

V I S I T O R

Bahamas

East Jamaica

West Jamaica

Caymans

Turks & Caicos

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Good-bye

H. D. COLBURN

The time for severing my direct connection with the East Jamaica Conference has come, and I am taking advantage of this means to convey to you in the eastern part of Jamaica a little parting message.

Thirty-three months ago I accepted your kind invitation to serve you as president. In this action you conferred a great honour upon me as well great responsibilities and a tremendous amount of hard work.

As I take a retrospective look over this chapter of my life which now ends, I find pleasant memories surging through my mind and a certain sense of satisfaction which fully compensate for the effort expended.

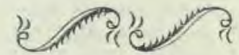
The friendships formed through intimate association with workers and laity have enriched my own experience and have made me glad many times for the privilege of being in East Jamaica. Often the words of David have come to my mind: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

The atmosphere about the conference office has resembled that of a happy family. Never has a discordant note sounded, and this harmony has played a major part in the realization of the many accomplishments which could be recorded. The departmental secretaries and the stenographers have all played their parts well. Miss Edna Parchment, our secretary-treasurer and manager of the Book & Bible House, richly deserves my highest tribute for faithful, conscientious and efficient service. I shall always respect and admire her for the invaluable contribution she has made and is making to the cause of God. The district pastors and colporteurs and teachers all are deserving of commendation, and the laity, God bless them all too, shall not be forgotten for the co-operation and faithfulness in doing their

part to hasten on the work through sacrificial gifts and labour.

I have given unstintedly of my time and energy in working and planning for the best interests of the work dear to the heart of all of us. God has been gracious in rewarding our united labours with success. Figures could be cited to show that trends have been in the right direction, but this might appear to be boasting, and "God forbid that I should

As our new president, Elder Richard E. Delafield takes over the "wheel" I want to assure you, one and all, that you are in good hands! May God bless him and you as East Jamaica moves forward to ever greater achievements for God! May He keep us each faithful until the work is finished, and we, with unutterable rapture, hear His gracious words: "Well done . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Goodbye!



Keeping the Door

"Who will please God, and set a watch, a continual watch, before the mouth, and keep the door of the lips? Speak evil of no man. Hear evil of no man. If there be no hearers, there will be no speakers of evil. If anyone speaks evil in your presence, check him. Refuse to hear him, though his manner be ever so soft and his accents mild. He may profess attachment, and yet throw out covert hints and stab the character in the dark." — *Testimonies*, Vol. 2, page 54.

glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." The credit all goes to God and to you faithful men and women, ten thousands strong, who make up the East Jamaica Conference family. Without heaven's blessing and a willingness on the part of each of you, the membership could not stand at its present impressive figure, or the conference could not take pride in its sound financial position.

EAST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

Pres. R. E. DELAFIELD

Secy.-Treas. MISS E. W. PARCHMENT

Ye Were Dear Unto Us

"Because ye were dear unto us", (1 Thes. 2:8). These words were written by the great apostle Paul many centuries ago. They vividly express the reason why he was so devoted to his labours of sacrifice and suffering. He answered the Macedonian call because he was affectionately desirous of seeing the souls of men and women saved, who would have otherwise been lost. His whole life was permeated by a passion of love for the purchased by the blood of his Saviour, and ever after meeting and envisioning Jesus on the road to Damascus, he like his Master, "lived to bless others." Is there any wonder then that Paul could say as he did in 1 Thes. 2:1, "Yourselves, brethren, know, our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain."

The spirit of love that possessed the heart of Paul was indeed the spirit of the Saviour. This is the spirit that must possess the hearts of the gospel minister and his wife, if their work is to abide. We have earnestly prayed that God would see fit to implant in our hearts the identical spirit that prompted Paul's zeal so that our labours may abide and have divine approval.

As we pause and view in retrospect our brief period in Portland, we see the hazards of the highway, the long days itinerating, over the river on horseback, as well as on foot, the many church as well as individual problems, the funds-raising campaigns, the many church-building programmes, the soul winning or evangelistic efforts, and many other unnamed duties we are assured that it was the power of Him who inspired the great apostle that enabled us in our endeavours. Yes, God enabled us, "because ye were dear unto us." We rejoice with you in the souls that have been saved for eternity. Perhaps just a couple samples of soul-winning experiences will suffice to show our cause for rejoicing:

We had been visiting all the morning. It was lunch time, and we were tired. There was just one house on the hill beyond, and we were tempted to leave that one out. To soothe our consciences we made inquiry and were informed that the individual who lived in that house was a difficult type to deal with. We were assured that she was a "hard nut" that would oppose any friendly gestures. Nevertheless, the spirit prompted us to make bold and go. We entered the house and were seated and casually began conversing, but, very abruptly she asked, "What is your object in visiting me?" In brief I answered that our object was first of all to become acquainted with the folk in the neighbourhood and if desirable to have

a word of prayer in all Christian homes. She accepted my suggestion and soon we were on our knees praying. As we rose from prayer we mentioned our meetings and asked the lady to pray for their success. This she assured us that she would do. We were indeed happy to see that lady at every possible meeting since, and she took a very active part too. She continued coming until the time of our first baptism at which time she was buried with her Lord.

