

The Advent

REVIEW and Sabbath HERALD

GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF
THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



G. B. Thompson
1904-1913



L. Flora Plummer
1913-1936



J. A. Stevens
1936-1950



L. L. Moffitt

ONE hundred years have gone by since James White sat down beside the road and began writing the first Sabbath school lessons. Little did he realize how great a work he was initiating. Since then Sabbath schools have had a great part in the expansion of the church. The General Conference Sabbath School Department was organized in 1904, with G. B. Thompson as its first general secretary. He was followed by L. Flora Plummer and J. A. Stevens. The present secretary is L. L. Moffitt. His associates are H. W. Lowe, E. B. Hare, and W. J. Harris.



H. W. Lowe



E. B. Hare



W. J. Harris

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The Advent **REVIEW** and Sabbath HERALD

CENTRAL CHURCH PAPER OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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All communications relating to the *Editorial Department* and all manuscripts submitted for publication should be addressed to *Editor, Review and Herald, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C.*

	United States	Canada	Countries Where Extra Postage Is Required
One Year	\$4.75	\$5.05	\$5.25
Six months	2.50	2.65	2.75

Make all post office money orders payable at the Washington, D.C., post office (not Takoma Park). Address all business communications and make all drafts and express money orders payable to REVIEW AND HERALD, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C. In changing address, do not fail to give both the old and new address.

Published by the Seventh-day Adventists. Printed every Thursday by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, at Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C., U.S.A. Entered as second-class matter August 14, 1903, at the post office at Washington, D.C., under Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. One Year, \$4.75. Vol. 129, No. 32.

The Contributors

The writers contributing the leading articles in this issue who are not otherwise identified are as follows:

L. L. Moffitt, who writes "The Sabbath School's Triple Coronet of Glory," is secretary of the Sabbath School Department, General Conference.

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FRUITAGE OF A HOME SABBATH SCHOOL



About sixty-five years ago my mother was left a widow with six children, of whom I was the eldest. Early in life mother had embraced the faith of Seventh-day Adventists. In our isolated farm home mother conceived the idea of having a home Sabbath school, one of the first, I think, among our people. In this little home Sabbath school we children learned to love the Bible and its truths. After a few years our dear mother was laid to rest, but her influence and the influence and teaching of the home Sabbath school followed her children.

My brother Dan was converted while still a young man. He married a Christian young woman, and most of their children have come into the truth, some engaged as workers. One daughter and her husband are at Montemorelos, Mexico, connected with our work there. Another daughter is the wife of a young minister in California. The youngest daughter is a church school teacher. Their eldest son, Daniel Guild, is a successful soul-winning evangelist in California.

My brother Will was soundly converted three years ago, was rebaptized, and in his declining years found renewed joy in obedience to the Lord. He wrote me that he could not get away from the truths of the message that mother taught in his early years. He died a few months ago in the triumph of faith, leaving a daughter who loves and obeys the truths of this message.

My sister Ida was converted in her youth and lived an earnest Christian life until her death, another heritage of our early home Sabbath school.

As for myself, I entered the colporteur work early in life, and later, fifty-eight years ago, I was accepted into the Christian ministry, in which I have labored in joy the remaining part of my service. My daughter and her husband are themselves faithful to this message and endeavor to train their children for God and His service. My son, Cecil Guild, and his wife labored in China seventeen years as missionaries. After three years in India they are now being transferred to Burma, where he is to serve as president of the Burma Union.

I am sure that the little home Sabbath school of long ago, with its influence in early Christian training, was one important factor in the account I have given. And now, in my advanced years, I am glad again to be a member of the home Sabbath school department.

It is a privilege to have our splendid Sabbath school lessons for systematic study. They help keep our hearts warm in the love of the truth, help keep us abreast of the message in its development, and help guide us in practical Christian living. The opportunity of giving regularly to the great mission field affords a real satisfaction.

It is good to know that in the home Sabbath school we are keeping step with God's great school, the church at study.

M. C. GUILD.

EDITORIAL

EDITOR: Francis D. Nichol
ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Frederick Lee,
W. A. Spicer,
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The Sabbath School Centenary

THE days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Ps. 90:10. Thus it is with man, weighed down by sin and destined for the grave. But not so with the things of God. They seem to breathe the life-giving spirit of heaven and live on after men have departed. A most excellent illustration of this is the Sabbath school of the Advent Movement, now celebrating its one hundredth anniversary.

An event like this stirs us to some observations. First, we think of the heartening proof that this provides of the protection that God gives to His work. How many have been the Philistines around the camp of Israel who have made impressive and repeated predictions that the Advent Movement was on the point of falling apart and that soon it would be no more. But the heavenly cement that has bonded the bricks of the Advent edifice as it has been steadily reared has been strong enough to resist all the pressure put upon the building. After a hundred years of adding brick to brick, the Sabbath school centenary testifies eloquently that the foundations are sure and that the edifice will continue to stand.

We think also of how very great things may grow from very small beginnings. Here is an occasion when the venerable saying applies with full force: Do not despise the day of small things. We are sure that James White, as he sat under the shade of a tree at noon, refreshed by his spartan lunch, and wrote out those earliest Sabbath school lessons, could hardly envisage what would grow from them. God does not generally permit us to see far ahead. We are to take a step at a time, leaving to God the problem of growth.

How many times a good program dies a-borning because someone lacks enthusiasm to work hard on a small and unpromising project. He cannot see how it will ever amount to a great deal, and certainly no one is giving him any thanks for his present hours of effort! If James White had reasoned that way, he would never have come down in our church history as the founder of our Sabbath school work. Some people have lost a great opportunity to attain to true fame because they could not bear the thought of beginning a project for God that failed to bring immediate recognition and recompense. We are glad that there have been some James Whites in our history.

Great Results From Humble Gifts

Again, we think of the tremendous financial possibilities for God's work that reside in the innumerable small gifts that thousands of wage earners can give. The Sabbath school offerings of the average givers have been largely in terms of what we would call small change. Yet the grand totals have been in terms of millions of dollars. These impressive figures ought to help all of us to see that though our talents of money may be small, if we do what we can, the grand total of all the talents thus given to God will be very large. It is not for us to complain at the smallness of our means, and to bury our talent, or spend it on some useless knickknack. Let us give what we can. That is the way to build millions for the mission treasury.

Fathers and mothers, press home to your children the lesson to be learned from the figures in this issue that show how the millions have been raised. Tell your children that when they contribute their nickels, dimes, and quarters, instead of spending them on candy and ice cream, they are having a real part in creating the high totals of mission gifts, to say nothing of protecting their stomachs.

Speaking of offerings, we believe the Sabbath school figures illustrate how much additional means can be secured for the cause by specific appeals that make close contact with our lives. We think of birthday offerings and thank offerings. If every one of us were as conscious as we should be that the mercy of God and the protecting angels of God explain our continuing presence on this earth, there would be more thank offerings, more birthday offerings. We are not here promoting any special offering; we are only soliloquizing on the array of figures, and the meaning of those figures, as printed in this issue.

It is most appropriate that we give expression to our thanksgiving by a gift to God. The relation between pocketbook and heart is very real. There seems to be something contradictory in a man's saying in testimony meeting, "I owe my life and all to God," and then failing to open his purse to give concrete proof of his indebtedness by returning to God a portion of what he has received from Him. We hope the Sabbath school will keep on stressing the matter of giving. The church that no longer gives and gives will soon shrivel and die.

Increased Knowledge of the Bible

Finally, we think of what a century of Sabbath school lessons has meant in training the Advent membership in Bible study. Here, we believe, is found the greatest of all contributions that the Sabbath school has made to the cause of God. The power of this movement lies in no small degree in the familiarity of its members with the living Word of God, "which effectually worketh also in you that believe." Whether the Sabbath school is operating in the jungles of New Guinea or in the city of New York, the result is the same—the worshipers, young and old, are learning the Scriptures of God.

One of our most vivid overseas memories is that of a Sabbath morning on an island of the Admiralty Group north of New Guinea. There sat about two hundred men and women salvaged from heathenism through the gospel of our Lord. The Sabbath school questions were asked, even as they are asked in the homeland, and back came the responses in unison. We think that those natives, despite their near illiteracy and their almost complete lack of formal education, knew more of the Scriptures than most of the white inhabitants of the Admiralties. Let us keep the study of the lesson, the searching of the Scriptures for the answer to questions, the central feature of the Sabbath school. Thus only can it continue to be the kind of school that meets the needs of the Advent Movement.

On the joyful occasion of its hundredth anniversary we salute the Sabbath school, and we salute the General Conference Department that is vigorously and successfully promoting it. May God bless and prosper this vital branch of His work in its program of systematic Bible study, that all within the movement may truly be taught of God.

F. D. N.

The Sabbath School's

TRIPLE CORONET OF GLORY

FROM the humble beginnings of the Sabbath school in Rochester, New York, in 1852, when the first issue of the *Youth's Instructor* carried the very first printed Sabbath school lessons, to the present time, when the Sabbath school lessons are being issued in hundreds of languages around the world, God's signal blessing has rested upon the Sabbath school. The pioneers, we are sure, never envisaged the vast proportions to which the Sabbath school work would grow and the vital place it would fill in the denominational life and activity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. And, of course, they never dreamed that the Sabbath school would ever celebrate a centenary in this old world. In that there is occasion for pause and serious, solemn reflection.

Here we are, however, at the end of a century of Sabbath school progress, and it is fitting that we humbly and gratefully acknowledge the blessings of Heaven upon this phase of God's work on earth. As the Sabbath schools began to appear, first in New York, then in Michigan, later spreading out to the West, to the New

England States, to the Southland, and then beyond the oceans, it became clear that this was a "planting of the Lord" destined to become "a plant of renown" in the garden of God.

Today the Sabbath school has grown to be a mighty tree whose roots reach deep into the soil of every continent and many of the islands of the sea; its branches spread their verdant arms over all the earth; its precious fruit drops in blessing upon all the peoples of the world. Thus, in one hundred years the Sabbath school has grown. In grateful recognition we humbly exclaim, "What hath God wrought!" as more than a million Sabbath school members join heart and hand around the world. Truly, in the words of the psalmist, the Lord has "gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south." "He led them forth by the

right way." "He sent his word, and healed them."

Unity Through Bible Study

For a hundred years the Sabbath school has rallied the church around the Bible in systematic lesson study. It is a far cry from the first lesson printed in only one language in August, 1852, to August, 1952, when in its present world coverage the General Conference Sabbath School Department issues ten different sets of Bible lessons. These include lessons for every age group, from the cradle roll to the adult division in our regular Sabbath school, lessons for branch Sabbath schools, and lessons for the children at camp meeting. Besides being translated and printed in many languages, the senior Sabbath school lessons are printed in Braille for the blind.

In thus providing a series of graded Bible lessons for our members, the Sabbath school has performed an essential and acceptable service. It has helped to build a solid background of Biblical knowledge and moral worth in the characters of both old and young. It has done much to hold us together as a people in unity of faith and doctrine. Because of this fundamental concept of the Sabbath school, great emphasis has been placed on the idea that the Sabbath school is a *school*. From that standpoint we have naturally given much attention to pupils, teachers, lessons, rooms, furnishings, equipment, training courses, and so forth. With this emphasis we have pretty thoroughly popularized the slogan, "The Sabbath school is the church at study."

Through the years the teacher has been recognized as the key personality in the Sabbath school. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the greatest need in our Sabbath schools so far as personnel is concerned is for an ever-enlarging staff of consecrated, capable, diligent teachers. There are numerous texts in the Bible for the encouragement of teachers. One of my favorite texts for teachers is Daniel



C. W. Bozarth

Here in a Sabbath school in South Africa we see vividly demonstrated the familiar slogan: "The Sabbath school is the church at study."



American Bible Society

The Sabbath school creates greater interest in the Bible. Blessed is that home where mother and father study the Holy Word every day with their children.

12:3, including the marginal reading: "They that be teachers shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." The Sabbath school teacher holds a high and honored position. His responsibilities and his reward are great. "Teachers should feel their responsibility, and make use of every opportunity to improve, that they may render the best kind of service in a manner that will result in the salvation of souls."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 94.

So important are the teacher's work and the Bible lesson in the Sabbath school that the whole Sabbath school program is arranged with the lesson period in mind. Everything else is subordinate to this precious half-hour with the Bible. Nothing should be allowed to infringe on this sacred time set apart for the searching of the Scriptures. Not even on thirteenth Sabbath or on other special occasions should one minute be taken from the teacher and his class. The Bible lesson is just as important on these special occasions as at any other time, and other adjustments should be made in the program to ensure a full thirty minutes for the lesson.

AUGUST 7, 1952

SUPPORT MISSION WORK



SOUL WINNING



BIBLE STUDY



In appropriate observance of the centennial of the Sabbath school, let officers, teachers, and members of the Sabbath school make a solemn rededication in greater devotion to the Word of God, that we may with increasing joy draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Another crowning glory of the Sabbath school for more than half of its existence has been its ever-increasing support of foreign missions. In its infant days the Sabbath school had not yet lifted up its eyes to look upon the world field. It was not until the year 1885 that a small Sabbath school in Oregon responded to the generous impulse to share its blessings. Out of its surplus the Milton,

Oregon, Sabbath school made the first small gift to missions. The next year some of the Sabbath schools in California contributed about \$700 for mission work in Australia.

Perhaps it was the adventurous spirit of the West that was required to launch us into world mission conquest. At any rate, by the next year, 1887, the Sabbath schools in a concerted effort raised \$10,615 for the establishing of our first mission among heathen people. This was in Southern Rhodesia, in Africa. For many years we have repeated as a household word the name of this our first mission adventure—Solusi. Then came the raising of funds through the Sabbath school for our first mission ship, the *Pitcairn*, launched in 1890. From these beginnings the mission spirit grew in more generous liberality among our Sabbath school members.

