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"The People Had a Mind to Work"

By H. D. Colburn

MID-CENTURY INGATHERING CAMPAIGN



"Our God, He will
prosper us, Therefore
we, His servants,
will arise and
Build."

"So built we the wall, and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work." *Neh. 4:16*. Working in the face of the most disconcerting circumstances, the Jews persevered until the great work which they had undertaken was completed. In spite of determined opposition by Sanballat, Tobiah and others, the work went forward to a glorious completion because the people "had a mind to work."

It is indeed heart-warming to see a great organization united and eager to carry out a heaven-ordered assignment. That which seems well nigh impossible soon becomes a finished task when men labour in confidence and assurance of ultimate victory. So it has always been and so it is today, for, according to David, God's people shall be "willing in the day of His power." *Ps. 110:3*.

As the Church in the British West Indies Union undertakes the greatest Home Missionary Campaign in its entire history, she goes forward with assurance that the work which is given her will succeed, for it is ordained of God! Belief in a speedy victory is born of the conviction that, as the Lord was with His people anciently in all their undertakings which He authorized, so will He be with them in the Mid-Century Ingathering Campaign. Success in the effort is as inevitable as was that of the Jewish exiles in the building of the broken down walls of ancient Jerusalem.

Our task is different than theirs, but it calls for the same devotion to duty. Our objective will be reached as we work faithfully and diligently. With the determination born of a sense of the urgency of our work, all of our churches and conferences will reach the particular objectives set for themselves.

Funds are urgently needed to strengthen the work all along the lines in our conferences and missions. Our numerous

give of their abundance for the support of His work, and He will do this as soon as His people learn to approach these men wisely and to call their attention to that which it is their privilege to do. If the needs of the Lord's work were set forth in a proper light before those who have means, and influence, these men might do much to advance the cause of present truth. God's people have lost many privileges of which they could have taken advantage, had they not chosen to stand independent of the world." *Christian Service*, pp. 167, 168.

How encouraging it is to know that God not only expects us to contact these people, but He has already assured us of their generosity as we set before them "the needs of the Lord's work." It gives a poise and bearing to the worker for God that elevates him far above the worldly salesman. It also elevates the Campaign far above mere solicitation for a worthy cause. It is teaming up with the eternal God in a programme, the success of which is already vouchsafed.

In our "Mid-Century Ingathering Campaign" this year, there is being held out the greatest number of incentives for doing faithful work which have ever been held before us. Among the many which might be cited is an added one; namely, the strengthening of our educational work throughout our entire field. Provision has been made in the newly adopted British West Indies Union Policy which provides that the greatest percentage ever allotted for education may revert to the local field. This alone would be sufficient reason to call for the best efforts of each member of the Church to make more "Missionary Calls" than ever before, for all are deeply concerned over the welfare of our boys and girls and young people. Then, besides raising funds to strengthen the other phases of our work which benefit from the Ingathering reversions, there should be an

(Continued on page 4)

friends are waiting for our visit to present their gifts to us. God is waiting to move upon their hearts to be generous. Ingathering is a heaven-ordained means for strengthening the Church spiritually as well as to aid in carrying on the gigantic humanitarian and uplift work throughout the world which forms an integral part of our overall programme. Please note the following lines from the pen of inspiration:

"God has an abundance in our world, and He has placed His goods in the hands of all, both the obedient and the disobedient. He is ready to move upon the hearts of worldly men, even idolaters, to

BAHAMAS MISSION

R. E. GIBSON, President
MRS. OWEN JONES, Secy.-Treas.
Box 356, Nassau, Bahamas.

Bahamas Mission News Notes

Brother Paul Ward at a recent committee meeting gave a stirring report of the history of our work in San Salvador where he accepted the truth over thirty years ago. Soon after his conversion he started to labour on Cat Island. Five organized churches now testify to the faithful labours of Brother Ward.

Brother U. B. Tooté reported on the growth of his one-room school house on Andros Island. Ninety-five per cent of the present enrollment which now stands at ninety are from Seventh-day Adventist homes. Some of the children have to walk from two and one-half to six miles each day. Brother Tooté himself is making no small sacrifice to carry on the work of the school. Plans are being laid to build a new school with better facilities to carry on this important part of the Lord's work.

