had seen the light of civilization came home. He thought he should share with me this light to which he had been introduced some time before. This meant attending school. But what school would he send me to? This was the question! Would school do me any good?

"Not long after this we were told by a heathen chief about a school 165 miles away where they trained boys and girls for God. This school, he said, was in Konola. Here I was privileged to begin my school career with the intention of becoming a truck driver after finishing the fourth grade. After only two years of schooling my uncle died and I was left alone to fulfill my ambition. The following years were very difficult ones, but by this time I was somewhat acquainted with the real source from which true help comes. Psalms 55:22 was the answer to my problem. It reads, 'Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.'

"As I dreamed of success I kept struggling for three more years beyond the time that I should have

become a truck driver. I was waiting for further directions, which soon came to me from Proverbs 3:6. At the end of this time the missionaries had arrived. They seemed to know what material they had work with, and I can assure you that it was no easy task for them. Some of the material was warped, some rusty, and some filled with self-conceit. By the help of these missionaries I was further introduced to this soul-saving message in 1945, and I was baptized in 1949.

"Our missionaries had to season the raw material, plane the rough edges, straighten the warped, uneven sides, tone down all superfluities, and improve the goods. This Christian school had changed my intentions from becoming a truck driver to one who would rather steer for the Master."

John Newman is now teaching in our mission school while he takes further work to qualify himself better for the Master's service. Let us pray that many will be led into this great truth as a result of our labors in the mission field.

J. Mark Cox, M.D., Receives Fellowship

DR. J. MARK COX, former medical director of Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital for six years, recently attended the fifteenth annual assembly and convocation of the United States Chapter of the International College of Surgeons held at Cleveland, Ohio. During this assembly Dr. Cox was inducted as an Associate Fellow of the International College of Surgeons. At the convocation Dr. Lewis T. Wright, chief surgeon of the Harlem Hospital and chief police surgeon of New York City, was given the first honorary fellowship ever bestowed upon a colored surgeon. Dr. Donald Abbott, Seventh-day Adventist missionary to Africa for approximately fifteen years, was given credit for having traveled the greatest distance to attend the meeting.

Dr. Cox is at present in Baltimore, Maryland, completing requirements for certification as a specialist in general surgery. G. E. P.

The Value of a Cheerful Disposition

"REJOICE in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Phil. 4:4.

And cheer is the hallmark of a brave and healthy soul. We read in Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." We may learn from this the influence the mind has over the body and the value of having a cheerful disposition, which is conducive to good health. It costs nothing to have a cheerful disposition. In the book *Education*, page 240, the author states, "All may possess a cheerful countenance, a gentle voice, a courteous manner, and these are elements of power."

It is a sign of weakness to give way to gloomy thoughts. We may be attacked, but it is one thing to be attacked and another to rout the disturber. This is what the brave soul will do. Some people would rather nurse a misery than cherish a joy. There are those who try to find the dark side of everything if there is a dark side to be found. On the other hand, there are those who take life cheerfully no matter what the circumstance may be.

Morbidness has a very depressing effect upon others. It was Jeremy Taylor who said, "How many people are busy in the world gathering a handful of thorns to sit on." A cheerful disposition is a continual feast. There may be a real and tangible reason why the shadows fall upon our lives, for life is serious and the world is overflowing with trouble on every hand. But to sit and brood over it only makes it look worse. It obscures the bright horizon and darkness descends upon the soul. "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Ps. 100:2.

Those who constantly complain and who seem to think that happiness and a cheerful countenance are not the genuine religion. When Jesus was here among men, He gave words of cheer to fit every case. To the weary He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are

Continued on page 7

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

W. W. Fordham, Pres.
A. R. Carethers, Sec.-Treas.
P. O. Box 6289, Dallas, Texas

Recent Developments in the Southwest

My thoughts are carried back approximately four years, when our work was first organized into a mission. It was a pleasure seeing new workers and new additions to our official family, but we experienced the pain of parting when our pioneer treasurer, Elder V. L. Roberts, relinquished his office here, accepting a call to the Northeastern Conference.

