



SOUTH AMERICAN BULLETIN

VOL. IV.

BUENOS AIRES, ARG.

APRIL, 1928

No. 4

Self Supporting, Self Propagating Churches

Carlyle B. Haynes

WHILE we study the work of Paul in establishing churches it must be altogether clear that these churches were both self-supporting and self-propagating.

Paul preached in most of the large cities of the Roman Empire, both in Europe and Asia.

Paul held meetings in these cities, won converts to the gospel, organized these believers into a church, trained them for church responsibilities, and then passed on to other cities, leaving native churches behind him which were fully prepared to carry on their work without his presence.

Sometimes he revisited and encouraged these churches, but he left the responsibility on the shoulders of the local officers and members.

Paul and the other apostles, planting and organizing churches in this manner, came very near to evangelizing the whole world of that generation. In one generation these early believers, following that method of labor, had won more than five millions of converts to Christ.

The groups of Christians which Paul established in Lystra or Derbe, Thessalonica or Corinth, were wholly composed of and officered by the permanent residents of the country. They managed their own internal affairs under the leadership of their own officers, they administered their own ordinances, controlled their own finance, admitted or disciplined their own members, and they propagated themselves, establishing in neighboring towns and villages churches like themselves.

It must be clear that they supported

themselves in every way both financially and spiritually. They organized and took charge of their own services; they provided for their own temporal needs; they supplied their own place of worship.

They did not absorb the time and energy and thought of the apostles. They must have been trained to be left by the apostles. Being so trained, when they were left, and the apostles went on to other places, the work did not disintegrate, but on the contrary, believers multiplied.

That is the truest and best kind, the apostolic and Biblical kind, of home



Three Kinds of People

Three kinds of people will be found
Where'er we go the world around—

The workers, jerkers, shirkers.

One class will work with heart and
mind,

Are always ready, always kind,
And these are called the workers.

The second class will jerk and jerk,
Sometimes they stop, sometimes they
work;

So these are called the jerkers.

The other class will always shirk,
They love to talk, but hate to work,
Hence these are called the shirkers.

Which class, dear reader, are you in?
Which do you like? Where have you
been?

Are you a steady worker?

N. P. NELSEN.



missionary work, the training of the entire church membership to care for all its own needs, for all of the needs of the gospel in its neighborhood, to live, and thrive, and grow, without the constant shepherding of a pastor.

This seems to me to be essentially the right way to establish native churches in any country.

Human nature is very human round all the circle of the globe, regardless of the language it speaks, or the grade of intelligence it represents.

When believers are trained and churches are organized to be dependent on the missionary it is not to be wondered at that the missionary finds it difficult to leave that church without weakening it. It has been trained that way. If all churches in mission lands are so trained, this cause will never be able to supply a sufficient number of missionaries to finish our task. And to organize any church in such a way is certainly departing from the apostolic and Biblical pattern of organizing churches.

If such churches go to pieces when the missionary leaves them to preach to others it is not the fault of the church or the believers. They have been trained to be dependent on the missionary. He has done everything, and not taught them to do anything. It is the missionary's fault. He has given a wrong training. They have not been trained to be left, as Paul trained his churches. They are not, therefore, prepared to stand alone.

If churches are encouraged to believe that their financial needs will be met from mission funds we must not be surprised if they feel they cannot meet their needs from their own resources. If they are helped to build a church, if they are given seats, books, a school,

a teacher for the school, and everything is supplied; why should we be surprised that they refuse to pay for all these blessings from their own pockets when they have learned they can have them without paying for them? Just so long as these things continue to be supplied to them from mission funds, just so long will they accept them on that basis and refuse any other basis. So would you. We don't any of us pay for things we can get free. Yes, human nature is pretty much the same everywhere. And our converts have just as much intelligence as we have.

But when missionaries give new believers such a training they are not only misusing mission funds, they are actually using mission funds in a way to hinder, not advance, the work of the gospel. For such a training of converts does not build up the gospel. It retards it. It stops the missionary from going on with preaching to lost men, and makes it necessary for him to shepherd saved men whom he should have trained to take care of themselves, suppling their own needs, and stand alone.

Moreover he does positive harm to his converts, for instead of training them to grow into full grown men in Christ he is training them to always remain spoon-fed Christians. He refuses to wean his children, and they always remain infants in the gospel. It is not a notable characteristic of human nature that infants voluntarily offer to wean themselves. No, they have to be weaned.

The defense of this method is sometimes made that leaders cannot be found in the churches, especially among primitive peoples. It is not a good defense, for leaders are everywhere.

The truth is not that leaders cannot be found, so much as it is that they are not found. The leaders are there. They need finding and training. The biggest task of the church builder is the finding of them and the training of them. But more on this question of leadership later. Just now do not get away from the question, Are you organizing and planting and training churches after the apostolic pattern, or in such a fashion that they will always need you to lean on? About the most important duty a missionary has in planting churches is to make himself unnecessary.

JESUS Christ does not want to be our helper; He wants to be our life. He does not want us to work for Him; He wants us to let Him work through us.—*Trumbull*.