Although it took our Sabbath schools a quarter of a century to raise the first million dollars for missions, our Sabbath schools are now raising more than a million dollars every quarter of a year for our worldwide work. They have been averaging a million dollars a quarter for the last six years. In this connection we are reminded of a prediction made by

A. G. Daniells at a camp meeting in 1903. He had recently returned from an overseas trip; and being on fire with the spirit of missions, he said with considerable fervor, "Why, brethren, the day is coming when this denomination will raise and expend a thousand dollars a day for missions." At the close of the meeting a brother is reported to have remonstrated with Elder Daniells for making such an absurd prediction. "Brother Daniells, we are all in favor of foreign missions. We are with you, but you should keep within some sort of sane limits. We will never do such a thing as that, and to tell us such things overwhelms us."

How the passing of time and the blessing of God upon His work have vindicated Elder Daniells! At the last Autumn Council a budget of over \$17,000,000 was voted for our world work for 1952. Of this sum the foreign fields were allocated \$10,772,750. This is an average daily expenditure of more than \$29,000 a day for our overseas work.

Through the Sabbath school offerings alone we are now reaching almost fourteen times the figure Elder Daniells suggested. The Sabbath school offerings for 1951 amounted to \$5,084,083.59, which is a daily average of \$13,929. Charting some of the annual Sabbath school offerings for our worldwide work since 1903, when Elder Daniells made his prediction, we observe the following:

Year	Annual Sabbath School Mission Offerings	Daily Average
1903	\$ 34,779.85	\$ 95.29
1913	291,711.76	799.21
1923	1,392,041.82	3,813.81
1933	1,309,704.47	3,588.23
1943	3,005,825.14	8,235.14
1944	3,544,888.34	9,685.49
1945	3,796,809.89	10,402.21
1946	4,198,516.62	11,527.79
1947	4,290,178.33	11,753.91
1948	4,643,939.29	12,688.36
1949	4,790,896.42	13,125.74
1950	4,828,090.52	13,227.65
1951	5,084,083.59	13,929.00

The Investment Fund alone has exceeded Elder Daniells' figure. In 1951 the Sabbath School Investment Fund amounted to \$420,069.45, which is an

(Continued on page 30)

United Action in Evangelism

By RICHARD R. BREITIGAM



Children love the Sabbath school. Here they learn to sing of Jesus' love, listen to thrilling Bible stories, give their pennies to little tots far across the sea. Never will they forget the happy hours they spent in Sabbath school.

THE challenge of two billion unsaved, unwon individuals in this world should stir our Sabbath schools everywhere to united action.

Our concern should be for souls. The work of saving souls is the work delegated to us. For this purpose the church, the Sabbath school, and every department of the church and Sabbath school have been organized. We have ample organization, but we need the life and power of God in this wonderful organization.

If all had the vision of the work to be done, and we were conscious of the short time in which the work must and will be done, certainly all would gladly consecrate themselves to God for definite, active, devoted, untiring service.

The world field is white to the harvest. It must be harvested now, in this generation. There will be no other generation, no other time for the harvest. It must be now or never.

"Church members, let the light shine forth. . . . Visit your neighbors and show an interest in the salvation of their souls. Arouse every spiritual energy to action."
—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 38.

It is now that we should "arouse every

spiritual energy to action" in our Sabbath schools. Every Sabbath school should be an evangelistic center. Every Sabbath school should be organized, planned, and conducted with the same zeal and purpose as a real evangelistic effort, for if rightly conducted, it is just that. "The Sabbath school," we are told, "should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ."

Soulsaving should be the burden of every Sabbath school council gathering and every teachers' meeting. In the Sabbath school we have a wonderful organization with extraordinary evangelistic possibilities if it is dedicated to the winning of souls to Christ.

The Sabbath school superintendent, in planning for the work, will of course seek the counsel and leadership of the pastor in his plans for greater evangelism, for he is the evangelistic leader and director of all departments of the church, and he will desire to coordinate their efforts to make the work of all the most productive.

First, we should work to win our own members to Christ. Even the cradle roll division has its place in evangelism, for

there the foundation is laid. The children are taught to love Jesus. They are taught that they belong to Him. They learn to sing the little songs of praise, and Jesus becomes a real person to them.

In the kindergarten division the next step in evangelism is taken. The children are led to participate in activities for Jesus, to do things for Him, to make early decisions to love and obey Him. Blessed is the church that interests its little ones in spiritual things and teaches them in their tenderest years that they may be Christians.

In the primary division, which has the children in the golden ages of seven to nine inclusive, every effort should be made to help the children grow up into Christ like beautiful plants. At this age they begin to make decisions. They are forming likes and dislikes that may stay with them through life. The wise leader will make religion and worship so attractive to the child, and Christ so real to him, that he will decide to follow Jesus and turn away from all worldly attractions. Happy is the church and blessed are the children who decide, like Samuel, to listen to and obey the Lord. In our Sabbath schools there is no more fruitful field of evangelism than the primary children.

If the foundation work has been done in the lower divisions, the children who enter the junior division will be ready to consider the most important decision of their lives, that of definitely taking a stand for Jesus by joining a baptismal class and becoming real members of the church. At this age they wish to join something. It is a sad mistake of neglect to let a boy or girl pass through the junior division, or the junior age of his life, without joining himself definitely in a loving covenant to Christ and His church. It is more important evangelism to win him to the church than to endeavor to win him after he has been permitted to slip out of the church.

Every church and Sabbath school should each year have a baptismal class for the juniors of the Sabbath school.

In the youth's division we find one of the greatest evangelistic divisions of the church. The Sabbath school should join

with the Missionary Volunteer Department in a Share Your Faith effort. The young people of the Sabbath school should not be our evangelistic problem; they should be our evangelistic power.

Many of the best branch Sabbath schools, Sunday schools, and Vacation Bible Schools have been conducted by youth under the guidance of wise ministers and church leaders, who harnessed the youth's ardor, vibrant enthusiasm, and active energy in work that saves, instead of letting it run wild in activities that destroy.

Every class in the church should be an evangelistic band. From the class, Sabbath after Sabbath, they should go forth to teach others the wonderful truths they have received in the Sabbath school.

In some Sabbath schools every class is sponsoring a branch Sabbath school or Sunday school. The members of these classes are growing spiritually, and their membership is increasing, for where there is active work for others, love grows stronger, faith brighter, and the heart happier.

Operation Doorbell has proved a great blessing not only to our own church but to many other churches. We should join with the home missionary department in an Operation Doorbell to invite people to come to Sabbath school, and also an Operation Automobile to bring them to Sabbath school. Operation Automobile wins for Christ and increases the church membership. It has been demonstrated that in proportion as the Sabbath school membership increases, the church membership will eventually increase.

Our cities are growing much faster than we are reaching out to evangelize them. We have an organization that can evangelize them. "Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 27.

"Let the church arouse and go forth to do her appointed work. Every believer, educated or uneducated, can bear the message."—*Ibid.*, p. 26.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE SABBATH SCHOOL

To the Close of 1951

Organized Sabbath Schools: 17,373; in North America, 3,127; in all other countries, 14,246.

Membership: 1,034,160; in North America, 249,396; in all other countries, 784,764.

Branch Sabbath Schools: 2,799; in North America, 422; in all other countries, 2,377.

Subscriptions to Sabbath School Worker: 39,685 (as of December, 1951).

Total Sabbath School Offerings: since beginning of plan, \$81,202,325.48.

Investment Fund: since beginning of plan in 1925, \$4,531,929.38.

Birthday Offerings: since beginning of plan in 1919, \$1,510,644.41.

Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings and Overflows for 1951:

First quarter — \$270,328.53; overflow to South Africa \$44,099.71.
 Second quarter 267,435.74; overflow to South America 43,487.15.
 Third quarter 261,744.99; overflow to Formosa 42,349.00.
 Fourth quarter 309,540.98; overflow to Inter-America 51,908.20.

Offerings by Decades:

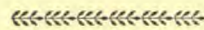
1886 - 1891	_____	\$ 69,830.02
1892 - 1901	_____	229,508.45
1902 - 1911	_____	785,694.97
1912 - 1921	_____	6,711,881.48
1922 - 1931	_____	16,886,148.85
1932 - 1941	_____	15,984,523.35
1942 - 1951	_____	40,534,738.36
TOTAL	_____	\$81,202,325.48



Sabbath school evangelism to the fore: Group attending Sabbath school workshop at Idyllwild, in the Southern California Conference, July, 1951.

DOUBLE OUR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Through the Sabbath School



By W. H. BRANSON



THE Sabbath school exists for the accomplishment of one purpose, winning souls to Christ and establishing them in the faith. The method employed, under the influence of divine grace, is to stimulate interest in personal and class Bible study. This is the foundation of all spiritual growth. "The entrance of thy words giveth light." We are "born again" "by the word of God," and it becomes the lamp of our feet, shining "more and more unto the perfect day."

Just as surely as men and women gather regularly for Bible study, the church will increase its membership. The Scriptures are the bread of life. As the newborn Christian feeds on the Word, he grows in the knowledge of God's truth. He becomes conscious that God's will and purpose for him is that he shall bring others to the knowledge of salvation. Those with whom he associates are affected by the daily influence of his life and example, and are led step by step to the light of the third angel's message.

This is the way the church grows. The Holy Spirit impresses hearts to believe. Angels minister to those who are searching for truth. But Heaven's appointed co-workers for the salvation of men are those who have themselves found the Word to be the joy of their own hearts, and who personally bring the good news to others.

The Sabbath school provides a most effective means for gathering in those who can be persuaded to investigate the Scriptures. Warmly welcomed into the Sabbath school class, with Bible and *Lesson Quarterly* in hand, with a teacher who sticks to the lesson and makes it plain, applying its principles to the personal life of the individual, the visitor is drawn to the Written Word, and finds that it is able to make him wise unto salvation.

It is not only the adult who can be drawn to the Sabbath school. It is even easier, perhaps, to gather in the young. Right in our own families there is a great reservoir of children and youth, who under careful and consecrated leadership

can be brought into the baptismal class and full church membership. The wise superintendent and the alert pastor will see to it that frequent surveys are made of the junior and young people's classes, so that in counsel with teachers and parents, earnest, efficient work can be done in gathering this precious harvest.

Then there are the children of neighbors and friends who are acquainted with us and

have been favorably impressed by our people. Of course, we should bring the parents too if at all possible; but if they will not come, often they will permit the children to come alone. They grow into church membership. Many of them have the joy of later seeing their loved ones accept the truth as a result of the simple Christian example of the children in daily life.

Another way by which the Sabbath school can help double the church membership is by its mission offerings. The \$81,000,000 contributed by our Sabbath schools since 1886 has been instrumental in bringing the light of present truth to many souls in many lands. Not until we meet in the Sabbath school above and hear the angels' report, gathered from the statistics of heaven, will we know how much the weekly gifts to missions from our Sabbath schools here below have accomplished.

Another avenue of soul winning is the branch Sabbath school. Hundreds of organized churches have sprung into existence as Sabbath school members have gone forth in this line of endeavor, manifesting an interest in the people about them, calling in the children to sing the gospel songs, to receive the Memory Verse Cards, to repeat the Scripture verses, thus awakening in the entire community an interest, and gathering out those who are constrained to join the remnant church.

Many types of labor are to be performed under the blessing of God by His servants all round the world. We are to sow beside all waters, to be instant in season and out of season, to speak the word whenever the opportunity offers. Every gift is to be exercised. The preacher

(Continued on page 30)



This Duval, Florida, branch Sabbath school, sponsored by Jacksonville Sabbath school, erected its own building and will soon be organized into a church.



THE SABBATH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

1852 - 1952

By ADLAI A. ESTEB

One hundred years ago this year,
Within our Western Hemisphere,
Some Christians felt their hearts bestirred,
And one of time's great acts occurred.
Upon one holy Sabbath morn
A little Sabbath school was born.
It has, a century since its birth,
Become the greatest school on earth.

We don't know where it first was held;
Perhaps a home where people dwelled;
We only know it had a start,
And that's the fact that thrills our heart.
The lessons that they first used then
Were writ by James White's flaming pen;
The *Youth's Instructor*, printed them—
(Adorn it now with diadem!)
In eighteen hundred fifty-two,
Prepared, it seems, for just a few,
Who met and formed a Bible class!
Now gaze into time's looking glass,
For though, when launched, it was so small,
Its mighty progress does enthrall.

We see it growing like a plant,
So beautiful, so elegant,
Into a noble, fruitful tree,
A wondrous sight for one to see.
It drops its fruit o'er all the earth,
Yes, eighty-million dollars' worth.
That's not the total crop it yields,
Just cash sent to the mission fields.
But richer harvests, truly grand,
Are borne in every mission land.
The mission schools, the clinics too,
And all the good that they can do—
These monuments without pretense,
Speak forth with glowing eloquence
The triumphs of the Sabbath school,
Exalting Heaven's golden rule.

The Sabbath school, with flags unfurled,
Is marching on around the world.
But not alone in mission lands
Does Sabbath school stretch helpful hands.

It brings a blessing here at home
Or anywhere you chance to roam.
It opens up the blessed Book,
Which, like a sparkling, flowing brook,
Its rich refreshment will impart
To all who have the hungry heart.
And angels must strike harps of gold
To see the members young and old
Assemble every Sabbath day
To sing and study and to pray.
A million members now attend,
As Christian hearts and aims there blend.

The challenge of this year, we know,
Is that each Christian daily grow,
And help fulfill our Master's plan
Of saving ev'ryone we can.
Evangelism must embrace
Each member who should find his place
In reaching out to save more souls—
This must exceed all other goals!

We celebrate this century year,
Pay tribute to the pioneer
Who had the vision and the grace
To give the Sabbath school its place
Within the blueprint God had giv'n,
To help us all prepare for heav'n,
As Sabbath school forever flings
Its challenge of eternal things.
And puts the blazing torch of truth
Within the eager hands of youth.
It keeps our gospel feet well shod
And guides us in our quest for God.

A toast today I would propose:
May Sabbath schools bloom like the rose,
And spread their beauty, fragrance, power,
In all the world in time's last hour!
My blessing I would now bestow:
May Sabbath schools in all lands grow!