Although Elder Roberts has been transferred to another conference, we still claim him as a part of the great Southwest family, for his faithful and untiring service has left an indelible print which will always manifest itself in the work here. Our prayers and best wishes will ever follow him and his family.

It is our happy privilege to welcome Elder A. R. Carethers as the new secretary-treasurer of the Southwest Region Conference. Elder Carethers has been a successful worker in the Southwest for a number of years. He has now taken over the responsibility of secretary-treasurer, and our entire constituency extend a hearty welcome to him as he takes up his work at the conference office.

CORA E. ISABEL, *Reporter.*

News Notes

THE conference officers and workers of the Southwest Region enjoyed a helpful workers' meeting recently. The first two days were days of conference business and project promotions. The last two days were devoted to spiritual revival for the entire group of workers.

Elder C. E. Moseley, of Oakwood College, led out in the revival phase of the meeting, and the conference workers followed his leadership into a period of prayer, heart-searching, confession, forsaking of sins,

and reconsecration. Many expressed themselves as having received more spiritual help for their own souls from that meeting than from any meeting previously attended. Elder H. R. Murphy, president of South Central Conference; Elder L. B. Reynolds, editor of the *Message Magazine*; Elder J. W. Turner; and other union officers gave much impetus to the spiritual feast. The meeting closed with a heart-warming communion service.

THE Oakland Avenue church school was host to the Teachers' Institute held in Dallas, Texas. Beneficial professional counsel was given to the fifteen teachers assembled at the convention. Appearing as guests on the program were Miss N. E. Burrell, director of teacher training, Oakwood College; Miss Anna Knight, veteran educator from the Southern Union; F. H. Jenkins, educational superintendent of South Atlantic Conference; Miss Lorena Wilcox, director of teacher training, Southwestern Junior College; H. W. Jewkes, educational superintendent of Texas conference; and W. A. Howe, secretary of education, Southwestern Union.

The local conference officials also rendered valuable help in the institute. At the Sabbath morning hour service pins and teachers' certificates were presented to the teachers. Their years of service range from one to nineteen. Special mention is due the Dorcas Society and Home and School Association of the Oakland Avenue church for their efficiency in handling the problems of lodging and board for all visitors. Food was provided in generous quantities.

PASTOR VAN RUNNELS is another welcome addition to our office force. He is lifting the heavy office load in the home missionary and Sabbath school departments.

Two outstanding church rallies in recent months are worthy of note. The Ephesus church of New Orleans, under the leadership of J. E. Cox, Jr., pastor, raised more than \$3,600. The Oakland Avenue church, under the leadership of

W. W. Fordham, pastor, raised more than \$1,100. At this program Dr. C. A. Dent and Chaplain and Mrs. E. F. Carter, of Riverside Sanitarium, Nashville, Tennessee, were present and took part.

Vacation Bible School Ends

A RECENT Sunday night was quite a night for the students and teachers of the Oakland Avenue Vacation Bible School in Dallas, Texas. For the entire summer they had been through various exercises, memory work, and activities of the Progressive Class requirements; and now they were to be invested. Pastor F. W. Parker, director of the school, and his corps of instructors, had done a very thorough work.

The program began with a discussion on the value of the Progressive Class work for our boys and girls. It was demonstrated rather forcibly that our children need to be instructed in clubs where they

will not only learn the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in this world but prepare for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come. Mrs. E. I. Cunningham, guest speaker from Oakwood College, gave a short address on the value of Christian education. She showed very clearly that we cannot teach our children the way of Christ in Sabbath school one day of the week and send them to worldly schools five days of the week and expect them to be permanently impressed with their need of Christ. Mrs. Cunningham stated that getting a Christian education is an all-week job and must be done by Christian teachers in Christian schools.