Inca Union Mission

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Constant Progress in Peru

It is encouraging to notice how the Lord's work goes forward even in the difficult mountainous country of Peru. Many valleys among the high mountains will perhaps never be visited by living preachers other than the faithful colporteurs, but they and the silent messengers they distribute in the homes are doing their work in harmony with God's plan.

It is something like two years ago when the writer, together with a colporteur, visited a new section some eighty miles up in the interior of this coast. The faithful colporteur was the only worker who had ever visited this region before our visit but he had done some faithful missionary work which resulted, first of all, in the conversion of every member of his own family as well as a few others. In all, there were eight persons whom I was able to baptize as the result of his faithful labor. While visiting this interest, I was accused as a Chilean spy to the authorities, and later learned that the soldiers had been seeking for me, keeping just one day behind time.

In the second visit made to the same little towns, the colporteur and a few believers had gathered for worship when a furious mob attacked them, forming a double line outside the door with about twenty men on either side, armed with sticks and fire arms. At the same time several entered the house and began to abuse and beat the brethren. Seeing that there was no possibility of quieting the mob and that their only desire was to shed blood, the colporteur with two other young men made their escape by passing through that line of armed men with but slight injuries. They then ran across the valley, and crossing a river at midnight arrived at a little town on the opposite side. In this little village was a believer who was unable to sleep that night as he had heard the sound of the church bell since five o'clock that evening, and he knew only too well what it meant. It was a happy privilege for him to again receive his brethren in the faith and give them lodging.

Just now word comes to us that in this very place where the mob attacked them, eighteen are keeping the Sabbath, and in the town across the river fifteen have accepted the truth.

Another of our colporteurs, because of the persecution of the priest, was thrown into jail at the very time when he was to make his delivery, and was kept there for five weeks. In order not to lose any of his orders, he asked a friend with whom he had been lodging to see if he could deliver some of the books, and gave him a list of the names of those who had subscribed. The man could not read, but he started out and delivered every book. Shortly afterward when our colporteur was freed, he found to his surprise that all of the books were delivered, and not one had been delivered to his subscribers, but to entirely new names.

Truly the Lord is for His people and He has a great interest in seeing that the books are placed in the hands of the faithful. Many means are employed in this work to give the Lord's message to those who know it not, and it is not always according to our wishes and desires, but to the honor and glory of the Lord.

Pray for the work in the Inca Union where superstition and persecution are still prevailing, that we may be able to do our work, and to finish it quickly.

J. D. LORENZ.

*Field and Home Missionary Secretary,
Inca Union.*

Brother Stahl at Iquitos

Carlyle B. Haynes

A LETTER just received from Elder F. A. Stahl brings us the information that he and his family reached Iquitos, Peru, the headquarters of the new Upper Amazon Mission, on December 1, by way of the Pitches Trail.

He reports finding a splendid interest in the message at Iquitos among a large number of people, due to the faithful work of a colporteur, Brother B. Chavez and also of Brother and Sister William Schaeffler, who preceded Brother Stahl some months. Some of the interested ones will shortly be ready for baptism.

On the way to Iquitos Brother Stahl stopped at the Forest Mission in Perené, and there baptized twenty-two Indians, fifteen from the Campa tribe, and seven from the Piros, the latter being the firstfruits from the Piros for this message. They are a numerous tribe living on the Urubamba River.

Brother Stahl also found a good interest among the Conibos, a tribe living along the Ucayali River. As he passed down the river he received word from a savage, cannibal tribe having no communication with white men, asking him to come and teach them about "the true God." He expects to respond to this invitation before long.

East Brazil Union Mission

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An Experience

THE following is taken from a personal letter written by Mrs. J. L. Brown of the Lower Amazon Mission to a friend in Buenos Aires:

"Early in September Mr. Brown came to Manaus, Amazonas, to spend a couple of weeks canvassing for our health book. He had worked a little over two weeks when he was stricken with a terrible fever. He had to return to Para before he could deliver even one of the 250 orders he took. He arrived home very sick indeed and had to stay in bed over five weeks with a high fever. We had to place him under the care of a doctor for his case was very complicated. However, the Lord heard our prayers and he got well again. Well, just as he was planning on returning to Amazonas to deliver the books and finish his work, a telegram came from Rio asking him to be in that city by December 18 for the committee meetings. The colporteurs were in the interior when the telegram arrived, . . . so I offered to come to Amazonas to take charge of the big delivery and finish the work John was forced to abandon.

"I left Para December 2 on the English tourist steamer 'Hildebrand.' On the same day Mr. Brown left for Rio. The voyage up the Amazon River was certainly beautiful. I never saw such wonderful scenery as I had the privilege of seeing on this trip. As we passed these vast forest regions of this great unknown land, I could not help but think of the numerous savage Indian tribes wandering, fighting, and hunting through the trackless forests and swamps. Many lands have witnessed the miracles of our God, while this vast Amazonia has remained in darkness. Thrilling are the facts about it and the wild Indians who inhabit it.

"About fifty English tourists were on the 'Hildebrand' out from England to 'see Amazonia.' I got acquainted with a number of them, and when we arrived in Manaus I got an invitation to spend the next day with them in sightseeing. They hired several autos and we went far into the country where we came to a most beautiful lake right in the forest. Several canoes were awaiting us, and we were taken far into the forest to see the famous water lilies, Victoria Regia. We also

went to the water falls and out to Flores.