And may this anniversary year
Be *greatest* in its *great* career!

Many Mission Fields Benefited by THIRTEENTH SABBATH OVERFLOW PLAN

THE Thirteenth Sabbath Offering plan began in 1912. It is interesting to read about it in the missions promotion leaflet for the first quarter of that year. We quote a few paragraphs:

"Our Sabbath-school offerings have increased so splendidly that it is thought we may now have a special object for which we may set apart the gifts of one Sabbath in each quarter. . . .

"The General Conference Committee has voted to allow us to select the last Sabbath in each quarter as a day when we may donate to a special object. The General Conference treasury department is to designate, quarter by quarter, the special object to which we may give."

The reference to "dollar day" in the next paragraph may come as a surprise to some. It reads as follows:

"Several conferences have adopted the

plan of having a 'dollar day' in each Sabbath-school, once a quarter. On that day all who can do so are invited to give one dollar as a Sabbath-school gift to missions. Those who can not give so much may increase their regular offerings as much as they can.

"We most earnestly request all schools having a 'dollar day' plan to unite in this new plan which is to be general, and to appoint their 'dollar day' on the thirteenth Sabbath of each quarter."

India was the first field to benefit from a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Note the following paragraph from that first *Missions Quarterly*:

"The first special enterprise selected to be the recipient of our Sabbath-school offerings given on the thirteenth Sabbath of the first quarter of 1912 [March 30] is the cities of India. By that time Breth-

ren G. W. Pettit and J. M. Comer of the North Pacific Union, will have landed in India. The need of establishing their work is immediate and most urgent."

Africa, China, and South America were the other fields receiving thirteenth Sabbath assistance that first year. From 1912 to 1952 hundreds of projects in the foreign fields have benefited from the overflow of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings. From the beginning of the plan in 1912 until the close of 1951 \$2,199,066.46 has been raised in this way, and used in building needed enterprises around the world: chapels, churches, training schools, hospitals, dispensaries, and mission homes. Herewith we present a list of the thirteenth Sabbath overflows for the past eleven years, quarter by quarter, with the amounts raised and the fields and projects assisted. We also include a few represent-

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING OVERFLOW 1941—1951

	Field	Overflow	Projects
1941			
1st quarter	Inter-America	\$11,359.74	Cuba Training School
2d quarter	Southern Asia	9,959.62	Medical Work in Burma
3d quarter	Northern Europe	10,909.86	Training school in Uganda, Hospital in Nigeria, girls' school in Nigeria
4th quarter	South Africa	13,009.94	Mission stations in Nyasaland and Zululand
1942			
1st quarter	South America	14,355.55	Opening new work in Acre, nurses' home in Juliaca, chapel and mission home in Tierra del Fuego
2d quarter	Southern Europe	12,709.93	Chapel in Algiers
3d quarter	China	13,050.07	Work in Tibet and border provinces
4th quarter	South Africa	20,618.81	Medical work in Tanganyika
1943			
1st quarter	Inter-America	19,937.01	Medical dispensaries in Guatemala, Haiti, Barbados, Colombia
2d quarter	Southern Asia	24,567.51	Evangelistic work
3d quarter	South America	23,804.26	Medical work in Rio de Janeiro
4th quarter	G.C. missions	32,393.13	Ethiopia
1944			
1st quarter	South Africa	28,558.28	Unentered regions
2d quarter	China	29,595.52	Rebuilding China Training Institute
3d quarter	Southern Europe	26,753.03	Mission fields of the division
4th quarter	G.C. missions	36,936.02	General Conference missions
1945			
1st quarter	Inter-America	33,603.96	Sanitarium and hospital, Jamaica
2d quarter	G.C. missions	31,507.99	West African Missions, extension of work in Middle East
3d quarter	Southern Asia	31,030.73	Chapels, and homes for national workers
4th quarter	South America	33,832.91	Inca Union Training School

1946

1st quarter	China	33,091.50	Rehabilitation
2d quarter	Southern Europe	30,731.36	Sanitarium in France
3d quarter	South Africa	31,627.49	Training schools in the Congo and East Africa
4th quarter	Far East	36,242.54	Restoration of work in the Philippines

1947

1st quarter	South America	31,733.47	Medical work in North Brazil, completion of former project, hospital at Belém, mission launch
2d quarter	Inter-America	30,719.37	Enlargement of medical and educational facilities
3d quarter	China	37,112.86	Medical and evangelistic work
4th quarter	Southern Asia	40,084.08	Hospital in Burma

1948

1st quarter	Southern Europe	38,334.65	Training school in Czechoslovakia
2d quarter	Australasia	31,304.11	Training school in South Pacific
3d quarter	Northern Europe	38,291.61	Training school in Holland, establishment of training school in Poland, enlargement of school in Finland
4th quarter	G.C. missions	52,859.99	Middle East, West African, and Ethiopian unions

1949

1st quarter	Far East	39,688.01	Headquarters in Guam; medical work in Hiroshima
2d quarter	South Africa	36,117.73	Hospital in Basutoland
3d quarter	Inter-America	40,542.81	Indian work in S. Mexico and Guatemala
4th quarter	South America	47,998.15	Hospital in North Brazil

1950

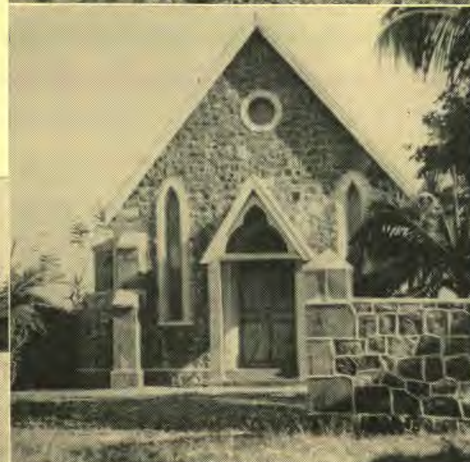
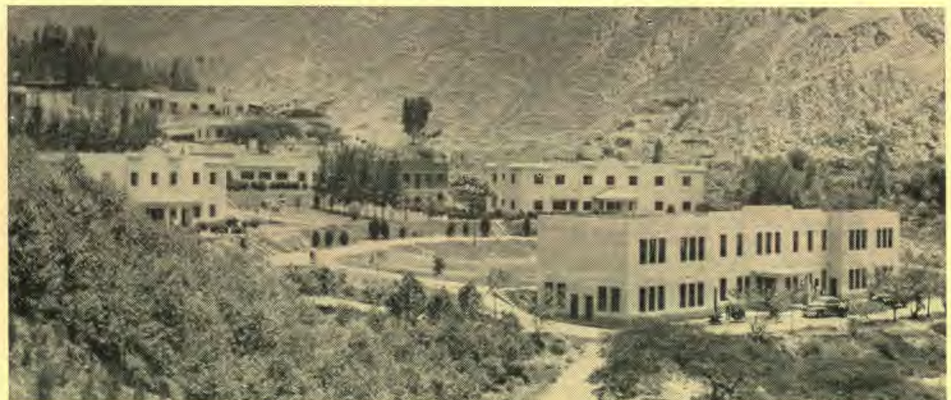
1st quarter	Southern Asia	39,167.18	Hospital in Karachi, printing press in Pakistan
2d quarter	Southern Europe	39,737.51	Hospital in French Cameroun, West Africa
3d quarter	Australasia	44,202.00	Training school, islands of French Oceania, work in new territory
4th quarter	Far East	51,549.67	Evangelism in Manila, schools in Borneo, new work in Toradja-land, Celebes

1951

1st quarter	South Africa	44,099.71	New buildings for school in Angola, school in the Congo, and hospital in Malamulo
2d quarter	South America	43,487.15	Hospital in Paraguay
3d quarter	G.C. missions	42,349.00	Emergency projects (Formosa)
4th quarter	Inter-America	51,908.20	New buildings for training school in Jamaica, medical work in Mexico

ative pictures of places in different lands.

If in 1912 our Sabbath schools were encouraged to follow the lead of some in promoting dollar day on thirteenth Sabbath, should not we in 1952 follow the worthy example of some of our conferences in promoting double dollar day? We could hardly do less without retrograding, since our modern dollar is worth only fifty cents, some say thirty-five. We deem it even more appropriate to observe our centennial day, which falls on the thirteenth Sabbath, by making it triple dollar day, in gratitude to God for a century of Sabbath school blessings. Let us roll up a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 27 somewhat more nearly commensurate with the mission needs in time's last fleeting hours. Let's make our centennial triple dollar day!



Special enterprises completed through help of the thirteenth Sabbath overflow offering: (Left) Hospital in Rangoon, Burma; (Middle) St. Pierre church, Réunion Island; (Right) Hospital in Belém, Brazil; (Top) Inca Union Training School, near Lima, Peru.

In the cities and country places in most lands throughout the world more than a million believers in the Advent message, come together each week in the Sabbath school. What a gathering that must be!

By E. D. DICK



God Bless Our Sabbath Schools!

THE Sabbath school, whose centennial we are honoring, is without doubt the greatest single influence of all the varied activities of the church. Its strength is indicated by its growth and its service.

Beginning in Rochester, New York, one hundred years ago, with lessons written by James White, printed in the first issue of the *Youth's Instructor* of August, 1852, its influence has steadily increased as the years have come and gone. Now, around the circle of the earth as the Sabbath comes, the members of our 17,373 Sabbath schools raise their voices in joyful adoration:

"Safely through another week
God has brought us on our way;
Let us now a blessing seek,
Waiting in His courts today;
Day of all the week the best,
Emblem of eternal rest.

"While we seek supplies of grace
Through the dear Redeemer's name,
Show Thy reconciling face,
Take away our sin and shame;
From our worldly cares set free
May we rest this day in Thee"—

or songs of similar sentiments.

Strange as it may seem, it is nonetheless true, the number of Sabbath schools throughout the world exceeds the number of churches by 6,457, or approximately 167 Sabbath schools for every 100 churches.

A similar situation exists with respect to the numbers of their members. With a world church membership in 1950 of 756,712, the Sabbath schools rejoiced in a membership of 952,229. By the close of 1951 there were more than a million Sabbath school members.

These Sabbath schools belt the globe

and are conducted in the 716 languages and 194 countries in which the church itself operates. In the cities and country places of the many homelands of the message the Sabbath schools carry on. In the isolated and remote areas of the mission lands; on the high plateaus of the Andes and in the steamy jungles of the Amazon in South America; from the rain-drenched Lushai Hills in Assam to the desert plains of Pakistan and the Punjab; from the northernmost climes of Norway and Alaska to the far-strewn islands of the broad Pacific; in the land of the ancient Pharaohs—Palestine, Transjordan, Persia, Assyria, and Mesopotamia of the Middle



East; and in a thousand villages of the great continent of Africa, once held under the absolute sway of the witch doctor and the medicine man—in these and in hundreds of other remote and difficult areas the Sabbath schools bring joy and gladness week by week to more than a million members. What a triumph! What glorious evidence of the power and blessing of God!

All the blessings dispensed through the Sabbath school may be difficult to measure. Like the wind, as spoken of by the Master, we see the results but "canst not tell whence it cometh." But of a certainty do we know—strength and blessing are in the united study of the Word of God. "The Sabbath school is the church at study." The lesson study is the heart of

the Sabbath school. Through its study the members are built up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. There is cheer, and blessing too, in the singing together of the songs of Zion. Who has not been blessed as he has stood by the side of his brother Sabbath school member and sung,

"Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song of sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne.

"We're marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion,
The beautiful city of God."

From Sabbath to Sabbath the specific needs of special areas in the great mission fields are brought before the Sabbath school in the missions readings. Through these the members become acquainted with conditions that prevail in other lands—the customs of the people, their need of the gospel, the progress of the work, and its present needs. As the mind grasps these facts the Spirit of God impresses the heart of the hearer to give, to help bring light and life and hope to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. The Sabbath school member who is faithful in giving grows in understanding, in sympathy, in love for his fellow men. His life is enriched thereby and the results of his giving bless others. The sum total of the gifts of a million Sabbath school members from week to week swells into a mighty tide of blessing. From our Sabbath schools come approximately half of our world mission budget.

The blessings that accrue to the peoples of these darkened lands, and are made available by the offerings of our Sabbath

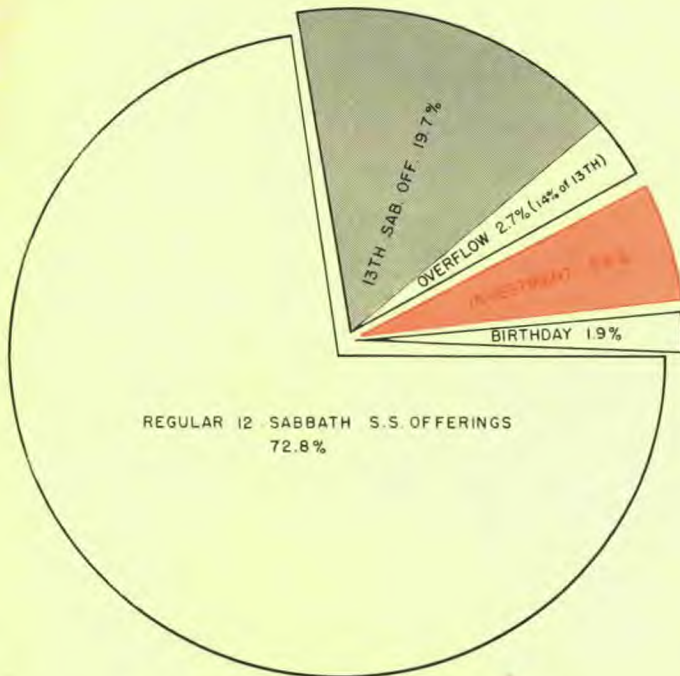
school, can never be measured. By way of illustration, let me carry you back to an experience in Africa some years ago.