Elder Gibson is leading out in a strong soul-winning campaign, and the members have all pledged themselves to do their utmost to help finish the work which God has entrusted to us.

Pastor Gibson and the writer had a most interesting and enjoyable time in the Ingathering work. The business men actually thanked us for giving them the opportunity of helping in such a worthy work. The Mission Committee set their Ingathering goal at £725-0-0 which is the largest amount the Bahamas Mission has ever set for one campaign. Let us join with them in prayer that they will not only reach this objective, but will have a large overflow.

— R. W. N.

MID-CENTURY INGATHERING CAMPAIGN

BRITISH HONDURAS MISSION

J. N. WILLIAMS, President.
IVY USHER, Secy.-Treas.
P. O. Box 170, Belize, British Honduras

British Honduras Mission Session

Twenty-eight delegates and one hundred faithful members gathered in the Belize, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Feb. 3-6 for the biannual Mission Session. A spirit of close fellowship and earnest zeal was manifested throughout the meetings, and advanced plans were laid in every department of the work.

The baptisms for 1948 and 1949 totalled 75 souls; a goal of 200 was set for 1950. Twenty laymen promised that by God's help they would win from one to five souls during the coming year. The working force of the British Honduras Mission has been small, but the spirit of advancement has taken hold of every worker.

On Sabbath afternoon, the members told of their experiences in winning souls to Christ. Brother B. A. Woodburn told of a lady at Monkey River who was dying, but was miraculously healed in answer to prayer. To each one who came to visit her, she told of her Saviour's love and the precious truth of the Third Angel's Message.

Brother A. Ramcharan of the Calcutta church does medical missionary work among his neighbours. As a boy he learned from his father of the natural medicine found in the roots and leaves as placed there by the Creator. He visits the sick for miles around and applies the remedies that will bring healing to the physical body. Later he visits them again and turns their attention to the great Physician who can heal their sin-sick souls.

In this section of the country there are many poisonous snakes. Brother Ramcharan has treated more cases than any other one man in the country besides the regular physician, and has never lost a case. Once he used an old knife to save a snake victim and was told by the police that he would be arrested and tried if the man died. God saved the man's life and this brought to thirty the number of lives he had definitely saved, besides the scores of others he had relieved of suffering.

The work of God in the British Honduras Mission is forward. We wish Pastor Williams and his workers much of God's blessing for the next two years.

— R. W. N.

INGATHERING TIME IS HERE AGAIN!

CAYMAN ISLANDS MISSION

O. V. SCHNEIDER, President
George Town, Grand Cayman

Cayman Islands Mission Session

Delegates and members of the various churches in the Cayman Islands Mission met in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, for their third Mission Session. Pastor O. V. Schneider rendered an interesting and most encouraging report of the work for the past two years. In 1947 and 1948 the membership stood static at 114, but in 1949, twenty-eight precious souls were added to the church. The hearts of all were stirred in behalf of those who are yet outside the Fold of Safety. The members set personal goals for souls which totaled seventy-five for the coming year. Plans were made to double the Mission's Publishing goal of £100-0-0. Forty-six Pounds (£46-0-0) were raised for Ingathering last year, but the members are aiming at £81-0-0 for 1950.

Brother C. R. Wood, Sabbath School Secretary, for the Mission gave a report on the growth of the Sabbath School work. The hearts of all responded to his appeal.

They pledged themselves for more active service during the next two years.

Sister Schneider did much to bring an atmosphere of prayer and meditation by her preludes on the electric Hammond organ. Elders Colburn and Schneider added to the spiritual feast by their special numbers on the trombone and accordion. Pastor Schneider has his own electric generator which he has built on a trailer that provides electric power for the churches he visits on Grand Cayman.

After the Session, Elder Colburn conducted a Sabbath School Convention which was attended by representatives of the various churches that were present at this session. Members of the Executive Committee consisting of O. V. Schneider, George Merren, C. R. Wood, T. M. Dias, and V. T. Bodden were again re-elected. May God continue to richly bless the work in this most interesting field.

— R. W. N.