"Well, after this pleasure trip I organized my work and got busy the next day. The Lord richly blessed my feeble efforts in His service. I fully believed His promise 'My presence shall go with thee and I shall give thee peace.' Even though it is hot here and I got very tired at times, I was able to finish my work in one week and I delivered 11:450\$400 [\$1,635.00 gold] worth of books. With each 'Practical Guide' delivered goes a yearly subscription to our good *O Atalaia*. During the year 1928 this silent messenger of truth will visit 21 of the most influential homes of Manaus every month. I pray that it may bring light and peace to many who are seeking for the better things in life and who want to be saved. . . .

"I was expected to leave for Para today but word just reached us that the boat that was to leave Manaus today ran into a sand bank on the upper Madeira. So I shall have to wait until it gets here. Am staying with the English missionaries who are in charge of the Rest Home for the English workers of the Amazonian Inland Missions. One of the English missionaries is with us at present and has told us some most thrilling experiences about his work among the wild Parintintius Indians in the Madeira region. . . .

"Our courage is good. We love our work and hope to see many honest souls accept Christ as their Saviour before long. One of our colporteurs



E. W. Thomann as youthful editor in Chile.

found a group of twenty-five in the interior keeping the Sabbath and we also found a wealthy *fazendeiro* in this state keeping the Sabbath and asking us to come to his home to preach the message to his people. Pray for our work in the vast Amazon region."

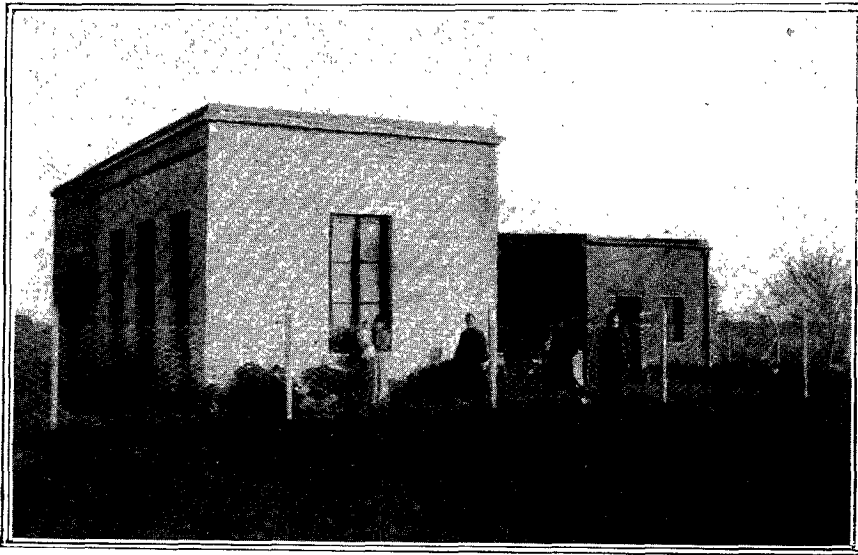
A Review of Beginnings in South America

Part 4

THE FIRST PRINTING

"THE anniversary of one of the most important events in the history of Buenos Aires passed almost unnoticed yesterday." This statement is used to introduce a short article appearing in an Argentine newspaper, the *Buenos Aires Herald* a few weeks ago. The following explanation is then given. "It was not that of any feat of arms or impressive political happening but an event which, although no one probably ever thought so at the time, was to have more influence on the national life than anything that had preceded it. On October 26, 1780, the printing press first started to work in this city, and a new era was inaugurated. It was not the first time printing had been done in this part of South America, for the Jesuits of the Parana and the Uruguay had, in 1703, produced a number of works with a wooden press made by Indians and tin type, but their activities were confined solely to the missions. Some one, prior to 1780 had taken a press to Cordoba, where it lay abandoned in one of the cellars of the Monserrat College. Its existence came to the ears of that progressive Viceroy, Don Juan José de Vertiz, who acquired it for the sum of a thousand pesos and had it installed in the Foundling Hospital. . . . Later came the *Telégrafo Mercantil*, the first newspaper of Buenos Aires, and from that tiny seed sprang the gradual enlightenment of the masses and the gigantic organs of public opinion of the present day. All sorts of events are annually commemorated. Surely the installation of the first printing press is worthy of a place among them."

If such a unique tribute can so fittingly be paid to the secular press in South America, how much more might be said of the enlightening influence of a press dedicated to the giving of a gospel of Him who is the "True Light" of the world! Although our denomination very early recognized the power of the press and has constantly and universally applied it to gospel interests, the wheels of a Seventh-day Adventist press did not begin to turn in



House in Florida purchased of O. Opegard. The white portion of building marks the room where the printing equipment was first installed. Left to right: Mrs. O. Heyde and child, Mrs. O. Opegard, O. Opegard, N. Z. Town.

South America until two centuries after the Jesuits mentioned above began to print.