It was in Angola, Portuguese West Africa. I was at our Bongo Mission, where we operate a clinic and hospital, also an elementary school and a training school,

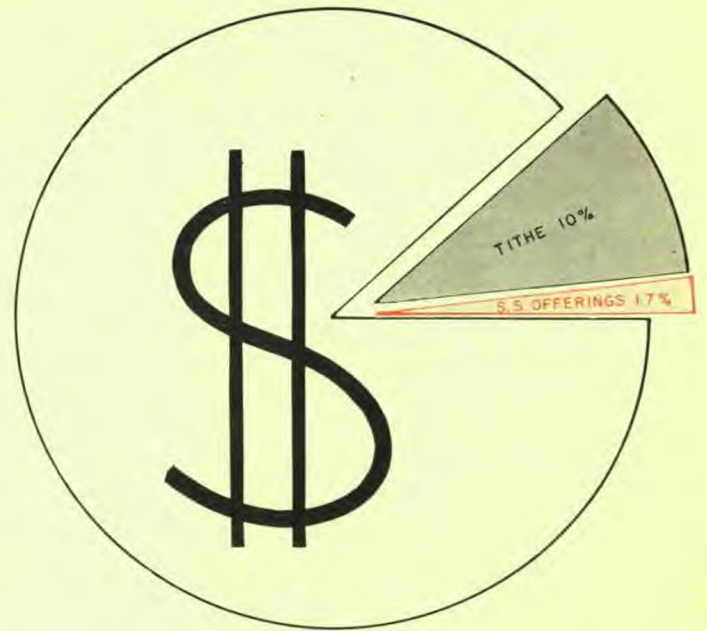
provided largely by the offerings from our Sabbath schools in the homelands. I was there to join in a six-week institute for teacher evangelists. About seventy native ministers and teachers were present. We were having a very profitable time. One week end I requested that I

might go to a typical village to see one of these teachers in his normal environment—a village school and church. This was arranged, and with camp equipment and food box prepared, our resident missionary and I set off on a Friday afternoon.

(Continued on page 31)



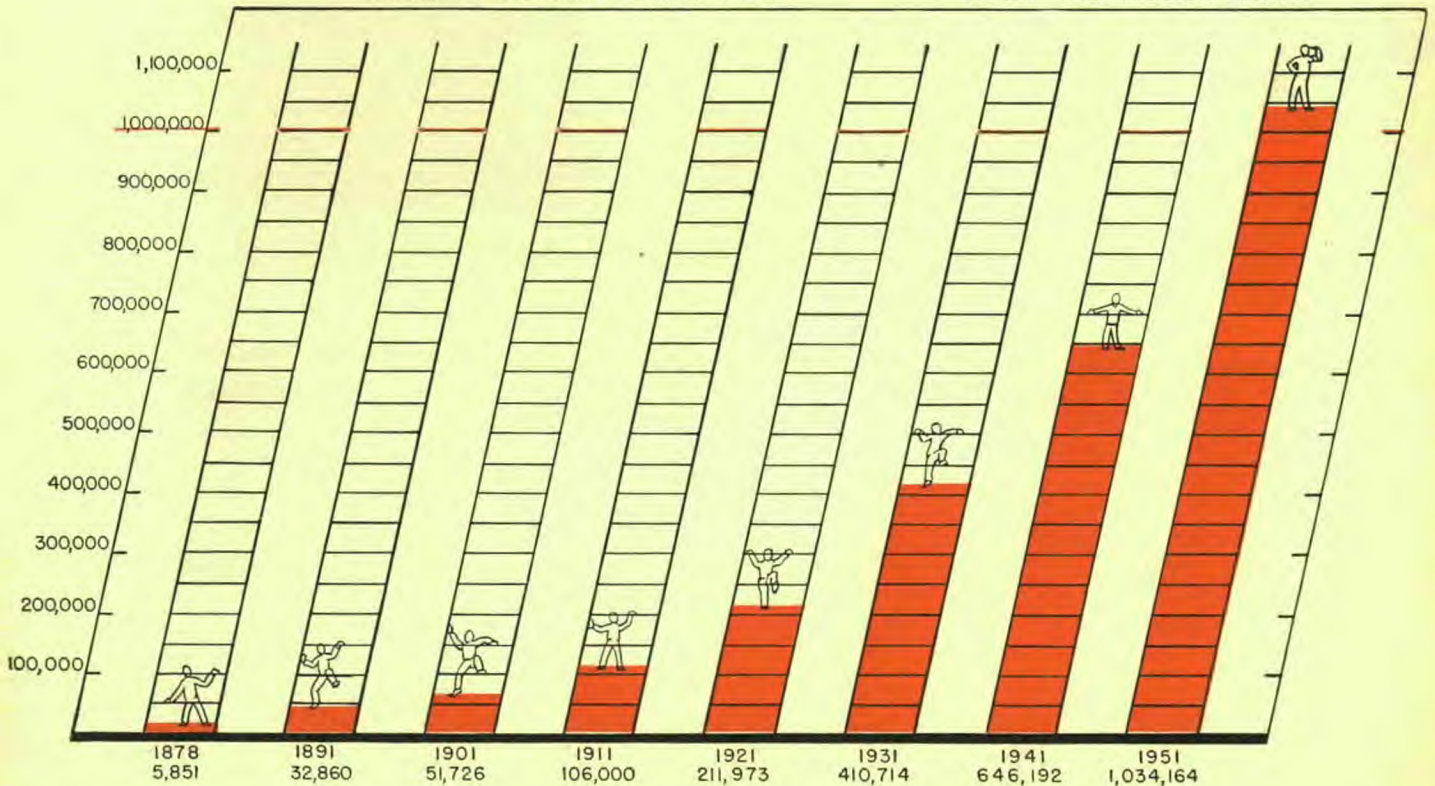
Of the offerings contributed each quarter in the Sabbath school, 72.8 per cent is given on the regular twelve Sabbaths, 19.7 per cent on the thirteenth Sabbath, plus 2.7 per cent in overflow funds, and 5.6 per cent is given for investment and 1.9 for birthday offerings.



This chart shows the relation of the Sabbath school offerings to the tithe and each dollar income: 10 per cent is given in tithe; 1.7 per cent is contributed to Sabbath school.

SABBATH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP.

OVER THE MILLION MARK!



In seventy-three years our Sabbath schools have added more than a million members.



Sabbath school lessons are carefully planned on a long-range program. The scope of the lessons is varied so that devotional and doctrinal subjects will be covered in a stated period.

How the

Sabbath School Lessons Are Prepared

By H. W. LOWE

THE nature of the Advent message is such that the study of the Bible must ever be all-important to us. A Christian who stops reading the Bible soon becomes nothing but a nominal follower of Christ. A church that ceases to build its life and beliefs on the Written Word is soon lost in institutionalism, in tradition, perhaps in oblivion.

All this is because the life of God and the eternal truths are found in their fullness only in the Sacred Scriptures. "The life of God, which gives life to the world, is in His word."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 250. Only from the Inspired Word do we know anything of the Christ who is the light and life of men. John was consumed with the centrality of Christ when he wrote, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14.

Our Sabbath school Bible lessons are planned for about five years ahead and are based upon two main considerations. First, they must be varied in scope, embracing some phases of the devotional life, some prophetic study, some biography, a book study or two, and, of course, certain doctrinal presentations. These will include Bible narratives, history, denominational endeavors, et cetera. Second, whatever fields are covered, we aim at

spiritual, evangelical presentations, in a form which can be translated into all the languages used in our world work. This is not always easy, and calls for care in selecting lesson authors. Both lessons and authors are now selected by a representative group of field workers. We aim at constant improvement in substance and treatment.

Some indication of the scope of these lessons can be seen from this list of subjects projected for the near future: "Three Avenues of Divine Witness," "Biographies of the Patriarchs," "The Power of the Blood of Jesus," "The Doctrines of Jesus," "Christian Life and Service," "The Miracles of Jesus," "The Sure Word of Prophecy," "The Doctrines of Redeeming Grace," "Lessons From the Book of Acts," "Triumphant Living," "Lessons From the Lives of Old Testament Prophets," "Fundamentals of Faith," "Love," "The Church," "The Final Conflict of the Church," and "The Parables of Jesus."

In these testing times we need to study the Word more than ever before. For the majority of our people throughout the world our Sabbath school lessons offer the most varied and sustained course of Bible study put out by the denomination. If every member would daily devote time to these studies, a great revival would sweep over us. Any person who faithfully studies these lessons day by day and week by week

will accumulate a sound Biblical knowledge, which must be of inestimable strength in the spiritual life of the individual and of the church.

"As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to re-



Pioneer Sabbath school workers in Turkey, Brother and Sister Gomig with their daughter.

REVIEW AND HERALD

ceive life from God's word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the word for ourselves. We are not to obtain it merely through the medium of another's mind. We should carefully study the Bible, asking God for the aid of the Holy Spirit, that we may understand His word."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 390.

The seven steps outlined below will give our readers a little insight into the procedures followed in the preparation of the senior Sabbath school lessons.

The first step is the selection of lesson topics and writers for a given period. A committee comprised of twenty-seven members, including two General Conference officers, representatives from four of the General departments, the union conference Sabbath school secretaries, a college Bible teacher, an editor, an evangelist, and a pastor, makes the selection of topics and chooses the writers.

The second step is the notification of each person chosen concerning the topic upon which the committee has requested him to write, enclosing an instruction sheet giving detailed information as to the procedure to be followed in writing a series of Sabbath school lessons. If the person selected declines, a substitution must be made.

The third step is the writing of the lessons by the persons selected, who, upon completion of the assignment, send their manuscripts to the General Conference Sabbath School Department.

The fourth step is the consideration of the suitability of a manuscript. If it is accepted, it is given its first general editing to make sure that it conforms to the style and other requirements of the *Quarterly*. This done, it is mimeographed, and dispatched to the Sabbath School Lesson Committee.

The fifth step is the reading of the manuscript by the lesson committee. This committee consists of twenty-eight members and is comprised of ministers, editors, college professors, and overseas representatives. It is the duty of this committee to read the lesson manuscript critically, with an eye for authenticity, accuracy, orthodoxy, integrity in textual exegesis, and appropriateness. Upon completion of their task the readers return their manuscripts, on which they have made their notes, comments, corrections, and general and specific suggestions. Often the readers send along a covering letter, tabulating and elaborating upon the notations made in the manuscript.

The sixth step is the tabulation and duplication here in the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of all the suggestions made by the readers. On a specified day each quarter, at a regularly called meeting of the resident members of the Sabbath School Lesson Committee (fifteen in all), copies of the tabulated suggestions, together with the returned manuscripts, are placed in the

hands of the available members of the committee. This committee then goes over the manuscript page by page, evaluating the suggestions, and making recommendations to the department editors.

The seventh step is the final editing of the manuscript in harmony with the decisions of the lesson committee. When this editing is completed the lesson is mimeographed again and sent out to the publishing houses around the world for translation, where necessary, and for printing into hundreds of languages.

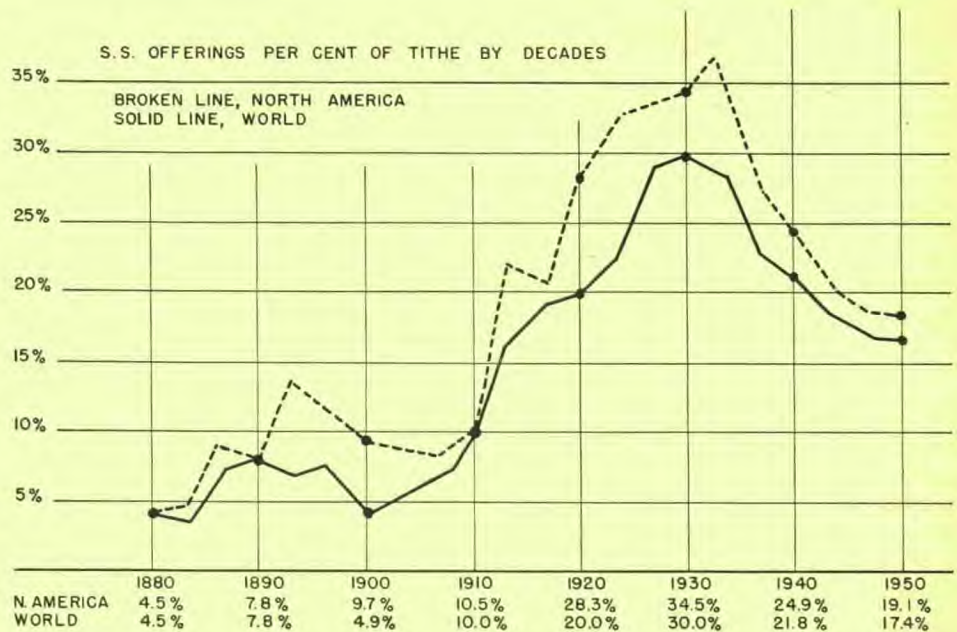
A year and a half or two years elapse

from the time a lesson assignment is made to the time the lesson is studied in our Sabbath schools. For example, the lessons you are now studying on "The Holy Spirit" were arranged for right after the 1950 General Conference. It will be seen, therefore, that a lot of time and painstaking effort goes into the preparation of the Sabbath school lessons.

These facts concerning the preparation of the Sabbath school lessons, we trust, will enable our people to appreciate a little more fully the importance attached to the Sabbath school lessons.



Medical work along the Amazon has benefited from more than one thirteenth Sabbath overflow.



This chart shows the relation of Sabbath school giving to the tithe in both North America and the world. In 1900, through the Sabbath schools, North America gave an amount approximately equal to 10 per cent of the tithe. For the world the amount was about 5 per cent. The peak year was 1930 when an amount equal to 34.5 per cent of the tithe was given in North American Sabbath schools. Since, there has been a decline in Sabbath school giving in relation to tithe.