MID-CENTURY INGATHERING CAMPAIGN

EAST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

K. S. CROFOOT, President.
MISS E. W. PARCHMENT, Secy.-Treas.
176 Orange St., Kingston, Jamaica.

Record Baptism at Greenwich Town

Another record has been made in the history of the East Jamaica Conference. The early morning of the 5th of February, 1950, witnessed the baptism of 100 souls—the first fruits of the result of an evangelistic effort held by Pastors M. G. and H. E. Nembhard assisted by Brother H. Fletcher. If joy is in heaven over one sinner that repenteth then that joy must have reached its acme as this rite was solemnized. The heavenly bodies seemed to have been attuned, for the moon with its unusual luster faded only when the sun came out from the horizon and rose above our heads with more than usual magnificence. Even the birds, the dwellers of the heaven nearest earth, in their morning song seemed to join with the 4,000 odd individuals as they sang:

"There were ninety and nine that
safely lay

In the shelter of the fold
But one was out on the hills away
Far off from the gates of gold."

Like the one lost sheep of that beautiful parable is the Greenwich Town section of Kingston which had to be sought out and brought to Christ through the medium of evangelism. Through the power and love of the Great Shepherd many of the candidates were "men and women who have broken the chains of sinful habit." They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have bourned the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God. This

change is in itself the miracle of miracles." No wonder then there must have arisen "a cry from the gates of heaven Rejoice I have found my sheep And the angels sang around the throne Rejoice for the Lord brings back His own."

Present for the occasion were Elder E. F. Hackman, President of the Inter-American Division; Pastor H. S. Walters, M. V. and Educational Secretary of the British West Indies Union, who delivered a stirring address on the true significance of baptism; and Pastor K. S. Crofoot, President of the East Jamaica Conference, who with the Nembhard Brothers officiated jointly in performing the baptismal rites. Each act was punctuated by appropriate music led by the Trench Town and Regent Street choirs. After the last candidate was baptized an appeal was made to those who would like to follow their Lord in baptism at some future time, and over sixty signified their intention.

The reception of the 100 candidates in the evening was no less impressive. Not one was missing. The occasion drew to the Gospel Lighthouse Tent an unusually large crowd. With a song on his heart each candidate received his certificate and a warm handshake of welcome into the membership of the most glorious church of all the ages.

INGATHERING TIME IS HERE AGAIN!

Evangelistic Campaign Starts at Spanish Town

Spanish Town donned a new role in the field of evangelism on Sunday, March 5 when one of the three major efforts planned for 1950 was launched in the tent pitched on Walks Road. An auspicious occasion it was as Pastor A. R. Haig of the British West Indies Union Mission, evangelist in charge; Pastor Lee Gouldbourne; and the Spanish Town Church choir formed the advance guard which will battle for weeks to come for the souls of men and women in the historical old capital. Present also were Pastors H. S. Walters, C. S. Greene, and W. U. Campbell of the Union, West Indian Training College, and East Jamaica Conference respectively. A very wet evening it was, but as the darker shades of night crept on, Providence intervened for the rains ceased shortly before the hour set for beginning, the moon rose majestically over the dark receding clouds, and the people flocked to the tent until the audience numbered around 500—a splendid crowd indeed under the situation.

The subject announced for the evening was beautifully introduced by the songs and choruses selected for the lively song service; they all centered around Jesus. The singing of the Theme song, "In my heart, send a great revival" preceded Pastor Haig's message for the evening. He made it plain that Jesus was the only

Hope of the world. He compared the hopes of the heathen, the Pagan, the infidel, with the Christian's hope, and contrasted their actions. Surely the testimonies of the Christian range with authority and certainty. He reminded the audience of the fact that if we receive all that was nearest and dearest, but did not accept Jesus as our eternal hope, we shall have received nothing.

Monday night was comparatively fair, and a much larger crowd came out to hear the message on "Emmanuel, and how to approach Him." Pastor Haig and the East Jamaica Conference members solicit the prayers of all the readers of the VISITOR that God will bless the effort with a large number of souls saved in His Kingdom.

Gospel Crusade at Port Maria

The happiest group of believers in the East Jamaica Conference on Sunday evening, March 5, was to be found in Port Maria. You ask the reason why? Because at that time began the practical realization of an age-long promise of a major evangelistic effort in that town. Pastor K. S. Crofoot, who is ably assisted by Brother H. Fletcher, is in charge of the meetings. His first message was delivered to a large, interested group which filled the church to the over-flowing. We hope and pray that there will be a rich harvest of souls.