In the latter part of the year 1899 Elder G. H. Baber, who was the first worker sent to take charge of the West Coast Mission of South America, made a trip from Chile to Peru in company with the young man E. W. Thomann, who had accepted the truth about three years before. While on this trip Brother Thomann proposed the publishing of a periodical for the West Coast. As a result of this suggestion these brethren, upon returning to the headquarters at Valparaiso, Chile, diligently set out to plan and to start an eight-page monthly periodical with the name *Las Señales de los Tiempos*. The first issue of 1,000 copies came out in January of 1900. In this was born our present well-known and powerful missionary paper called *El Atalaya*, although not bearing that name until twelve years later.

The first issues of this periodical were printed by an outside house. In July of the same year the Mission purchased a printing press for \$500.00 (Chilean currency) and with this began the first Seventh-day Adventist printing in the South American Continent. This first press was of a hand-power type almost identical to the first press ever owned by this denomination and which was operated at Rochester, New York, nearly half a century before, and which, being still used as a proof press, was destroyed in the Battle Creek fire in 1902, soon after the one in Chile was purchased.

E. W. Thomann, who had continued in self-sacrificing labor almost from the day of his conversion, was the first editor of this West Coast paper. Besides being later ordained to the gospel ministry, he remained in editorial work for seventeen years. The first pressman to operate our press in Chile was a young unconverted man by the name of Huks Ega.

The small printing establishment in Valparaiso was moved north to Iquique in 1903. At the end of 1904 it was moved back to Valparaiso and located this time on a narrow street, "Williams Passage," in an old building where there was constant danger of fire. Elder F. H. Westphal tells us that at that time he had to visit eleven insurance agencies before finding one that would take the risk involved in issuing insurance. Only a short time after this a fire totally destroyed our office and printing equipment but the insurance covered the loss and soon work was again resumed in a more favorable location with better equipment, including a new press. The experience all the way through seemed providential. The terrible Valparaiso earthquake which destroyed most of the city a few months later left our new establishment unharmed while, as Elder Westphal later said, "The old 'Williams Passage,' or what remained of it, was reduced to heaps of ruins and many of the people occupying its buildings were buried under them. If our brethren had not been driven from there by fire a few months before, they probably would have shared the same fate."

It seems our press fared better than any other in the city. Following the great calamity we were the first in Valparaiso to put out a printed report of the disaster. A special number of our periodical was published emphasizing the signs of the times. People everywhere were eager to obtain a copy of this paper and very soon the edition was exhausted. In 1908 the plant was transferred to Espejo, a small town near Santiago, the capital, where in 1911 it was discontinued. What equipment was not sold at that time was transferred to Buenos Aires, it having been decided to concentrate our South American Spanish printing efforts at one place in Argentine.

Denominational literature in South American languages had been produced on the continent even before the establishment of our own printing press. In one instance a man by the name of Segesser from Switzerland, who came to Uruguay, had eight of our tracts translated into Spanish and published at his own expense. These he donated to the work. A similar case occurred in Chile where a Bible Society man by the name of Weterbee had some of our smaller tracts translated and published.

Notable also in this connection was the beginning of a twelve-page monthly periodical in Argentine. It was called *El Faro* and the first number appeared in July of 1897. Among the several articles of this first number was one entitled "The Power of God's Word" written by the present Publishing Department Secretary of the denomination, Elder N. Z. Town. The first editors of this periodical were Elders J. Vuilleumier and F. H. Westphal. The issuing of this paper constitutes a landmark in our work for it was the first periodical ever published by Seventh-day Adventists in the South American Continent. It was printed for a time by another house in Buenos Aires and its publication was discontinued in 1910 when it gave way to our West Coast paper which a year later was transferred to Buenos Aires.

About twenty-three years ago an industry was started at our school located in North Argentine which grew into our present large representative publishing house in Buenos Aires now supplying all the Spanish fields of the Division. The equipment was a small cylinder press, a hand paper cutter, a stapler, and a small supply of type, all of which was installed in a room 12x14 feet. This was the beginning. They had no printer. Elder J. W. Westphal referring to this beginning later wrote, "The operator had perhaps

never seen the inside of a printing house. Mrs. R. H. Habenicht, who had done some work in the Iowa Conference office, willingly gave him his first lessons. Many things he had to learn alone, some of them on his knees before the Lord, and of course there were many things he never learned. Shivering with the cold and with fingers stiff, during the winter months they faithfully continued their work. There were days when they were never warm unless they had the privilege of turning the crank of the press."

In May of 1906, the little plant at the school was moved to Florida, a suburb of Buenos Aires, and installed in one room of a house which was sold to the Argentine Conference by Brother O. Opegard at a price which covered only a part of its value. Later Elder F. H. Westphal sold an adjoining lot with a similar sacrifice for the good of the work. The original house in Florida where the work was begun still serves in its remodeled form as the headquarters for the Austral Union Conference. The particular room in which our printing equipment was first installed serves today as office room for the departmental secretaries of the Union. The printing plant as it stands today is located a short distance from its original home in Florida.

The operator referred to above who took printing lessons from Mrs. Habenicht was a young man named Otto Heyde. There was another young man by the name of Segundo Sanchez who accompanied Brother Heyde from the beginning and when the plant was transferred to Buenos Aires these two men followed. Brother Heyde continued for some time as manager. Brother Sanchez is still faithfully working as foreman of the type room in our present plant.