DOWN UNDERNEATH THE SOUTHERN CROSS

By C. C. WEIS

Sabbath School Secretary
Australasian Division

IT WAS an eventful day, June 7, 1885, when S. N. Haskell, J. O. Corliss, M. C. Israel, Henry Scott, and William Arnold landed in Sydney, Australia. Little did they realize then how great a flame they were kindling, how bright the light would shine, and how far around the world the sons and daughters of those who would accept the third angel's message would go.

April 10, 1886, the first church was organized in the suburbs of Melbourne. In August, 1888, the Australia Conference was organized. At the same time the Australian Sabbath School Association was organized and sent in its first report to the General Conference Sabbath School Department—9 Sabbath schools and 511 Sabbath school members!

Three years later, by the time Mrs. E. G. White arrived in Australia in 1891, there were 33 Sabbath schools, and the membership had more than doubled—1,071.

Three years later, in 1894, when the work in Australia was organized into a union conference, there were 58 Sabbath schools and 1,592 Sabbath school members.

The churches grew, and the Sabbath schools multiplied, till in 1922 the work was organized as a division, with one union conference and one great union mission. At that time we had 390 Sabbath schools and 12,939 Sabbath school members.

Again, in 1948 it was necessary to subdivide the union conference and the union mission, so that we now have two union conferences and two union missions. At that time there were 772 Sabbath schools and 37,122 Sabbath school members. The work continued to grow, so that at the end of 1951 there were 884 Sabbath

schools and 49,621 Sabbath school members.

In the sixty-four years since the Sabbath School Association in Australia was organized the Sabbath school membership has doubled itself six times, and today there are more Seventh-day Adventists for 10,000 population in Australasia than in any other division in the world.

Throughout the years Australasia's Sabbath schools have supported the mission program loyally, and for a long time maintained their South Pacific Island missions without any help from North America. Since 1948, however, when the new inter-union organization was effected, Australasia has adopted the same policy that applies to other divisions in which the Sabbath school offerings are reported to the General Conference and given back in the budget, thus giving Australasia a share in the worldwide missions, and giving the world Sabbath schools an interest in Australasia's interesting island fields. Australasia's annual per capita of Sabbath school offerings, which amounted to \$5.73 in 1951, is second only to North America.

The total Sabbath school offerings for 1951 were \$171,913.00.

Since the sending of the first Australian missionary, A. H. Piper, to the Cook Islands in 1901, literally hundreds of Australasia's sons and daughters have crossed the ocean and gone to lands afar. And with the help of the Lord Jesus, there has been no language too difficult for them to learn, no climate too harsh for them to endure, no mission station too isolated for them to man, no heathen customs too horrible for them to change. A fleet of twenty-five motor launches takes them to every island. They paddle by canoe, walk through steamy tropical jungles, and fly over vast oceans and tall mountain peaks.

Thirty miles from our Kainantu mission station in the New Guinea Highlands, Pastor A. J. Campbell has visited a tribe

who are worse than cannibals; *they eat their dead!* It does not matter what is the cause of the death. The body is cut into pieces and eaten raw. Then the bones are powdered and also eaten. These people were attracted to our mission by the singing of our New Guinea Christians, and asked for a teacher to be placed among them. A young man named Aranki was sent to them. He could not believe that they actually ate their dead, but when he asked where their cemetery was, they pointed to their open mouths.

Not long after his arrival there was a death in the village. Aranki urged that the body be buried in the Christian way, and was jubilant when they agreed. He conducted an impressive Christian funeral, and felt very satisfied. In the morning, however, as he walked by the new grave he was dismayed to find that during the night the body had been dug up and eaten by the people in a nearby village.

Aranki kept working and teaching and begging, and soon there were two more

Below: Division Sabbath school secretaries who report on our Sabbath school work in this symposium.



C. C. Weis
Australasia



W. Raecker
Central Europe



F. A. Pratt
Far East



W. A. Wild
Inter-America



G. J. Appel
Middle East

Around the World W



A SYMPOSIUM B

SABBATH SCHO

With the Sabbath School



BY THE DIVISION SABBATH SCHOOL SECRETARIES

RIISING AGAIN IN GERMANY

By W. RAECKER

*Sabbath School Secretary
Central European Division*

FROM the first contacts of Seventh-day Adventists with a group of Sabbathkeepers at Elberfeld, Germany, in 1874, by J. N. Andrews and James Erzeberger to the work of L. R. Conradi, J. T. Boettcher, and J. Klein at Hamburg in 1888 and 1889, a foundation was laid by German missionaries for a great work in Germany and in mission fields.

It was at the first general meeting of German Seventh-day Adventists at Hamburg in 1891 that the Sabbath school in Germany was put on a more secure footing by the organization of a Sabbath school association. Through the years, with many vicissitudes, the Sabbath school has been a binding influence in Germany. Before the rigors of the past two decades our Sabbath schools in Germany made a valuable contribution to the world mission program. Our country for many years was an influential center of Adventism in Europe, and was responsible for the establishment of a strong work in many countries in Africa, Asia, and island fields.

After the breakdown in 1945, earnest endeavors were made in all conferences in Germany to reach our isolated believers and the refugees and to make them members of the Sabbath schools. By 1946 the Sabbath school attendance averaged twenty-two thousand. Often members were not in a position to give money for Sabbath school offerings, but in heart-stirring faithfulness they brought their Sabbath school offerings in kind, for example, fruit, vegetables, eggs, and honey.

A special difficulty was the securing of lessons for the Sabbath school. We used the lessons always a quarter after the dates provided by the General Conference, and we were glad that the South German Union could get a large number of adult

burials planned. Two angry chiefs came in all their war paint, and dancing around the bodies brandished their spears and demanded that they be permitted to follow the tribal custom. Finally a compromise was suggested by a friendly chief, and the angry chiefs were satisfied with part of the flesh from the thighs of the bodies. The rest was buried in the Christian way.

Aranki reports a great interest, and he is confident of ultimate victory over this hideous custom.

The Coral Sea Union figures show four times as many Sabbath school members as there are church members. It surely seems that where there is the most darkness the gospel light shines the brightest.

While the Sabbath schools of North America are celebrating their one hundredth birthday, the 49,621 Sabbath school members from the 64-year-old Australasian Sabbath school department send you their greetings and pledge themselves to keep the light shining brighter and brighter till Jesus comes.

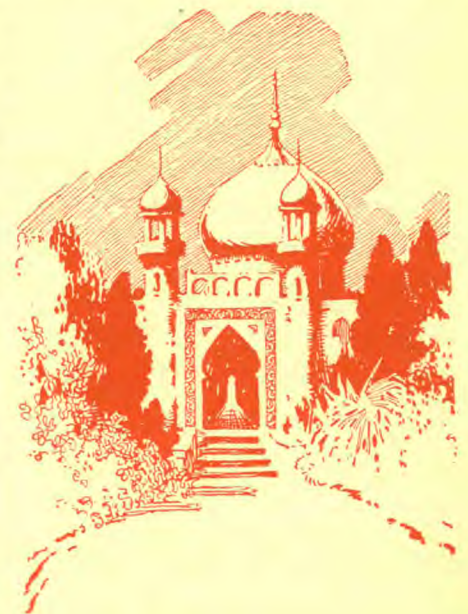
Sabbath school lessons from Switzerland. We had no lessons for our children.

The sixteenth of November, 1946, was appointed Sabbath school day. A special program was prepared and conveyed to all ministers and churches. Soon most churches had their Sabbath schools organized, with class divisions and also teachers' meetings. So we gradually returned to the custom we had before the Sabbath school was prohibited by the government.

The year 1947 helped us to approach the goal, "Every church member a member of the Bible school." By the middle of the year 84 per cent of the church membership were members of the Sabbath schools. In view of the fact that many of our evacuated fellow believers were scattered in faraway towns and villages, we dedicated our special attention to the family Sabbath schools. Through this effort almost five thousand évacués were enrolled in the Sabbath school, and various new churches were organized. In order to advance the reporting in our Sabbath schools, report blanks were printed. These enabled the teachers to get a better survey of the attendance in their classes. We were happy to report three thousand children in our Sabbath schools. In order to give the children a uniform instruction and to offer them lesson material, we began to publish special lessons for the children in January, 1948.

By 1949 wonderful progress had been made in the Sabbath school work. Though the area of the three German unions was essentially smaller than in 1933, we had forty-six hundred more members in the Sabbath school. The interest in the study of Bible lessons was so great that the editions for them had to be increased from quarter to quarter.

During the Nazi regime, a period of twelve years, young people and children in Germany were systematically kept away from the influence of God's Word and of



E. L. Minchin
Northern Europe



Santiago Schmidt
South America



S. S. Hiten
Southern Africa



W. L. Barclay
Southern Asia



A. D. Gomes
Southern Europe

Christian instruction in church and school. Now we have the joy of seeing in the Sabbath schools the keen interest of the young people in the Word of God and its truths. For their religious instruction two booklets were reprinted. We also reprinted the children's songbook *Pray and Sing*. Through these two mediums the hours of the Sabbath school became a happy time for the children.

The growth of the Sabbath school in these years can be clearly seen in the increase of the total membership: 1946, 33,000; 1947, 44,000; 1948, 47,000; and 1949, 49,000.

At the General Conference session in 1950 a change was made in the leadership of the Sabbath school department of our division. Brother M. Busch, who had cared for this work so faithfully and well for sixteen years, passed the responsibility on to the writer. Particularly in the afterwar years the Sabbath school has proved to be the department that occupies the first place in our work.

Caring for Our Children

We gratefully mention that not only in West Germany do our children have the privilege of attending the Sabbath service, but also in East Germany an official decree was published in August, 1950, releasing our children from attending school on Sabbath. Since we have no church schools for our children, we try to make up the lack by meetings for parents, council meetings for Sabbath school teachers, meetings for children, children's camps, and district church services for our children. We do not spare any endeavor or expense that is necessary for a successful work. We are especially happy that in addition to the lesson sheets, our five thousand little Sabbath school pupils who can be counted in

70 per cent of our churches have their own paper *Our Little Friend* in German. Other things that are planned for our children include color sets, certificates for children's mission work, and invitation cards for children's hours.

Appreciation of the Sabbath school mounted in 1951, confirming it as the first department for winning souls and holding them. In the newly printed *Church Helper* inspirational articles and hints of various kinds are published.

We especially rejoice in the action of the General Conference to grant us the overflow offering of the third quarter, 1952, for the evangelistic efforts of the Central European Division.

Thus today our work in Germany is springing to its feet again after the devastating effects of restrictions and war. Up from the rubble of ruin of our cities new chapels are rising, as is also the spirit and morale of the Advent people. However, in many places our believers still have to meet in rented halls, private homes, even in basements, and sometimes out of doors. Under these conditions it has been difficult for our Sabbath schools to be properly conducted. Frequently there has been barely room to accommodate our adult classes, with no room for the children. But we rejoice that these conditions are changing, and many of our newer churches are making provision for the children. We must do all we can to keep them coming to Sabbath school, for children are the lifeblood of the church.

The picture is growing increasingly brighter for our Sabbath schools in Germany. The spirit of evangelism is growing, and we hope soon to be sending missionaries and means again to the foreign fields. A start in this direction has already been made.

The Branches Are Bearing Fruit in the Far East

By F. A. Pratt, *Sabbath School Secretary, Far Eastern Division*

THE first Sabbath school in the Far Eastern Division was organized in Tokyo, Japan, in 1896. From this small beginning at the turn of the century the message has made steady progress in all the unions comprised in the Far Eastern Division territory. In every country the first organization set up was the Sabbath school, the Sabbath school thus being the foundation of the church. Today we have about 1,300 Sabbath schools, with a membership of 68,451, scattered over this vast territory.

From the island of Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan, to the island of Timor on the south is a distance longer than that across the United States. From Sumatra on the west to New Guinea on the east, likewise, stretches a distance of more than three thousand miles. Scattered all through this great island mission field we have Sabbath schools everywhere. In many, many places the first interests were started by our faithful colporteurs, and the first organization set up, naturally, was a Sabbath school. Not long ago on the island of Timor one of our colporteurs found an interest and organized a Sabbath school, and later Alfrits Pasuhuk visited that island and baptized seven.

I cannot speak too enthusiastically about the soul-saving possibilities of the branch Sabbath school idea. In many places in this division this plan is being followed with good results. The Japan Union Mission has sixty-three regularly organized Sabbath schools and eighty-three branch Sabbath schools. At Naraha the Japan Junior College has sixteen branch Sabbath schools that it is sponsoring. Already one church has been organized and a church building erected and dedicated.

On the island of Okinawa, where our work is just beginning, a Sunday school has been opened, with three hundred children in attendance.

In the Philippines, Dr. A. N. Nelson, Mrs. H. L. Dyer, and others have conducted a branch Sabbath school among the Japanese prisoners of war at Manila. Many of these prisoners were condemned to die. A noble work was done, and on October 29, 1949, nineteen were baptized by Dr. Nelson, of the Philippine Union College. Since the baptism several of them have paid the death penalty, but we believe that they were ready to die, largely because of the influence of the Sabbath school.

In the same prison, in January, 1950, Brother and Sister David Dee, of the Manila Chinese church, organized a branch Sabbath school for the Chinese prisoners. The following November two members of this group were baptized.



Central European Division: Sabbath school secretaries of the division and the three unions.

Since that time both of these men have been put to death. On July 14, 1951, eight more candidates from the same group were baptized by M. C. Warren, the president of the North Philippine Union Mission. This was a unique baptism, for it was held inside the prison walls, just to the rear of the prison hospital. Also in this same institution a branch Sabbath school for Filipinos is conducted by students from the Philippine Union College. Only eternity will reveal the influence of these three branch Sabbath schools in this one prison in Manila.

Early in the year 1950 C. G. Oliver and R. M. Turner, of the Far Eastern Island Mission, with headquarters on Guam, were on a trip to Saipan. The captain of the small boat on which they were traveling had been a seaman on a ship that called at Guam, and for some reason had missed his boat. Brother Oliver talked with him long into the night about the truth, and he showed real interest. When the captain's former ship reached the States, inquiry was made as to his whereabouts, and when it was found that he was in Guam without a permit, he was promptly arrested and put in jail. Brother Oliver heard of this and visited him and supplied him with literature. Through Brother Oliver's influence this sailor was finally released from prison and returned to the States.