Those to be invested then presented a short program showing some of the things they had learned. After this the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary invested the children in the following classes: Preparatory—3 Busy Bees, 5 Sunbeams, 2 Builders, 2 Helping Hands;

Regular—6 Friends and 1 Companion. Each child invested had completed his reading-course requirement, and took a pledge to live in harmony with the principles he had learned in the Bible school, as symbolized in the pin and insignia he had received. A prayer of consecration that God might help the youth grow into stones in His temple closed the service.

Pastor and Mrs. Parker, Mrs. P. Bell, Mrs. P. Greene, and Mr. A. Powlee are to be commended for their faithful work with the children during the summer. It shows just what can be done in our churches, not only for our own children, but for the children of the community, by persistent effort. It is interesting to note that through the efforts of this same group the parents of some of these children were baptized.

C. C. CUNNINGHAM,
*Educational, Sabbath School, and
Missionary Volunteer Secretary,
Southwest Region Conference.*



INVESTITURE SERVICE AT THE CLOSE OF OAKLAND AVENUE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. Picture Shows Students Invested, Teachers of the School, Pastor and Mrs. F. W. Parker, and C. C. Cunningham, Conference M.V. Secretary

A Cheerful Disposition

Continued from page 5

heavy laden, and I will give you rest." To the troubled, "Let not your hearts be troubled." His parting words of cheer to His church were, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

The value of a cheerful disposition is beyond price. No FOR SALE signs are marked on it. In the book *Mount of Blessing*, page 132, we read, "If Christians give the impression by a mournful attitude that they have been disappointed in their Lord, they misrepresent His character, and put arguments into the mouth of His enemies." Let the very atmosphere in which we live be permeated by the sweet perfume of cheerfulness.

Christ is the fountain from which it flows, and cheerfulness drawn from Him can never fail. When He comes, may we be prepared to go, without a sigh, to Canaan's fair and happy land where our possessions are.

MRS. GENEVA McDONALD,
*Bible Instructor, Ephesus Church,
Washington, D.C.*

Youth Congress Kingston, Jamaica

THE Seventh-day Adventist Youth Congress held in Kingston, Jamaica, in September was, according to the press reports, one of the largest religious gatherings ever held in the West Indies.

"Big crowds at Kingston Race Course are not new," says a writer in the *Spotlight*. "But 20,000 people at a religious meeting there on Sunday, September 17, was something for the news headlines." Then the explanation—"By open invitation of the Seventh-day Adventists' organization they went to hear the gospel preached as only the Adventists

Spotlight magazine is a very high-class publication, corresponding in make-up and editorial and news standards to the *Time* magazine. It has a large circulation in the British West Indies and extends also into

England and Canada. The story it carried on the Adventist Youth Congress gives much information as to the history of the youth movement of the church, standards of the young people, and extent of missionary activities throughout the world.

The Seventh-day Adventist movement in Jamaica, the article points out, "is blessed with some of the finest workers any religious organization could possibly have. To them the work is a devotion; they have no interests other than winning souls by direct method or indirectly by training men and women for the field, or helping to direct the island-wide and tightly run organization."

Quoting Hiram S. Walters, Missionary Volunteer secretary, it says further, "The assembling of Jamaican youth at this congress constitutes a mighty challenge, . . . a wonderful achievement in the cause of God. The hour has struck, the day is at hand for the youth of Jamaica to dedicate themselves to the unfinished task." Then the writer adds, "But Seventh-day Adventists as a whole look beyond winning the youth; winning 'all Jamaica for Christ' is their goal."

A full page of pictures taken of various groups at the congress was published in the *Jamaica Daily Express*, together with a long article on another page, giving in detail the representation, speakers, and the spirit and character of the gathering. It nicely described the panel discussions where guidance was given youth on practical problems, such as their friendships, courtship, and plans for marriage. The subject of lifework was also covered, and the need of building strong bodies as a part of thorough preparation. The right art of living and working for Christ was featured in the spiritual program, thus holding before the youth a world needing the service that Adventist youth can give. With this, the nearness of the coming of Christ, and the need of being prepared for this event, was constantly impressed throughout the days of the convention.