MID-CENTURY INGATHERING CAMPAIGN

Stone-Laying at Bartons

On Sunday afternoon, January 29, a very interesting and successful Stone Laying Ceremony was conducted at the Bartons church. The entire church membership was present, and all were made happy to see many friends and neighbours attend the service.

The members of the church have been struggling to get started on their building. Several months ago the booth in which they worshipped collapsed completely, leaving them at the mercy of the weather. The foundation is of cut stone, very beautifully done, and gives promise of providing a lovely building in this rural community.

After the stones had been laid by the friends in the community, members of the church, representatives from the East Jamaica Conference and the British West Indies Union, as well as several near-by churches, the sermon was preached by Pastor Crofoot, who took as his text I Peter 2:5, 6. The Blue Hole church provided several excellently rendered musical numbers. The financial returns from this Stone Laying were very satisfactory, and it is hoped that very shortly the Bartons church members will have a roof over their heads. Let us pray for these faithful, struggling believers.

SALT CAYS MISSION

W. H. WALLER, President
Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos Islands

News Notes

I am sure our readers will be glad to receive a personal message from a letter written by Pastor Waller who left for Tampa, Florida, a few months ago. Sister Waller, who had suddenly lost her sight, had been rushed to Florida to consult some eye specialists. This letter is dated February 21st:

"I just thought that I would drop you a line to let you know how we are over here. On arriving I found that the doctor here had given Mrs. Waller careful check. He had consulted with about three doctors whom he termed 'the best,' and he said that they were all agreed on her case and the treatment that she should receive. He has said several times that he has cause to believe that she will wholly regain her sight, but at least he was sure that she would regain a part of that which was lost. It has been about fifteen years since he has seen a case like this. This ailment was more common in 1918. The doctor has given reasonable assurance that she will regain at least a part and possibly the whole of her vision. He has not known a case where a patient failed to regain some of his sight.

"Every day she receives quite a number of injections. The doctor calls daily and gives one to each eye. He says that the eyes are coming along nicely. She receives very good treatment in the hospital.

"When I visited her yesterday afternoon, she told me that she could recognize her hand about six inches from the eye. Last night when I moved about the bed she said she recognized my form about three or four feet away, so she seems to be coming along. We just hope and pray that her recovery can be rapid so that we may soon be back at our post of duty."

— R. W. N.

INGATHERING TIME IS HERE AGAIN!

WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

W. S. NATION, President.
MRS. D. RODRIQUES, Secy.-Treas.
Mandeville, Jamaica.

News Notes from West Jamaica Conference

From the servant of the the Lord comes this time-honoured quotation, "Youthful talents, well trained and well organized is needed in our church today." As leaders and believers in this closing message we recognize the far-reaching truth that is within this statement, and the enormous responsibility laid upon us to organize and

train our young people to do their part in finishing the work in this generation.

With this in mind, Brother Joe Fletcher, Home Missionary and Missionary Volunteer Secretary; and Pastor H. S. Walters, Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the B. W. I. Union, visited a number of churches in West Jamaica, where the Missionary Volunteer officers were invited to meet to organize and lay plans for better and more aggressive service during 1950.

They began at Petersfield on December 26 and from the very beginning a very lively interest was demonstrated by everyone. Each session was largely attended not only by the Missionary Volunteer officers, but also by the members of the churches.

On the following day they went over to Lucea in the Hanover District where the response was the same as that experienced at Petersfield. On the third day they were in the large Montego Bay church and had very good success. Then on the fourth day they went on to Jointwood in the St. Elizabeth District. From very early there was a large and enthusiastic gathering and everyone had a well spent day.

The following week two of these conventions were held. The first was at May Pen in the Clarendon District. Here too was a fine group of Missionary Volunteer officers and members of the churches. Their next visit was paid to Sherwood Content in the Trelawny District. Pastor Walters was unable to attend, but as at May Pen, valuable assistance was given by Mrs. B. Bent, Office Secretary to the Department. Additional assistance was given by Miss Ethline Lindo, and Mr. Nord Nation, Dean of Women and Science Teacher respectively of the West Indian Training College.