Prison Sabbath School

While visiting the sailor, Brother Oliver became acquainted with a prisoner from Hawaii, who had formerly been an Adventist, but had grown careless. This contact finally resulted in the organization of a branch Sabbath school in the prison. Thus this contact with the American captain, followed through when he was in trouble, resulted in the organization of a branch Sabbath school, from which, finally, eight were baptized. Since then another baptism has been held.

The Singapore English church has been conducting a branch Sabbath school at Johore Bahru for the past several months, and Pastor Turner, who has been sponsoring it, informs me that the new members hope to have their own church building some time in the near future. At present about thirty-five attend each week.

Space will not permit me to list all the soul-winning activities of the Sabbath schools of the Far Eastern Division. We appreciate the splendid cooperation of our workers and laymen in making the Sabbath school not just a place of study but a real soul-saving agency. The messenger of the Lord wrote:

"The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ."
—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10.

May the Lord bless the Sabbath schools the world around and make them just what they are designed to be—most effectual soul-winning agencies.



Group completing the 1951 Sabbath School Teachers' Training Course in Beirut, Lebanon, Middle East Division.

Our Sabbath Schools in the Middle East

By G. J. Appel, *President and Acting Sabbath School Secretary, Middle East Division*

THE Sabbath schools of the Middle East Division are very happy indeed to join other Sabbath schools around the world in celebrating the 1952 Sabbath school centennial. The Sabbath schools have done a wonderful work in leading thousands of men and women and children into a deeper and fuller knowledge of God's Word, preparing them for the imminent return of our blessed Lord and Saviour.

As we join in the centennial of our world Sabbath school work, we here celebrate the sixtieth year since the first school was organized in the Middle East, for it was then that R. S. Anthony joined Z. G. Baharian in helping to raise up little companies of Sabbath schools all over the ancient land of Turkey. Through the tireless efforts of these two pioneers people of many nationalities who were usually in discord were united. Armenians, Greeks, and Turks were brought together in the bond of fellowship as the truths studied in the Sabbath schools made them one in Christ Jesus. In those days they had few of the helps, such as *Lesson Quarterlies*, *Sabbath School Workers*, picture cards, and Picture Rolls, that are available today; but their lives were richly blessed as they searched the Bible, with the Holy Spirit as guide.

Other Pioneer Workers

Later such leaders as Frank Oster, George Keough, W. K. Ising, and others pioneered the work in various areas of these old Bible lands, first studying the Sabbath school lessons in their own homes or in their gardens, until small companies were raised up and houses of worship provided. In those early times *Lesson Quarterlies*, when they had them, were in

English; and because of the time spent in translation, it was necessary to hold the meeting for two or more hours. Later the lessons were printed in Beirut in the Arabic and Armenian languages. Now material is being sent out from this center to all areas where these languages are spoken.

To say today that there are now 41 organized Sabbath schools, with a total membership of 1,735 (23 per cent more than the church membership), would not be telling half the story. Through the interests created by the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School, many, many isolated believers scattered in the villages and on the sandy plains of the desert are in their solitary way studying God's Word and keeping as faithfully as they can God's holy Sabbath. There are also places where two or three or more are gathering together from week to week, searching and praying, as in Christian fellowship they study the Book of all books. Many times these are not counted among the regular Sabbath school members. But whether by large or by small groups or by isolated individuals, the study of the regular lessons and the reading and studying of the Word are having a mighty influence in developing true Christian characters. Many will be gathered into the heavenly kingdom as a result of this work.

In this large and needy field we are attempting to do with God's help a work that will unite all races—Armenians, Turks, Farsis, Persians, Arabs, and Greeks—into a people prepared to meet Jesus when He comes. As the world falls apart God's wonderful truth as presented through the Sabbath school leads His chosen ones to press together.

In the happy day when the Sabbath school members gather in the great Sabbath school above, the precious souls who have been won from the Middle East will clasp hands with all earth's Sabbath school members around the eternal throne of God. We are seeking to hasten that glad day.

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Sabbath School Evangelism in Inter-America

By W. A. Wild, *Secretary*
Sabbath School Department, Inter-American Division

THE soul-winning program of the Inter-American Division finds ready support in the Sabbath schools.

"Young men and women are to come forth from our Sabbath schools and colleges to become missionaries for God."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 86.

Let it be noticed that the Sabbath school is placed on an equal footing with the college as far as spiritual and missionary training are concerned. It is for this reason that the Sabbath school is an important branch of our missionary work, for it seeks primarily to carry the gospel of Christ to those who have been untouched by its saving influence. If the Sabbath school is to do missionary work, then the individuals who make up the directorate and teaching personnel of the school must perform be missionaries. Indeed, all the converted members are to be missionaries for Christ, using the Sabbath school as a base of operations. "It is the work of the Christian teacher and scholar to make earnest efforts that the ranks of Christ may be continually increased, to invite every soul to stand under the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel."—*Ibid.*, pp. 82, 83.

It is indeed very gratifying to look at some of the achievements of this soul-winning agency in Inter-America.

The total Sabbath school membership now stands at nearly 110,000. An average of 60 members make up each of the 1,834 organized Sabbath schools. It takes more than 9,000 teachers to preside over as many classes, each made up of an average of 12 scholars.

An average of 2.6 Sabbath schools have been added every week during the last two years, and the yearly membership gain now amounts to almost seven thousand, or as many Sabbath school members as there were in the entire division thirty years ago.

Inter-America counts over six hundred branch Sabbath schools. What a great potential soul-winning agency they are! They indicate that a spirit of true Sabbath school missionary life is blazing in many sections of the field. The Fajardo Sabbath school, on the island of Puerto Rico, deserves special mention as being the star school. With a membership of one hundred, it is operating over forty branch Sabbath schools.

Many of these branch Sabbath schools are held by lay preachers who know how to use them in their noble work of winning souls for Christ. Others are presided over by Sabbath school members who have successfully finished the studies of the Sabbath school teachers' training course,

but as yet have not had an opportunity to teach in their own mother school.

In some parts of the division the Sabbath school work progresses slowly and under hardships and persecution. Pray for the Lord's continued blessings upon the Sabbath school work in the Inter-American Division.

Centennial Greetings From Northern Europe

By E. L. Minchin, *Sabbath School Secretary, Northern European Division*

FROM the beautiful fiords of Norway, from the pine-covered lakelands of Finland, from lovely Sweden, from ye banks and ye braes of bonny Scotland, from ancient Holland, from Denmark, from Iceland touching the Arctic Circle, from ancient Ethiopia, and from colorful West Africa—yes, from all over our great Northern European Division, sixty-six thousand loyal Sabbath school members send warmest greetings to our Sabbath schools throughout the world in this centennial year.

We rejoice to know that we belong to the ever-growing world Sabbath school family of more than one million members, and thrill to the reports of Sabbath school growth and activity in all parts of the world. Here in these ancient lands of Northern Europe we sense the importance of the place this great institution has in the building of God's church and in the preparation of a people to meet their Lord. We are resolved as we face this centennial year to accept this unusual opportunity for launching the strongest soul-saving evangelistic Sabbath school program in our history.

At the end of 1951 we had 66,010 Sab-

bath school members in 1,110 schools throughout our division. This is a gain of 4,836 over that of the previous year. This is remarkable when we remember that our total church membership is only 41,000. The percentage of Sabbath school membership to church membership is therefore 178 per cent. This is largely due to the wonderful Sabbath school attendance in West Africa, where we have a church membership of 9,742 and a Sabbath school membership of 37,400.

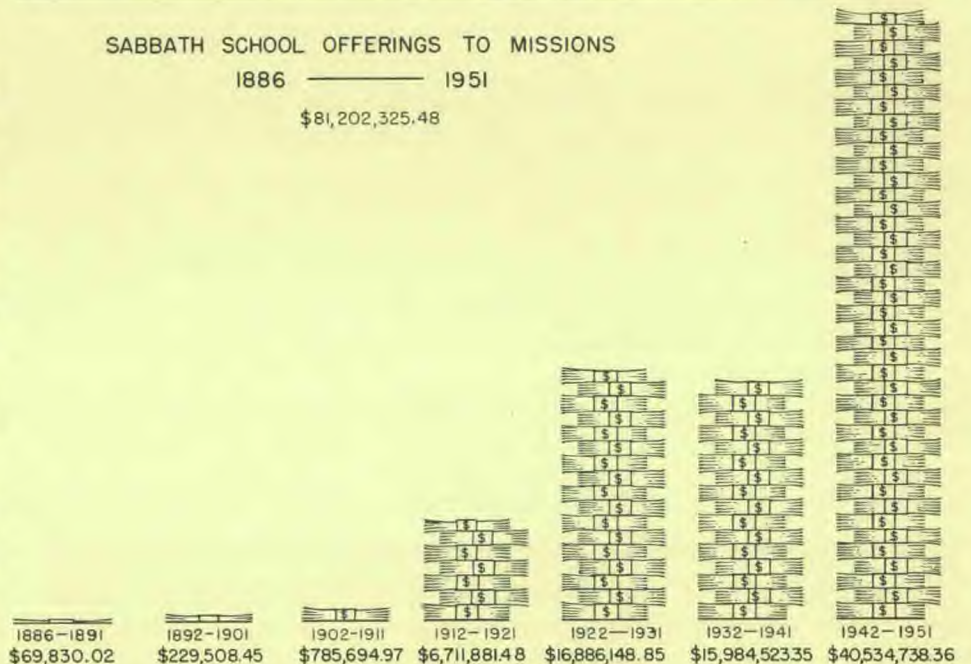
Our Sabbath schools continue to pour means into the Lord's treasury and to establish our people in the great truths of the Word of God. In every conference in Northern Europe we are witnessing a new and fast-growing interest in Sabbath school evangelism and in the soul-winning possibilities of branch Sabbath school and Sunday school work. Nearly three thousand children from the streets of the great cities and towns of these densely populated home fields are gathered into branch Sabbath schools and Sunday schools, and in West Africa truly a wonderful work is being done in 146 branch Sabbath schools.

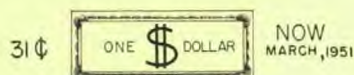
My visit to West Africa has been one of great inspiration. Sabbath school evangelism is the order of the day there. I visited with our young people as they conducted their branch Sabbath schools. It was my privilege to visit one village where two brothers, about twenty-one and twenty-two years of age, have raised up a whole church. They began with a branch Sabbath school and have now eighty Sabbath school members, with fourteen baptized members. It was a heathen village with no other Christian church at all. These boys built their own church and visited among the villages and called the people in. It was a joy to grip the hands of these boys, who so recently came out of heathenism, and to look into their smiling, consecrated faces. When I commended the older boy

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The shrinking value of the U.S. dollar as compared with its purchase power in 1900 is seen in this chart. A dollar given in Sabbath school now does not amount to as much in reality as it once did.

for the wonderful work he had done, he just smiled and said, "By the grace of God."

I visited Jengre Mission Hospital where a portion of our thirteenth Sabbath overflow for the first quarter of this year is going. There was tremendous interest and appreciation there for the great help that is going to them. As I saw Dr. John Hyde and his wife working so lovingly and faithfully under such primitive conditions, I knew that our Sabbath school members throughout the world will rejoice when they know what their offerings will do for this needy mission field where we have just two white families working among eleven million people.

And here is D. V. Cowin, the Sabbath school secretary of the West African Union Mission, with one story out of scores that he could tell. "I would like to tell the story of a boy in one of our fields who has successfully carried the idea of Sabbath school work into his field. This lad was a schoolboy and was in school because a grandmother paid his expenses. Each week he went back visiting his village, which was made up entirely of Mohammedans, and there he taught the lessons of Sabbath school and used the Picture Roll. One day the grandmother took sick and passed away. This schoolboy after the death of his grandmother was the only person who could be sent into the village to answer the questions of the people. Over a period of months he carried on with his Sabbath school and preaching program. Each Sabbath afternoon he would go to a nearby village for a second series of meetings. When the brethren went in to examine the situation they found that this lad had gained about twenty converts in his own village and over thirty-five in the nearby village."

Listen to Brother E. R. Warland, the Sabbath school secretary of the British Union, telling a thrilling story of Sabbath school evangelism in his field: "A few years ago we had only two or three Sunday schools in Britain. Now we have twenty, as well as five branch Sabbath schools. The enrollment totals about 550. How did these schools begin? Usually in a very humble way, as may be illustrated by this story of our latest addition.

"Three children came into the midweek prayer meeting of one of our Birmingham churches. They seemed greatly amused by the service, which evidently was quite different from what they anticipated. However, before the meeting had closed, their young hearts had been touched by the Spirit of God, for at its close they apologized to the pastor for their unseemly behavior. The shepherd heart of the minister was touched, and he asked whether they would come again to a special service. Thus the Sunday school was born.

"In one of the west country churches in the South England Conference is a little girl who loves the Sabbath school. She persuaded a non-Adventist school friend to accompany her to Sabbath school instead of going to the matinee performance at the theater. Her little friend came, and she enjoyed the special children's Sabbath school so much that she came again. Her enthusiasm led her to beg her mother to go along to the Adventist church and see for herself how good the services were. The unwilling mother gave way to the importunings of her little daughter, and she also came to church and liked it. She began to attend regularly, and after a while she asked her husband to accompany her! He did. He found *his* spiritual home too. Now father and mother are baptized, and the little daughter has been invested in one of the Missionary Volunteer progressive courses."