Elder R. W. Numbers, president

of the British West Indies Union, and Elder Walters, felt that the wonderful publicity given the congress has had a very marked influence on the people of Jamaica. Brother Walters was directly responsible for contact with the editors, and felt definitely the help of the Lord's Spirit in this phase of their work.

This witnessing for Christ en masse, so to speak, suggests to the youth of this denomination the almost unlimited influence their lives may have. We have become accustomed to think of our witnessing as restricted to personal and correspondence circles. Now what we do, what we plan, what we represent, is heralded through the press to thousands of people. In the light of this there comes a feeling of greater responsibility as we read the promise, "Ye are my witnesses." May we keep this in mind, live up to the reputation others give us, and let the light shine forth as far as it will.

J. R. FERREN, *Press Bureau,
General Conference.*

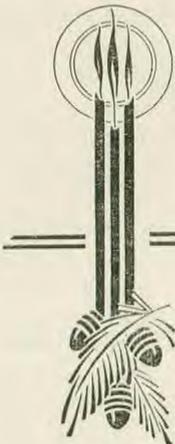
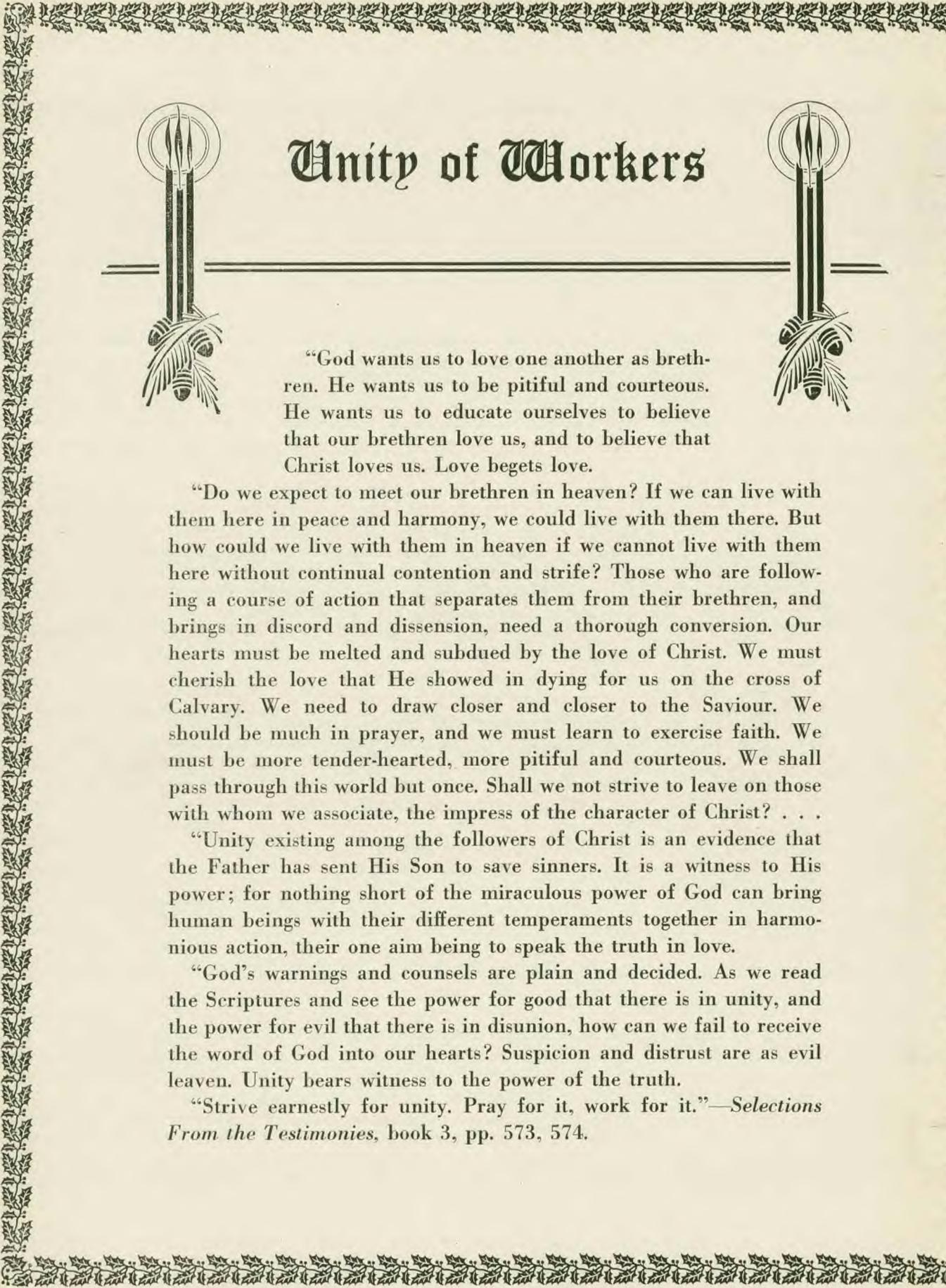
Informant Editor Makes Overseas Visit