In 1919 Elder J. W. Westphal wrote as follows regarding this beginning in Argentina, "The original \$1,000 [gold] worth of equipment which served to start the publishing work in our field in 1905 has so grown that at the end of June in 1918 the plant valued at nearly \$40,000.00. The amount of work turned out by the manufacturing department in 1909 was \$2,542.60 while that for 1917 was \$9,068.12. The retail value of the literature billed out by the house in 1917 was \$59,763.04." We may add that the annual retail business of this house today averages more than twice what it did even in 1917, and practically all this on literature produced by the plant. (To be continued).

E. H. MEYERS.

*Publishing Department Secretary,
South American Division.*

South Brazil Union

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Change in Directorship

AT THE annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Collegio Adventista, recently held, the resignation presented by Professor T. W. Steen was finally accepted, and after careful consideration, Professor G. B. Taylor was asked to take the directorship.

For many years Professor Steen has been connected with our Collegio as its director, and it was with reluctance that the Board considered a change. The Lord has blessed Professor Steen in his management of the school and he has shown exceptional ability in planning for and building up the different industries.

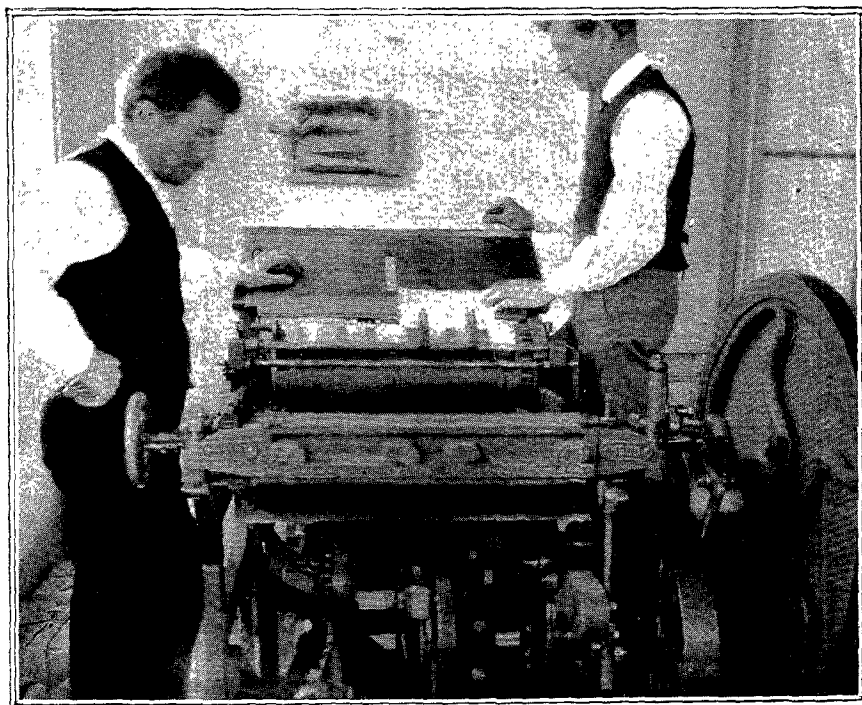
Professor Taylor has been connected with the Collegio for about seven years, and thus is also well acquainted with the school and its needs. He has a good command of the Portuguese language, which is a great asset. He is a good teacher, and we believe he is a Christian. So, after prayerful consideration, the Board unanimously invited him to take this responsibility. We pray that

the Lord may continue to bless him as he enters upon his new work. We believe that the school will continue to grow in efficiency as we work together for its upbuilding. Many of our young people, who have received a training at our Collegio Adventista, are today carrying responsibilities in our cause and the Lord is blessing them. We believe that this institution will continue to be the place where our young people of Brazil will receive a training for greater usefulness.

During the last trimester the writer had the privilege of spending several weeks at our Collegio, teaching as well as holding services with the students during the week of prayer. We found an excellent spirit at the school. Surely the Lord is blessing both the teachers and students there. It did our hearts good to see the earnestness that was manifested in seeking the Lord and drawing near to Him. We pray that this good spirit may continue.

As Seventh-day Adventists, it is our school; yea, it is the Lord's institution. Changes may come in the personnel of the Collegio; but the Lord will continue to be the Great Director, and His cause will move forward triumphantly. His work is not dependent upon any man. We solicit the prayers of our people in behalf of our school. Let us encourage our young people to attend.

N. P. NEILSEN.



The original press of the school as it appeared later at Florida (Buenos Aires).
Left: O. Heyde, right: J. Bonjour.

Dedication of the Lageado Church, Brazil

SINCE the year 1910 there has been a company of believers in Lageado, state of Santa Catharina, Brazil. The first members of this group were the family of Brother August Fuckner who came over from Germany in 1869. Through the faithfulness of this family, and as the result of other missionary work launched, a group of twenty-three members has been organized into a church.

For some time the Lageado brethren have been working diligently to make possible an appropriate place for worship, and great was their joy when on August 14 they were able to attend the dedication service of their modest building of 14x20 feet. They can now also have a church school for their children which has been much longed for. The land for the site was a donation from the leader of the company, Oswald Fuckner, son of August Fuckner, the first member of the original group.