Note the following from Onsi Peltonen, Sabbath school secretary of the East Nordic Union: "The Sabbath school is a particularly blessed gift to the East Nordic Union, because very few of our congregations have their own pastors, since our workers are engaged in full-time evangelism for those not of our faith. Even the largest of our congregations are without pastors for many years. They have to take care of themselves, and in some instances are seldom visited by our ministers. What would happen if we did not have our Sabbath schools? Our congregations and church groups would not keep together without the binding influence of the Sabbath school. It is stirring to think of the

thousands of faithful members coming with their Bibles under their arms to Sabbath schools from the southernmost point of Sweden to Lapland in the north, and from the frontier of Norway to the very iron curtain between Finland and great Russia in the east. May God bless them all."

We in Northern Europe greet our Sabbath school family throughout the world. We believe God is giving us all a vision of the great evangelizing agency the Sabbath school should be. We join you in a glorious crusade for Christ in this centenary year.

The Sabbath School and African Mission Advance

By S. S. Hiten, *Sabbath School Secretary, Southern African Division*

FROM the earliest days of our denominational history in Africa the Sabbath school has been closely identified with our mission advance. The very first mission ever established by Seventh-day Adventists for heathen people was established in Africa by a ten-thousand-dollar donation from the Sabbath schools in America. This money went to open up the work in Southern Rhodesia, on a tract of land given to us by Cecil Rhodes. This mission was named Solusi. It has grown strong through the years, and is today one of our major training centers for African workers.

From this beginning, more than half a century ago, made possible by the generosity of the Sabbath schools, our mission work has now spread out over vast sections of Africa with scores of mission lights illuminating the one-time Dark Continent. Through the years of our progress the Sabbath school has often been the spearhead of our evangelistic advance. From the Cape to the Congo, Sabbath schools are being conducted in many languages.

In Africa the Sabbath school is indeed a soul-winning agency, as will be seen from the following facts:

Since the time of our division council in 1946 until the close of 1951, there has been a steady gain in Sabbath schools and membership. During this period the regular Sabbath schools have increased in number from 1,942 to 2,320 (a gain of 378), and our branch Sabbath schools from 199 to 503. The Sabbath school membership has grown from 108,403 at the end of 1946 to 190,831 at the close of 1951—a gain of 82,428.

Excluding branch Sabbath schools, there are 1,699 more Sabbath schools than churches in the Southern African Division, and 105,426 more Sabbath school members than there are church members. These figures emphasize once again the importance of the Sabbath school as an evangelizing agency.

Know Anyone in Trouble?

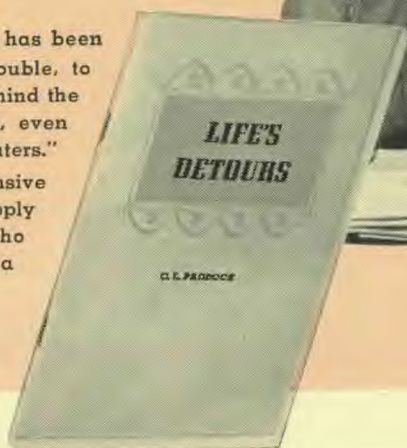
Do you know anyone who does not have his troubles now and then? We all seem to have some clouds mixed in with the days of sunshine. There may be death in the family, sickness, reverses, trials, troubles, discouragements.

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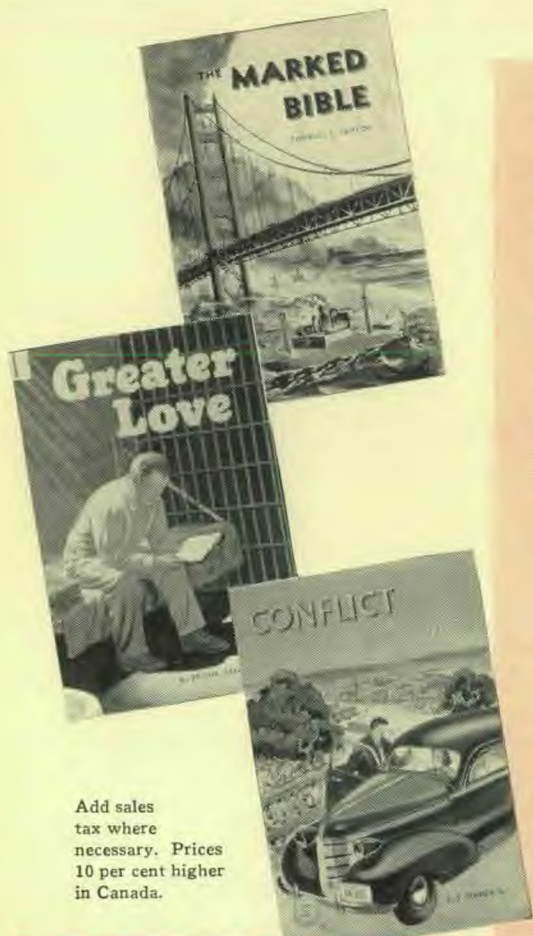
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Perhaps apart from the indoctrination of the children of the church through the medium of the Sabbath school, no single aspect of our Sabbath school work is charged with greater possibilities for evangelism than the branch Sabbath school plan. The Spirit of prophecy has stated that "the Sabbath-school, if rightly conducted, is one of God's great instrumentalities to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth."—*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, p. 18.

We have set as our goal the opening and fostering of at least one new branch Sabbath school annually by each of our regular Sabbath schools in the division.

Sabbath Schools of Southern Europe

By A. D. Gomes, Secretary
Sabbath School Department
Southern European Division

THE first seeds of present truth in Europe were sown in Switzerland by a converted Polish priest named M. B. Czechowski, who had come in contact with Seventh-day Adventists in America, and had accepted the truths of baptism, the Second Advent, and the Sabbath. His labors in Switzerland included the publishing of a paper called *The Everlasting Gospel*.

At Tramelan, Switzerland, a little company of believers was raised up in 1867, twelve of whom were baptized that year. Czechowski left the next year for Romania. Some of his followers wrote to Battle Creek for assistance. They were invited to send a representative to the General Conference in 1869. James Erzeberger, a young Swiss, was sent on this mission. He returned to Switzerland in September, 1870. That same year another young Swiss, Ademar Vuilleumier, went to America to receive training as a preacher.

These contacts with representatives from Switzerland encouraged the General Conference to send a missionary to Europe. At the General Conference in August, 1874, J. N. Andrews was chosen for this work. It was about this time that the first Sabbath schools in Europe began. The first Sabbath school report sent to the General Conference in 1889 showed that there were 13 Sabbath schools, with a membership of 353.

Sabbath Schools in Many Countries

From these early days the Sabbath schools have extended all over Europe as the work has grown and divided and subdivided till today, in the Southern European Division alone, including its mission fields, there are more than two thousand Sabbath schools, with over a hundred thousand Sabbath school members distributed in many countries, reported by unions as follows:

Unions	Number of Sabbath Schools	Membership
Austrian	106	2,824
Czechoslovakian	160	5,845
Franco-Belgian	80	3,739
Hungarian	175	7,000
Yugoslavian	300	9,000
Romanian	560	36,000
Swiss	72	2,842
Angola	170	10,880
French West and Equatorial African	98	9,181
Indian Ocean	84	3,369
Italian	99	2,181
North African	22	698
Portuguese	46	2,480
<i>Missions</i>		
Bulgarian	39	2,000
Grecian	10	203
Portuguese East African	27	1,604
Spanish	13	873
Tangier	1	4
	<hr/> 2,062	<hr/> 100,723

In certain sections of our division our Sabbath schools are being conducted under great difficulty, but in some of these places we have our greatest interest and most rapid growth. We are also happy to report that increasing interest is being taken in the children of our Sabbath schools. More visual aids are being used in the children's divisions. Sand tables, flannel boards, and pictures are finding a greater place in the class instruction.

In a number of our Sabbath schools definite advancement is being made along these lines. Here at the division headquarters in Bern, the children's leaders are doing an excellent work for the boys and girls. As an example of this interest in many other places I refer to Athens, Greece. There we have a church, but until recently nothing was being done for the children. When Brother and Sister Nicholas Poulos arrived from America for work in Athens, Sister Poulos asked about the children. "We have no children," the members said, "except two or three little ones."

"Give me those little children and a room," Sister Poulos said. With some reluctance they assigned her space. Our sister went to work, and attractively decorated the room. She began with those two or three children. Last year, when I visited Athens, Sister Poulos had fifteen children in her division, several of them from non-Adventist homes. In France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and other sections of the division I also found a live interest in making the Sabbath school more helpful to the children.

On May 29, at our Swiss general assembly, more than one thousand delegates from all over Switzerland joined in a special Sabbath school centennial service in Lausanne.

From our far-flung division, we join our Sabbath schools around the world in rededication to the great ideals of the Sabbath school.

The Sabbath School Torch in Southern Asia

By W. L. Barclay, Secretary
Sabbath School Department
Southern Asia Division

IN 1895 a simple little act took place that was actually the beginning of a great drama that has changed the lives of many. The final act of that drama will take place when Jesus comes to gather the redeemed. In Calcutta, India, in that seaport with its teeming millions, a small group of foreigners had gathered. Elder and Mrs. D. A. Robinson, Dr. and Mrs. O. G. Place, and a few others, burdened with a desire to kindle the torch of truth in Asia, opened the first Sabbath school ever held in India.

The walls of the little room at 154 Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta, resounded with the song of glory that came from the throats of thirty people rejoicing in a common hope. What a small beginning for the gigantic task that lay before them! How insignificant their efforts must have seemed to the prince of darkness. How he must have laughed at the thought of thirty people daring to lift voices in challenge to the untold millions of idolaters. For millenniums these people of Asia had lived by their pagan philosophies, unheeding the opportunities presented to them by the Holy Spirit to let Christ come into their lives.

Satan must have laughed at the efforts of this insignificant group. But perhaps he laughed too soon. This message was to go to all the world before the end would come, and this little group, a mere speck among Calcutta's hordes of people, was convinced by fulfilled prophecy that the end was near. Its members had the privilege of going forward by faith and leaving the results in the hands of a wise God. So a Sabbath school was organized, a simple little act, and the drama of Southern Asia had begun.

These men of faith were not to be discouraged. In spite of sickness, hardship, homesickness, setbacks, they pressed forward. Slowly the work began to grow, oh! so slowly, but so surely. In 1905 Elder and Mrs. H. H. Votaw arrived in Burma, and soon afterward a Sabbath school was organized in Rangoon. In the shadow of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda, golden emblem of Buddhism, the seeds of truth were planted and carefully watered. Gradually the tree grew, and branches were transplanted throughout Burma. During World War II our believers went through many trials, but the work went forward. Even in the midst of postwar troubles the Sabbath school work is onward. The light kindled in Calcutta in 1895 and transplanted to Burma in 1905 is burning brightly today.

In 1908 J. S. James and his faithful wife began the first Sabbath school in South India, at a place called Nazareth, in the

Tamil-speaking area. We rejoice in the fact that against tremendous opposition our Sabbath schools and churches in South India have grown in number until today there are 183 Sabbath schools with a total membership of 8,160.

One of the first converts was a young man who translated for Pastor James. At first this young man, E. D. Thomas, differed with Elder James on points of doctrine, and refused to translate the message on the state of the dead. With patience Elder James labored with him, and eventually Mr. Thomas accepted the entire message. When he was baptized his parents disowned him and turned him out of the home, but he remained faithful, and has spent forty-three years in the Master's service. His children are also in the work, or are married to workers. Twenty workers have come from Nazareth. Pastor Thomas organized the first Sabbath school in the Malayan field in 1916 at Pullikottukonam, now known as Adventpuram, meaning Adventist village.

The steady growth of the Sabbath school work continued. The gospel light was reaching further afield, probing into the darkness, seeking for the honest in heart. In the north Pastor and Mrs. F. H. Loasby and Dr. and Mrs. V. L. Mann began work at Lahore, in what is now known as Pakistan, where the work is going forward with good success.

In 1916 a Sabbath school was organized at Mampay, Jaffna, on the northern shore of beautiful Ceylon. It was just a small Sabbath school, but today there are twenty-two Sabbath schools in Ceylon.

In 1927 Pastor and Mrs. A. E. Rawson began work in the Kanarese field. They laid an excellent foundation, and the work there is growing steadily.

By 1927 there were 211 Sabbath schools in Southern Asia, with a membership of 5,137. Some of the schools were held

under the trees because of lack of buildings. Lack of Sabbath school *Quarterlies* and other supplies was a serious handicap, and it was a great day when Picture Rolls began to arrive from the United States. These Picture Rolls were borrowed by the adult members of the Sabbath school to show to their friends, and in this way others became interested.

As the light continued to reach its glowing fingers of truth into the dark recesses of Southern Asia, it came to rest in Assam, where Pastor and Mrs. J. F. Ashlock opened up the work. It began to glow in Western India and other places.

The light that was kindled in Calcutta in 1895 has reached out to kindle 476 lights in that many Sabbath schools in Southern Asia. The 30 members of that first school have grown to 20,330 by the first quarter of 1951.

The growth in Sabbath school membership continued. During the war years (1941-45) 1,700 members were baptized. Since the close of the war to the end of 1951 membership in the Sabbath school has increased from 14,687 to 20,069, an increase of 5,382 in five years. This is almost equal to the total membership for the first thirty-three years, which in 1928 was 5,800. During the first three quarters of 1951, 607 Sabbath school members were baptized. This is more than the total number baptized from 1914-23 during which time a total of 531 were baptized. Since 1914 a total of 11,415 Sabbath school members have been baptized, and have helped to spread the gospel light in Southern Asia.

The thousands who have accepted the challenge to spread the light in Southern Asia know what it means to sacrifice. These render more than lip service to the cause of God. In Southern Asia we find the poorest of the poor, yet from 1914 to

the first three quarters of 1951 a total of (1,306,757 rupees) \$280,952.75 has been given in Sabbath school offerings to advance the message in all the world and send its life-giving rays into every heart that will open its doors.

The Sabbath school centennial year offers new opportunities and new challenges. The Sabbath schools of the Southern Asia Division rise to the challenge of the times. Pray for us that God will continue to lead us to great victories for Him.