Special mention should be made of the District Pastors who gave valuable help on each occasion.

With an organized Missionary Volunteer army, fully equipped, we can do marvelously during 1950. Our motto is "The Advent Message to all West Jamaica," and as these youthful warriors march along, let every advent believer lend a helping hand to their cause.

For the first quarter of 1950, four new Sabbath Schools have been added to the West Jamaica Conference through the work of our lay brethren. Each one of these was first started as a branch school and through faithful tending has been developed into a regularly organized school. The Santa Cruz Church worked for Slipe, the Bird's Hill Church for Moors, the Jointwood Church for Ruthven, and the Mandeville Church for Mike Town. We are indeed happy to welcome these new Sabbath Schools into our fellowship.

INGATHERING TIME IS HERE AGAIN!

The People Had a Mind to Work

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urge on the part of every Seventh-day Adventist, to visit as many people as possible during this Mid-Century House-to-House Evangelistic Crusade, affording, as it will, wonderful opportunities to tell others of the hope that is so dear to our hearts.

To "encourage one another," we will be preparing six Bulletins during the period of the annual campaign in Jamaica, April 29 to June 10. These will keep the entire field informed of the progress being made in this Colony as well as to let all know what has and is being done in the Missions of the Union. Some will have already reached their goals by the time of the first issue. Their success will serve as stimuli to the larger number who will be starting their campaigns.

In the providences of God, let us go "forward in faith" and soon it can be said of modern Israel: "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work!"

Mid-Century Home Evangelism

"Of the children of Issachar... were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." *I Chron. 12:32*. The same could be said of modern Israel, for God has given us abundant light concerning the times! The Servant of the Lord has said: "We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. There are wars and rumours of wars. Nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. Events are changing to bring about the day of God which hasteth greatly. Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains." *Vol. VI, p. 14*.

"Understanding of the times" places us in a unique position. Because of this, there rests upon the Church the responsibility of letting others know the meaning of present-day conditions. God is calling everyone of us to reveal to others that which He has shown us and is anxiously awaiting our response to be His messengers. "Christ accepts, O so gladly! every human agency that is surrendered to Him. He brings the human into union with the divine, that He may communicate to the world the mysteries of incarnate love. Talk it, pray it, sing it, fill the world with the message of His truth, and keep pressing on into the regions beyond." *Vol. IX, p. 30*.

Remember that on May 6, we are hoping that one hundred thousand homes will be reached as sixteen thousand Seventh-day Adventists in the British West Indies Union territory unite in the greatest house-to-house visitation programme ever undertaken before. With you, you should carry appropriate tracts to leave. After

The British West Indies Union Visitor

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a neighbourly visit, wherever possible, a word of prayer in behalf of the home would surely be in order.

In this "Mid-Century Home Evangelism" programme, we are hoping that everyone will take part. Again God's Messenger speaks: "All the members should engage actively in missionary work. They should visit every family in the neighbourhood and know their spiritual condition." *Vol. VI, p. 296*. In this most important missionary work, we are hoping and praying that all of God's people who "know what Israel ought to do" at a time like this, will rally to the call of your Church, Mission, or Conference and do your full part in making May 6 one of the greatest days in our history!

—H. D. COLBURN, Secretary
Home Missionary Department.

MID-CENTURY INGATHERING CAMPAIGN

"Teaching Teachers to Teach"

"And they that be teachers (margin) shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." *Dan. 12:3*.

During this year, special emphasis is being placed on the evangelistic potentialities of our Sabbath Schools. The effectiveness of these organizations, however, will depend in a large measure upon the teachers who are closest to their pupils. We are, therefore, appealing to each Sabbath School Council to give earnest study to the matter of improving your teacher personnel.

In no other way can this be done better than through Sabbath School Teachers' Training Classes, using as a basis for their study, the work: "Teaching Teachers to Teach." The effectiveness of any Sabbath School teacher's work will be increased many fold after the completion of this splendid course of study.

Please get in touch with your Conference or Mission Sabbath School Secretary for further information.

—H. D. COLBURN, Secretary
Sabbath School Department.