The Lageado church is an earnest company of believers and we believe if they remain faithful the Lord will bless them with new converts to the truth.

K. KALTENHAUSER.

Evangelist, Brusque, Santa Catharina.

Our Colporteur Work

ENCOURAGING reports are coming from all parts of the field. We are anxiously waiting for the final reports for the month of November. Our October report gave a total of more than 63:000\$000. We are expecting as good results if not better for November.

Brother Zeroth, field missionary secretary of the Rio Grande do Sul Conference, is very much encouraged by the way the work is going in his field. He writes, "Our report of deliveries during October is more than twenty contos and is the record month for deliveries in our field."

Brother Carlos Elserman, one of Rio Grande do Sul's faithful colporteurs, writes: "I met a man who had 'Our Day.' He showed me the illustration on the second coming of Christ. He told me that he had a dream about this illustration and became so impressed with the truth that he could not sleep that night. He promised to visit our church in Porto Alegre to learn more about the truth."

Brother Ewal Doerner who is working in Italian territory with "Practical Guide" writes: "I met a man who had 'Our Day.' He said that the Bible was the first book for him and 'Our



Newly organized church at Brusque, Santa Catharina.

Day' the second. He gladly bought 'Practical Guide' which will perhaps be his third choice." Brother Doerner had already sold "Practical Guide" to eight priests in his territory.

Brother Alfredo Doerner, working in the city of Porto Alegre, does not find the territory as hard as he had thought it would be. He is improving the evening hours, taking from one to four orders, working as late as ten o'clock at night.

Sister Martha Wilke, their only lady worker for *O Atalaia*, is doing a good work in Porto Alegre. She had a number of people attending our church services who are becoming much interested in the truth. She is only doing what hundreds of our other young people could do.

C. L. BAINER.

Field Missionary Secretary, South Brazil Union.

South Brazil Notes

ACCORDING to a report just received from our publishing house at Sao Bernardo, their total sales for the year 1927 amounted to 1,014:768\$550 (\$144,996.93 gold) as against 761:035\$440 for 1926. This is an increase of 253:733\$110. This is really a remarkable increase and we thank the Lord for it. This increase is larger than our total sales were for 1921, which that year amounted to 202:623\$470. In other words, our sales for 1927 were more than five times as large as our sales only six years ago. For the first time our publishing house has passed the 1,000 *contos de reis* mark in a year! Surely the Lord is blessing this branch of the work.

WE TAKE the liberty of copying the following encouraging experience from a letter written from Curitiba, Parana, on New Year's day by Elder A. E. Hagen: "We had our baptism yesterday, and it was a beautiful service in every sense. The day was perfect and we found a wonderful spot for baptism in the woods along the river, a place which is a natural amphitheater. There we baptized eighteen souls, won by the grace of Christ.

Sixteen of them were from the outside, and two were of our youth, but all of them mature. We still have ten or twelve in our baptismal class for the close of this month, and there are others who are studying our message. It has been the hardest effort that I have ever conducted, but the most blessed. I am glad that we came here, and I believe that God will do a great work in this city."

THE Santa Catharina-Parana Mission went beyond its book-sales goal for 1927.

WE WERE pleased to have Elder C. B. Haynes, Professor C. P. Crager and Brother E. H. Meyers, from the Division office, with us at the time of our annual Board meetings, held at the Collegio during the closing days of the old year.

DURING the month of December twenty-six precious souls were baptized by Elder Luiz Braun in the Sao Paulo Conference in the following places: Cabo Verde 8, Novo Horizonte 4, Catanduva 3, Mogy Mirim 9, Riberao Preto 2.

DURING the month of December, Elder G. Streithorst, superintendent of the Santa Catharina-Parana Mission, baptized eighteen dear souls in different places in his field as follows: Lages 2, Orleans do Sul 4, Zimbros 1, Tijucas 4, Trombudos 1, Sao Francisco 6.

AFTER a talk by Elder A. N. Allen on the Indian work on the Araguaya River to the Missionary Volunteer Society at the time of the biennial session of the Sao Paulo Conference, 2:500\$000 was raised in cash and pledges. The goal of the Young People in this Conference for the year is 2:650\$000. They almost reached this the first Sabbath in the year. Now they plan to at least double their goal.

OUR book sales in the Sao Paulo Conference for 1927 were 280:000\$000. This is an increase of 74:092\$000 over 1926. This *increase* is larger than the total sales in 1921, which were 65:185\$300. The sales for 1927 are nearly six times as large as the sales were in 1920. We are grateful to the Lord for this good increase, knowing that the more literature that is scattered, the more souls will be brought to the truth.

ACCORDING to the latest reports which we have received, 423 persons were baptized in the South Brazil Union during 1927, divided between the fields as follows: Rio Grande do Sul 124, Santa Catharina-Parana 139, Sao Paulo 130, Goyaz 29, Matto Grosso 1. These figures may possibly be slightly changed when all the reports are in. This is an increase of 169 persons baptized over the previous year. We thank the Lord for this good increase, and we shall pray that these dear souls may continue faithful unto the end.