Soul-winning Sabbath Schools in South America

By Santiago Schmidt, *Secretary Sabbath School Department South American Division*

WE HAVE found that whenever and wherever we train our church officers, especially in the Sabbath school department, they want to practice what they have learned. We can see their eagerness to do something; they enjoy their teaching. But the greatest blessing comes when one can see the great desire these people have to take the precious lessons they have learned to their neighbors.

The branch Sabbath school has been the best method we have had so far to evangelize for the Sabbath school. How glad we are to be able to report more than five hundred branch Sabbath schools for our division! How do they find the places to open these schools? They learn to take advantage of every opportunity.

Just a little over a year ago we found a little trouble in a certain good-sized church, but after three days of instruction it became a soul-winning church. The members canvassed the entire city from door to door, using fourteen thousand pieces of the very best literature we have. Now there are eight branch Sabbath schools in the city.

One of these schools is conducted in a very good home with a family of eight persons. The father of the family is a colonel. We invited them for an evening meeting, and the entire family came to the church that night. It was our last meeting. We asked the brethren to put their names on the blackboard and write the number of souls they wanted to win during 1951. After a number of people had put their names, with their goals, on the blackboard, the colonel and his wife went up. They each put down their name with a figure 2 after it. This meant that each one plans to win two souls for Christ during the remainder of this year. They asked to be baptized soon. This kind of experience suddenly fills our eyes with tears, especially when we learn that these people live in a very fanatical region where persecution takes place quite often. It is wonderful when the Sabbath school members get the soul-winning vision!



Practice in Sabbath school teaching at our college in Medellín, Colombia, South America.

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By
Ellen G.
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Publication Date,
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by F. D. Nichol

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THIS OFFER EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 15, 1952

Two thousand miles away from the place just mentioned, living on the banks of the Amazon River, there lives an earnest sister. One Sabbath morning, returning from church, she saw a woman at the door of her little store. The woman wanted to buy a white dress for her daughter who was preparing for marriage. Our good sister saw her opportunity right there. Carefully she told the woman about the white robes that Jesus is preparing for the largest marriage ever held. The next Sabbath our good sister was holding a branch Sabbath school in the home of that woman, and about three months later almost every member of her family was baptized.

Our sister has now become leader of the branch Sabbath schools in that city, and assisted by Sabbath school teachers, she is conducting fifteen branch Sabbath schools. The average attendance in each of these is about twenty, which means that in one city about three hundred people are receiving wonderful Bible instruction every week through the branch Sabbath schools, and every quarter some are baptized as a result.

The Sabbath school is feeding the entire flock. Very few of our churches in this field have a pastor to preach to them every Sabbath. However, we need to do more, especially for our children. We need better places for them to meet.

We must take advantage of the wonderful work that can be done through the Sabbath school to save our children, so that we can take them with us into the kingdom in the great day of final victory.

Certainly "the Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10.

Help Double Our Church Membership Through the Sabbath School

(Continued from page 8)

is to preach with all the power and earnestness God gives him. The teacher is to bend every energy to impress the youthful mind with divine truth. The colporteur is to call at every home. The physician is to point every patient to the Lamb of God. The writer, the student, the parent, those in the office, the shop, the factory, the church, and on the farm, wherever the daily task may find them—all are to be diligent workers toward the one supreme goal of persuading men and women to believe in God and to prepare for heaven. Everyone is to help his brother. When Peter and Andrew let down the net at the Master's bidding, they were unable to draw it in by themselves. So "they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that

they should come and help them." Luke 5:7. It takes every worker in every field of service to bring in the gospel net.

Among the several agencies ordained of God to build up His church, the Sabbath school is certainly one of the most useful and effective. It is adapted to all lands, it speaks every language, it is accustomed to any climate, it serves the people of every race, it has a lesson for each age group, and it is suited to every rank and condition of mankind. In fact, it is difficult to journey beyond the influence of the Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath school. Every week the song of praise ascends from Sabbath schools above the Arctic Circle, high in the Andes Mountains, deep in the Borneo jungles, down on the Straits of Magellan near Cape Horn. In lonely valleys, in crowded streets amid the roar of city traffic, by ancient river, and on palmy plain this worldwide agency of the third angel's message is to be found.

The voice of prayer reaches the ear of God in many forms of speech. Around the world Bibles are opened. In some countries what appear to Western eyes as queer-looking pages with strange, meaningless characters of a foreign language are eagerly and intelligently scanned by hungry souls in search of truth. To us the offering might seem unusual too, consisting of odd-looking forms of money, grain, eggs, or other produce. But the result is the same everywhere—souls won to the church, the membership increased, doubled, multiplied. May the Sabbath school continue to flourish until the whole earth has heard the good news of the soon-coming Saviour!

The Sabbath School's Triple Coronet of Glory

(Continued from page 5)

average of \$1,150.88 for each day of the year.

Through the years the standard of giving in the Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath schools has been continually rising. Long ago we graduated from the penny stage. Many of the readers of these lines have witnessed our ascending per capita goals in recent years—twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five cents, and now as we celebrate our one hundredth birthday we have cheerfully accepted a weekly per capita goal of forty cents. The total of Sabbath school offerings from 1886 to 1951 for our worldwide program has amounted to \$81,202,325.48.

While we are expressing our gratitude for what the Lord has enabled His people to do in supporting the cause of missions, we must not become complacent. Let not our mounting figures intoxicate us. Remember that inflated dollars are not all they appear to be, and that "God's providence is far ahead of us, moving onward much faster than our liberalities."—*Ibid.*,

pp. 131, 132. As never before we need to heed the injunction: "From every church, prayers should ascend to God for an increase of devotion and liberality."—*Ibid.*, p. 133.

Effectual Soul Winning

Bible instruction and the raising of funds for missions are indeed highly important functions of the Sabbath school, but in the divine blueprint they are not paramount. We are distinctly told by the messenger of the Lord what the supreme objective of the Sabbath school is. "The object of Sabbath school work should be the ingathering of souls."—*Ibid.*, p. 61. Similar statements emphasize this point:

"The Sabbath school, when rightly managed, possesses marvelous power, and is adapted to doing a great work. . . . The influence growing out of Sabbath school work should improve and enlarge the church. . . . If there are now omens of good, they are only indications and beginnings of what may be done. . . . The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ."—*Ibid.*, pp. 9, 10.

Through the years both at home and abroad the Sabbath school has been a great spiritual force. Sister L. Flora Plummer, than whom none other, I suppose, has left a greater mold on the Sabbath school work, gave currency to the phrase "the soul-winning Sabbath school." That is still the title of the Sabbath school manual. Although not discrediting in the slightest degree any past efforts or achievements in soul-winning endeavor through the Sabbath school, yet in squaring ourselves to the divine challenge, we are forced to recognize that we have not fully met the Lord's standard in soul winning through the Sabbath school. We rejoice, however, that in more recent years a revival of and a re-emphasis upon this paramount objective of the Sabbath school are arousing an ever-increasing interest, even though in some quarters considerable apathy and inertia must be overcome to bring this function of the Sabbath school work to the fore.

Too many, we fear, have never conceived the fact that direct, personal soul



Members of the first organized Sabbath school in South India at Nazareth.

winning is an obligation of the Sabbath school. Some have even gone so far as to express open opposition, feeling that the Sabbath School Department is exceeding its terms of reference, going beyond the provisions of its charter, in promoting an active, direct Sabbath school evangelistic program.

All too often the Sabbath school workers themselves have looked to the evangelists, pastors, Bible instructors, and colporteurs as the soul winners, and have said, in actions if not in words: "You win the souls, and be sure to bring all the new converts into the Sabbath school. We then will nurture them and further instruct them in the way of the Lord." We fear that this has been very nearly our denominational attitude. We have looked upon the Sabbath school as a sort of glorified aquarium, and have considered that the responsibility of the Sabbath school officers and teachers was to feed the fish that somebody else had caught and placed in our fish bowl. We have been especially interested in the "gold" fish, and have been inclined to give a little preferential honor to those Sabbath school workers who have most successfully emulated Peter in extracting the tribute money from the fishes' mouths.

But in God's plan the Sabbath school is to be much more than an aquarium. The workers in the Sabbath school are to do much more than feed captured fish. In their own right they are called to be effective fishermen. They are to launch out into the deep, and join hands with every other evangelizing agency in casting and drawing in the net.

To use another figure, the Sabbath school should be a productive field maturing a crop of souls in continuous spiritual harvest. In this respect I think our Sabbath schools should be like the beautiful and populous island of Java, where fertile and well-watered terraces, in a climate of perpetual summer, display in simultaneous array every phase of rice culture from the planting of the seedling bed to the gathering of the ripened harvest. While one paddy field is being plowed, another is being planted. Nearby the blades of growing rice pierce the muddy water; in another the waving green of half-grown rice ripples beneath a tropical breeze, in an adjoining field the drooping heads of yellowing grain await the reapers, who are even now in a nearby field wielding their sickles gathering the harvest. Along the roads at eventide the harvesters bear their loads of sheaves to the threshing floor. In Java plowing time, planting time, growing time, and harvest time are going on all the time. Thus it should be in our Sabbath schools.

Thank God, many of our Sabbath schools have caught this vision. Through earnest soul-winning effort for their own children and youth in and out of class, and for friends and neighbors brought to share the warmhearted fellowship of Sab-

bath schools where they are welcomed as friends and guests, and by branch Sabbath school work and related efforts, they are reaping a harvest of souls. A growing number of Sabbath schools are seeing new churches raised up and many children and youth saved to the cause of God through this soul-winning effort.

Thus, briefly we have glimpsed the Sabbath school's triple coronet of glory—systematic Bible study, world missionary vision, and soul-winning service. And now, in the most appropriate recognition of the Sabbath school centenary, let everyone renew his allegiance to these major objectives of the Sabbath school. Let there be greater devotion to Bible study, increased liberality to the great cause of missions, and a growing fervor in Sabbath school evangelism.

We pause in gratitude for what our God has wrought. Here we raise our ebenezer, gratefully acknowledging that "hitherto hath the Lord helped us." But the close of one epoch ushers in another. Not only does the year 1952 terminate a century of progress in Sabbath school achievement, but it also opens the door into the future, with a challenge to still greater accomplishments to the glory of God in the brief but momentous period just ahead. Here we commemorate a hundred years of divine favor. Here we rededicate ourselves to the unfinished task.

God Bless Our Sabbath Schools!

(Continued from page 13)

noon in an old car to Costa's village some forty miles away. We arrived in time to prepare camp before sundown. Word of our arrival was shouted or drummed from village to village.

The Missionary Volunteer meeting was held in the evening. Possibly a hundred or more were present. Our hearts were thrilled as these near-naked but stalwart young people sang stirring gospel songs. Oh, how they sang! We had a good meeting. We talked to them on the fact that they were the children of God and that God loved them. Their hearts were cheered, and they gladly responded. Meetings were announced for Sabbath morning—Sabbath school and church service.

The next morning, shortly after sunrise, long before the time for Sabbath school, they began to arrive by twos and threes, and sometimes in groups. Many were suffering from malaria. The missionary was prepared. The treatment for malaria was a liberal dosage of powdered quinine in a tablespoonful of castor oil. (At the mission they bought powdered quinine and castor oil not by the bottle but by the barrel.) After the Sabbath school and church service still others came for medical help.

Returning to the mission by a different road, we passed through another village

where we had a teacher who operated a village school, Sabbath school, and church. There too many were suffering from a scourge of malaria. No sooner had they heard of our arrival, and that they could get medical help, than they began to stagger out of their grass huts clad in not more than a coarse dirty blanket, their faces clearly showing their distress and need. Fortunately the missionary had brought an adequate supply of quinine and castor oil. He served them one by one, and then went into the huts to treat those who could not come out.

In my notes kept concerning the Sabbath's experience it is recorded that 321 received treatment for malaria.

Thus the hands of the Sabbath school reach out in blessing to many lands through the mission projects it assists in providing around the world. I have witnessed similar results in West Africa, Ethiopia, the Near East, Pakistan, India, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Japan, Inter-America, South America, and the island fields of the South Pacific. The Sabbath school is a mighty agency in the hands of God in bringing light and love and salvation to souls lost in sin, and comfort and health to the sick and the afflicted. God bless our Sabbath schools! May they go on from strength to strength so long as time shall last.

The Bible is unchained. It can be carried to every man's door, and its truths may be presented to every man's conscience. There are many who, like the noble Bereans, will search the Scriptures daily for themselves, when the truth is presented, to see whether or not these things are so. Christ has said, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of Me." Jesus, the world's Redeemer, bids men not only to read, but to "search the Scriptures." This is a great and important work, and it is committed to us, and in doing this we shall be greatly benefited; for obedience to Christ's command will not go unrewarded. He will crown with especial tokens of His favor this act of loyalty in following the light revealed in His Word.—*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, p. 30.

Church Calendar for 1952

Aug. 16	College of Medical Evangelists Offering
Aug. 30	Riverside Sanitarium Offering
Sept. 13	Missions Extension Offering
Sept. 20	Sabbath School Rally Day
Sept. 20-27	These Times Campaign
Sept. 27	13th Sabbath Offering (Central Europe)
Oct. 4	Colporteur Rally Day
Oct. 11	Voice of Prophecy Offering
Oct. 11-18	Message Magazine Campaign
Oct. 25	Temperance Offering
Nov. 1-22	Review and Herald Campaign
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 29-Dec. 6	Week of Prayer and Sacrifice
Dec. 6	Week of Sacrifice Offering
Dec. 27	13th Sabbath Offering (Southern Asia)

NOTE.—Unless otherwise indicated, the first Sabbath of each month is Home Missionary Day, and on the second Sabbath a mission offering is scheduled.

Pictures of Progress



Primary Sabbath school class near Mount Gilead east from the Sea of Galilee.



Primary Division of a Sabbath school in Belém, Brazil.



Central European Division: Choir and orchestra of a large Sabbath school in Germany.



First Seventh-day Adventist church built in India at Nazareth.



Branch Sabbath school in session a few miles from Santa Clara, Cuba.