The second experience is equally as thrilling as the first:

We were driving down the street in a certain town. Just at the moment that we were turning a corner a sister who was along with us pointed out a certain elderly man as she remarked, "He is one of our members." At a glance it was observed that he had a cigar between his fingers. Promptly we stopped, and the man was invited over to the car. A very short introduction followed. After such an informal introduction I talked to him about the glories of heaven, the joy it will be to be with Jesus, and the importance of being ready for His soon coming. Then slipping my arm on his shoulders I invited him to join with us in prayer that we all may be prepared, and then we parted. This visit on the street was followed by another in the home a bit later. Our next visit to his church was a happy one because that brother was there rejoicing in Jesus and testifying of the victory that he had gained over evil habits.

As we think of these and many other experiences during our days of service in Portland, we feel like using the words of the apostle Paul as recorded in 1 Thes. 2:19, 20: "For what is our hope, or joy, our crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy."

Even now, as we are planning soon to leave the beautiful shores of Jamaica in answer to the Master's call, we are thinking of you. We think of those who have been long in the way. We think of those who have been restored to fellowship. We think of nearly ninety recent converts who have been baptized during our short stay. We think of those who have seemingly lost the way. Our prayer for each and every one is that ye may with us rejoice in the presence of Jesus at His coming. Perhaps the parting expressions from the Spanish language better conveys our feeling at a time like this: "A Dios! Hasta la Vista," which literally mean, We commit you to God until we see you.

—PASTOR & MRS. W. H. WALLER.

East Jamaica News Notes

It was a rainy morning. Between showers we pulled out of Highgate to meet with the brethren at Albany. It was Sabbath school time, and every one

could see that this was no morning to leave the house. But soon the brethren were coming with tall water-boots, rough shoes, jackets and coats which were shed off near the meeting house and more appropriate ones replaced as they entered the humble but certain tabernacle of God. Truly, when the love of God fills the heart there is no sacrifice too great to make to be with the believers for worship on God's Holy Sabbath day.

In a beautiful valley in Eastern St. Mary stands a monument to God's saving grace. The Comfort Valley S.D.A. church members turned out in full with many, many friends from the surrounding districts to enjoy the Harvest Festival programme, August 16. The visitors were particularly impressed with the lovely stone structure going up to the glory of God in that community. They are working and looking forward to its dedication in the near future.

On Sunday, August 23, the little town of Highgate was invaded with visitors from the Greenwich and Trench Town churches and other visitors from Kingston. At 5:00 p.m. the theatre was nearly crowded with curious friends from far and near to listen to the programme scheduled for that evening by visiting artists. The programme was a delightful one and upheld the high standards of Christian living in a manner that will not soon be forgot in this section of St. Mary.

The night of August 24 will long be remembered by the community of Robin's Bay. Have you ever heard of a "Gospel Bonfire"? That's what it was. Early in the afternoon Pastor J. N. Williams, his wife and two others arrived in the district. They visited a while with some of the residents and at nightfall the bonfire was lighted. It presented a beautiful setting as literally a host of people gathered on the recreation ground for an open air meeting. It was the first of the kind they had ever seen, and after a lively song service, followed by an inspiring sermon by Elder Williams, the people reluctantly left for their homes. A novel idea, isn't it? Why not begin a "Gospel Bonfire" in your district?

The ten-day revival meetings at Ken-cot brought great spiritual refreshing to that church. Several have indicated their desire to join up with the Advent people and already about seven have begun to attend Sabbath services.

Just three miles from Old Harbour in the district of Davis, lay-preacher Levy reports a good interest in the meetings he is conducting two nights per week. The prospects of soul-winning are very good.

—Vinnette Walker

WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

Pres. H. S. WALTERS

Sec. Treas. L. A. MORRISON

The Power of the Gospel in Robin's Hall

R. DOUGLAS

In Romans 1:16 it is recorded that "the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." These words were uttered by the apostle Paul, whose heart had experienced the power of the gospel. With this in mind I would like to say that this same gospel that was a power of God unto salvation in the days of the apostle is still today the power of God unto salvation.

I held an effort in Robin's Hall and we had some experiences that have led me to re-state that the gospel is still the power of God unto salvation.