Austral Union Conference

E. L. MAXWELL - - - - *Pres dent*
 C. L. BAUER - - - - *Secy. - Treas.*
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 Buenos Aires, Argentine

Progress in the Belgrano Church of Buenos Aires

THE words of Isaiah 54:2 which say, "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations; spare not: lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes," have marked the progress of the great marching order since Carey was sent to Nottingham, and the importance of the message quoted has begun to be felt in our Belgrano church.

A short while ago the Belgrano church of Buenos Aires began a public effort in the local hall where we meet for church services, and since then Sunday night meetings have been continued. Our church has much to learn as yet in regard to the value of the co-operation needed by evangelists, nevertheless, they are working on and as a result have some interested ones attending regularly the Sunday night meetings, a part of whom are also members of our Sabbath school.

One church member spoke of the truth to his tailor who is an intelligent young man, and to whom I am giving Bible studies at the present time. He is deeply impressed with the marvelous things of the Bible and we have hopes of him accepting the message. A sister told me recently of a shoemaker who lives near the young man mentioned, and who desires with his family to study the Word of God. Heaven only knows what fruit will be garnered as a result of the seed planted in these hearts.

One truth that must be remembered in all our missionary work is that Satan works without ceasing in his opposition to the truth; but at the same time we must not fail to see the hand of God giving the victory to His messengers and to the souls who are seeking Him. Two women, an elderly mother and her married daughter, were interested by a member of their family and began to study the truth. The husband of the daughter is an ardent atheist. He hates the Lord, the Bible, Christians, and anything that pertains to religion. He is filled with atheistic philosophy. Unfortunately, there are many men of this class in the city of Buenos Aires, which make evangelical work very difficult. Occasionally the wife of this man slips in an opportune word to call his attention to the fulfillment of Scripture, but it only results in making the situation for herself and her mother very difficult. Her husband threatened to abandon her because it seems that he was unable to think of his friends believing him to be consenting to the religious views of his wife.

It was his custom to return home

from work on Saturday evening, but since his wife has a desire to attend church services on that day, he returns home by noon or before, devoting the entire time to asking information by telephone relative to his business; all of which makes it impossible for the sisters to attend the meetings. Notwithstanding, they continue to study valiently. We will evidently have to arrange a special baptism for them, however that will not be difficult. We only wish there were many more such sincere souls who were ready and willing to make the sacrifice, even though it would be necessary to have more special baptisms.

There is an elderly lady among us whose faithfulness in the payment of tithe is really an example. If all were as conscientious as she, I believe there would not be a scarcity of means for the promotion of the work. If any one gives her a dozen eggs, she calculates the price and sets apart the tithe. How many of those who read these lines do the same? When visiting her during a short illness, she said that she wanted to consult me regarding some of her tithe. You may be surprised when I tell you the experience. "As you know," she told me, "I am sewing for a certain family. They pay me two pesos a day and give me lunch. I calculate that the lunch would cost 50 centavos. My son told me that I ought to pay a tithe of this 50 centavos. I do not want to be at fault because of ignorance. What counsel will you give me?"

Would that there were in all the people of God this same spirit of abnegation and sacrifice.

JUAN FERRI.

*Elder, Belgrano Church,
 Buenos Aires.*

Jewels for the King's Crown

HAPPY were the brethren and sisters of the five churches and two groups of believers in and about Buenos Aires that gathered in the Florida church on December 31 to witness a solemn but precious ceremony—the presentation to our Saviour-King of a group of twenty-two living jewels for His diadem. So many were the candidates that asked for baptism on that occasion, that it was thought best to celebrate the sacred rite in two parts. In the morning the candidates from the churches of Buenos Aires, Villa Ballester and Santos Lugares and the groups of Derkqui, Bella Vista, and José C. Paz were baptized, sixteen in number, and in the afternoon, those of the Belgrano and Florida churches, which totaled six more; making the total of baptized ones stand at twenty-two for the day.

One of the candidates that joined the Derqui group is a nephew of the Bishop of the province of Corrientes, Argentine, a living proof of the statement of Sister White that there are many honest-hearted souls in the Catholic church that will embrace the message. Another candidate who joins the Florida church is a brother of one of the earliest converts to the truth in the Argentine. He has known the truth for thirty years, but did not embrace it in the early days when the way would have been easier. Now, when heavy family responsibilities made the step a very serious one, he has taken a firm stand, sacrificing a good post in railroad employ in order to obey his conscience. And the Lord is rewarding his faith and providing for his needs and those of his family. This case should encourage us to persevere in our prayers and efforts for our loved ones who do not share with us the blessings of God's message.

A spirit of consecration to the work of spreading the truth is permeating the churches represented in the above mentioned gathering. Bright prospects of further harvests of souls are before them, and we believe that a new day has dawned for the work of God in the city of Buenos Aires and its neighborhood.

EDGAR BROOKS.

Editor, Spanish Watchman Magazine.

A Visit to the Sanitarium

IT WAS my privilege to spend the week December 17-25 at our Sanitarium located at Puiggari, province of Entre Rios, Argentine. I found the institution enjoying the largest patronage in recent years for the time of year when patronage is not expected to be at its best. The house was well filled with contented patients and the Sanitarium family was very busy in joyfully serving them. An encouraging feature is that some of the patients are from distant cities.