READERS of the INFORMANT will be interested to learn that Elder G. E. Peters, who was elected a general field secretary at the recent General Conference session, has been invited by the British West Indies Union and the Inter-American Division to fill appointments in Jamaica from December 12 to January 1, 1951. He spent the week end of December 9 with our church in Miami, Florida, then left by air December 11 for Kingston.

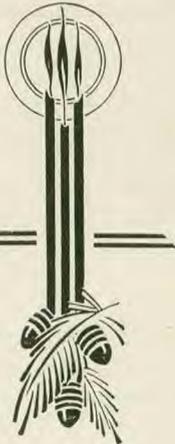
Some of Elder Peters' engagements are as follows: baccalaureate address at the West Indian Training College, Sabbath, December 16; attending the East and West Jamaica conference sessions; also assisting in institutes that will be held in both conferences.

Elder Peters will be accompanied by Mrs. Peters on this initial overseas visit.

GERALDINE S. BANFIELD,
Editorial Secretary.



Unity of Workers



“God wants us to love one another as brethren. He wants us to be pitiful and courteous. He wants us to educate ourselves to believe that our brethren love us, and to believe that Christ loves us. Love begets love.

“Do we expect to meet our brethren in heaven? If we can live with them here in peace and harmony, we could live with them there. But how could we live with them in heaven if we cannot live with them here without continual contention and strife? Those who are following a course of action that separates them from their brethren, and brings in discord and dissension, need a thorough conversion. Our hearts must be melted and subdued by the love of Christ. We must cherish the love that He showed in dying for us on the cross of Calvary. We need to draw closer and closer to the Saviour. We should be much in prayer, and we must learn to exercise faith. We must be more tender-hearted, more pitiful and courteous. We shall pass through this world but once. Shall we not strive to leave on those with whom we associate, the impress of the character of Christ? . . .

“Unity existing among the followers of Christ is an evidence that the Father has sent His Son to save sinners. It is a witness to His power; for nothing short of the miraculous power of God can bring human beings with their different temperaments together in harmonious action, their one aim being to speak the truth in love.

“God’s warnings and counsels are plain and decided. As we read the Scriptures and see the power for good that there is in unity, and the power for evil that there is in disunion, how can we fail to receive the word of God into our hearts? Suspicion and distrust are as evil leaven. Unity bears witness to the power of the truth.

“Strive earnestly for unity. Pray for it, work for it.”—*Selections From the Testimonies*, book 3, pp. 573, 574.