In the course of these meetings a lady who had heard this message of the three angels for about ten years started to observe the Sabbath by coming to church. She was suddenly struck down with pneumonia and eventually died in the hospital. The reason for citing this particular experience is that on her death-bed she told her husband, relatives and friends that there were two things that stood between her and God, and she continued by saying that she had known the truth about baptism, but had put off getting baptized, and that she had not been faithful in tithing. She recognized her negligence and was sorrowful in that it was impossible to retrace her steps, as she was lying on her death-bed. She died without having the rite of baptism administered, or having the opportunity of returning the tithe she withheld. This had a very solemn effect on those that heard this testimony. The husband who was not interested in religion is now baptized and is a member of the church.

While this message was having a favourable effect in one section of the community it was also having an adverse effect in another section. Two girls that are third year scholars became interested and started to keep the Sabbath. The father was greatly opposed and they suffered severely at his hands. He stopped them one morning as they were about to leave the home for Sabbath school, and ordered one to the shop to get some things. The girl refused and he whipped her mercilessly until her brother had to come to her rescue. With all this opposition these girls kept on coming to church until the time appointed for baptism. They got their things ready to come to be baptized, and the father decided to stop them by taking away their clothes. They had to run through the bushes leaving their baptismal clothes behind. That morning I had the privilege of baptizing those two young women in borrowed clothes.

I must state one more experience which had a great effect above every other on

the community. It is that of a man who left his wife for twelve years and lived with another woman. During this time it is reported that he flogged his wife 100 times for this woman who became his wife illegally. He heard of the meetings and so he paid a visit on a Sunday night. That night the Spirit of God spoke to his heart. He went home and changed his life. He left his common-law wife and returned to his legal wife. He started out to church and kept on coming until he was baptized. But before he was baptized he went back and told the woman with whom he was living that he had done wrong, and that he was going to live a new life, and he could not be to her what he used to be for the past twelve years. This made an impression on the woman and she also started to come to church. The wife who was of another religion noticed the change in the life of her husband and said that something must be in the teaching of Seventh-day Adventists why this change has been wrought. She also started to come to church and today this man with his family and the woman who was mentioned before are regular attendants of the church. The man in question and a daughter are baptized already, and the woman who was his common-law wife also. The legal wife is now receiving instruction for baptism.

The Spirit of God has been working on the hearts of men and women in a marked way in this community. Twenty-six are already baptized from this effort and we hope by God's grace to have fourteen more baptized by the end of the year.

How I Became a Seventh-Day Adventist

It may seem strange to say that even I have been brought to the knowledge of the advent message. I will explain in brief just how it happened.

I had accepted the Lord as my personal Saviour for quite a number of years, and was connected to a gospel church. I had lived up earnestly to the teachings I received and thought that there was nothing left for me to believe by the way of serving the Lord.

However, earlier this year I was reading my Bible from Hebrews chapters three and four and I became stirred on the topic of "Unbelief," but did not seek to go further. A few weeks later I heard an address from a preacher on the words, "If a man love me he will keep my words," (St. John 14:23). I again felt moved. I came home and started to search the Scriptures to find out the true meaning of this text and what words God expect one to keep. I was somewhat puzzled, but just at this same time I received a book "The Marked Bible" from a young man, a Seventh-day Adventist, and a friend of mine. I started to read the book and as I read I became more interested seeing the truths mentioned could not be denied.

I did not reach the end of the book

when God spoke definitely to me from His Word (Rev. 22:14-21). I realized that He wanted me to obey His commandments so that I may have a right to the tree of life. I promised Him that I will obey His voice and yield to His will whatever the cost.

I realized also that I needed further explanation of these truths, so I went to see the same person who sent me the book. I told him of my convictions and asked for a clearer explanation of the importance of obeying God's commands and the danger of disobeying Him. He also gave me a Bible study on the "Judgment," which made a great impression on me and sealed my decision to become a Seventh-day Adventist. By sight it seemed so hard to start worshiping on Saturday, but I leaned hard upon God. I know He could not fail. He has made ways that I did not even expect, and has led me through victoriously. To Him be all praise and glory.

I was baptized on the morning of July 5 and by His grace I mean to follow in His steps and be faithful until He comes.

—A Sister of the Royal Flat Church.

Note: This sister tendered her resignation to her employer, upon her decision to obey the 4th commandment, thinking it impossible to get the Sabbath and retain her job. Upon learning of her reason for this step her employer promptly told her she could have all her Sabbaths off from Friday evening to Saturday evening and return to her job on Saturday night.

Until the Day Break

Brother A. B. Harris of the Williamsfield church was born August 1885, and fell asleep on the 2nd of May 1953. He accepted present truth in the year 1911 and since then had been a devoted and faithful worker. He was leader of the Williamsfield church when he fell asleep, respected by the entire community.

His wife and daughters, one son and three grandchildren, with numerous friends, are left to mourn but not without hope. We look forward to greeting Brother Harris when the first trumpet shall sound on the glad reunion morn.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors A. D. Laing and D. C. McCalla, assisted by Brethren Rennals and Frampton.

—B. A. Frampton, Church Clerk.

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