It is gratifying to see a new era of prosperity before the Sanitarium for it has been a mighty influence in the past in training medical missionaries for our mission fields and conferences in South America. In all parts of the continent are found ministers and

South American Bulletin

Published monthly as the Official Organ of the
South American Division of the General Confer-
ence of Seventh-day Adventists

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION PRICE 50 CENTS GOLD

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workers who have had their training here. Since its foundation it has provided a constant stream of faithful, capable workers, and we pray that through the providence of God they may continue to go out to help finish the work in South America. It has been an evangelistic agency in Entre Rios for leading individuals to the truth through its ministry.

In recent years the institution has been struggling along handicapped without the necessary equipment while doctors in adjacent towns were putting in modern equipment, thus drawing patients from them. Facing the situation, the management launched a campaign in the spring of 1927 to raise funds for strengthening the equipment of the Sanitarium. The campaign brought in about \$16,000 pesos (\$6,790.00 gold) which was used to purchase a modern diathermic X-ray and some other necessary electrical appliances. These have been a great blessing to the institution for just as soon as it was known publicly the patients began to come and are continuing to come. These patients have gone away satisfied and have often sent their friends to us for care.

The week spent at the Sanitarium was dedicated to spiritual work for the family. An hour a day was given to special meetings when all the workers attended so far as was compatible with positive care of the sick. We all enjoyed the presence and definite blessing of the Lord in these meetings, and all consecrated themselves to Him for service.

The nurse body is composed of a sincere and earnest group of young people who have apparently the one object in view and that is earnest Christian service in the institution and a preparation for service in the mission fields.

R. R. BREITGAM.

Home Missionary Secretary,
South American Division.

Organization of a Church in El Chaco, Argentine

THE place, Charata, is about the same latitude with southern Paraguay. This territory opened up for colonization a few years ago with great, as yet unrealized, prospects for agriculture, especially cotton raising. For a few years there was a great boom, but now for three or four years there has been little rain causing much depression.

Several apostate Seventh-day Adventists moved to this place from Brazil and Argentine some years ago with their families. While they were far from united in many things, they found one point of common interest, opposition to our work. However, they still professed to keep and teach the Sabbath truth. The numerous members of these families seemed to be submerged completely with this influence about them and for sometime it was not thought there was any wheat among the chaff. In the midst of it all two families and other individuals began to keep the Sabbath. They organized themselves into a company, had regular Sabbath meetings, and selected one of the new Sabbath-keepers as their leader. They could not unite on any one else. Their meetings were devoted to disputations, especially against Seventh-day Adventist doctrines. Could anything good come out of such a Nazareth?

Some of the children of one of these opposers, some single and some married, desired baptism. The chosen leader was to baptize. At this point there came a change. The leader, not being ordained, had some questions in his mind in regard to it. The mother and a sister of the children, who were once members of the Seventh-day Adventist church but had drifted with the husband and father, but really never in sympathy with him, told him discreetly but decidedly that they had gone with him now for fifteen years, but would go with him no further. If there were any Seventh-day Adventists to be found they would henceforth meet with them. The sister is a cripple since early childhood and is compelled to use crutches. Some years ago she attended our academy for three years. This had left its impression on her and was now to bring fruit. She told the leader that he had no right to baptize, not being ordained, and, further, that those who desired baptism would not be baptized of him, which, of course, deepened his own feeling concerning it. She also told him that they were Seventh-day Adventists, and that they would no longer attend the meetings dominated by the opposition. Henceforth the meetings

would have to be held where the opposition had no right to control and where they could be held in harmony with our ideals and principles. Thus a complete separation was made, and the leader naturally drifted into the position of leader of the Adventist group. Since then the Lord has greatly blessed them with other conversions.

The little cripple girl of about twenty-five years of age has been the means of great blessing to them. Her training in our school has had a lasting effect on her, and she has been the inspiration of a new order of things. She had taken music in school and now assumed the responsibility of training these people in singing. All parts and the most difficult hymns are sung most acceptably. It seems hardly in keeping with their humble, primitive homes. Her entire family had been led back to the use of pork through the insistence of the father, she holding out against it alone for many years. Now the whole family in a very wise way balked. She brought the matter to a decision during a discussion at the table by a vote, all but the father voting against it, including the smaller children. He is not an unkind man to his family, and so succumbed as gracefully as possible.

It was the writer's privilege to baptize thirteen souls and organize a church of twenty-four members and celebrate with them the Lord's supper. The former leader is now elder, and another who had accepted the Sabbath in the same confusion is the deacon. They believe the entire third angel's message, and are a united, happy, consecrated company. As we were going home after the organization of the church this cripple girl said to me in an animated, rejoicing way: "Now I realize more than ever that my name is written in heaven." When she spoke to me about her crippled condition, that others who were well and strong had died and she still lived, I told her that probably for this work as it developed there she had been crippled and still lived. So I believe it is. During all the years of extreme suffering and helplessness she has always worn a smiling face, an example of patience and kindness.

2 Tim. 2:19, a text I have often meditated on and wondered what it meant, has become clear to my mind as I have pondered the above experience:

"The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

J. W. WESTPHAL.

Field Secretary,
South American Division.