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“Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give”

Those who are truly converted will regard themselves as God's almoners, and will dispense, for the advancement of the work, the means He has placed in their hands. If Christ's words were obeyed, there would be sufficient means in His treasury for the needs of His cause. He has entrusted to men and women an abundance of means for the carrying forward of His plan of mercy and benevolence. He bids His stewards of means to invest their money in the work of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and preaching the gospel to the poor. Perfection of character can not possibly be attained without self-sacrifice.

Never was there a more important time in the history of our work than the present. The message of the third chapter of Malachi comes to us, holding up before us the need of honesty in our relations to the Lord and His work. My brethren, the money that you use to buy and sell and get gain will be a curse to you if you withhold from the Lord that which is His. The means entrusted to you for the advancement of the Lord's work should be used in sending the gospel to all parts of the world.

We are Christ's witnesses, and we are not to allow worldly interests and plans to absorb our time and attention. There are higher interests at stake. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." Matt. 6:33. Christ gave Himself willingly and cheerfully to the carrying out of the will of God. He

became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. In view of all that He has done, should we feel it a hardship to deny self? Shall we draw back from being partakers of Christ's sufferings? His death ought to stir every fiber of our beings, making us willing to consecrate to His work all that we have and are. As we think of all that He has done for us, our hearts should be filled with gratitude and love, and we should renounce all selfishness. What duty could the heart refuse to perform under the constraining influence of the love of Christ?

Shall we not, by self-denial, do all that we can to advance God's enterprise of mercy? Can we behold the divine condescension, the suffering endured by the Son of God, without being filled with a desire to be allowed to sacrifice something for Him? Is it not a high honor to be allowed to cooperate with Him? He left His heavenly home to seek for us. Shall we not become His under-shepherds, to seek for the lost and straying? Shall we not reveal in our lives His divine tenderness and compassion?

The Lord desires His people to be thoughtful and caretaking. He desires them to practise economy in everything. If the workers in the mission fields could have the means that is used in expensive furnishings and in personal adornment, the triumphs of the cross of Christ would be greatly extended.

Not all can make large offerings, not all can do great works, magnificent

deeds; but all can practise self-denial, all can reveal the unselfishness of the Saviour. Some can bring large gifts to the Lord's treasury; others can bring only mites; but every gift brought in sincerity is accepted by the Lord.

We plead for the money that is spent on needless things. My brethren and sisters, waste not your money in purchasing unnecessary things. You may think these little sums do not amount to much, but many littles will make a great whole. Cut off every extravagant expenditure. Indulge in nothing that is simply for display. Your money means the salvation of souls. Let there be systematic giving on the part of all. Some may be unable to give a large sum, but all can lay aside for each week, something for the Master. Let the children act their part. Let parents teach their children to save their pennies to give to the Lord. The gospel ministry is to be supported by self-denial and sacrifice. Through the self-denying efforts of God's people others will be brought into faith, and these in turn will help to increase the offerings made for the carrying of the Lord's work.

Unmistakable evidences point to the nearness of the end. The way must be prepared for the coming of the Prince of Peace. Let not our church members complain because they are so often called upon to give. What is it that makes the frequent calls a necessity? Is it not the rapid increase of missionary enterprises? Shall, we by refusing

4. "God cannot approve of the least degree of covetousness or selfishness, and He abhors the prayers and exhortations of those who indulge these evil traits. As Satan sees that his time is short, he leads men on to be more and more selfish and covetous, and then exults as he sees them wrapped up in

themselves, close, penurious, and selfish. If the eyes of such could be opened, they would see Satan in hellish triumph, exulting over them, and laughing at the folly of those who accept his suggestions and enter his snares." — *Early Writings*, page 268.

to give, retard the growth of these enterprises? Shall we forget that we are laborers together with God? From every church, prayers should ascend to God for an increase of devotion and liberality. My brethren and sisters, do not plead for retrenchment in evangelical work. So long as there are souls to save, our interest in the work of soul-saving is to know no abating. The church can not abridge her task without denying her Master," Mrs. E. G. WHITE.

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"PAID IN FULL"

During the months of July, August, and September, in 1849, 1000 copies each of the first four number of our first periodical, *The Present Truth*, were published by Elder James White. Those four thousand copies pioneered a family of periodicals now numbering more than 150 and speaking many languages. The weight of their monthly circulation averages almost one hundred tons! Perhaps you knew this, but did not know that the printer's bill for those first papers was promptly "paid in full," and the receipt preserved to this day? Such is the case. Thus the no-debt policy was established back there in the very beginning of our publishing work, and with a few exceptions it has been closely adhered to ever since. Years ago the General Conference formulated this policy into a few brief words, as follows:

"(a) That publishing houses settle accounts between themselves monthly.

"(d) That colporteurs for books settle with the conference tract society in full at the close of each delivery, for all books ordered for such delivery and that miscellaneous business be settled within thirty days.

"(e) That colporteurs remit to the tract society weekly at least 50 per cent of all advanced payments taken on book orders.

"(f) That agents for periodicals accompany their orders with cash.

"(g) That church tract societies and companies settle monthly for all supplies.

"(h) That conference laborers either pay cash for supplies, or give order on conference treasury for monthly settlement from wage account.

"(i) That lay members pay cash for supplies."

These recommendations have been translated into many foreign languages and form a "standard of attainment" of the Publishing Department the world

over. It is a policy that has built up and maintained our 52 publishing houses, organized and conducted our more than a hundred tract societies, encouraged and kept in the field an army of 2500 colporteurs, and that has made possible the circulation of more than four million dollars worth of Bible filled literature each year, or nearly sixty million dollars worth in all. It is the development of the Bible principle that exhorts us to "owe no man anything."

The carrying out of this principle may require real sacrifice and inconveniences at times. We may have to

WHY HE COULD GIVE

"A merchant of St. Petersburg at his own cost supported several native missionaries in India, and gave liberally to the cause of Christ at home. On being asked how he could afford to do it, he replied:—

'Before my conversion, when I served the world and self, I did it on a grand scale and at the most lavish expense. And when God, by his grace, called me out of darkness, I resolved that Christ and His cause should have more than I had ever spent for the world. And as to giving so much, it is God who enables me to do it; for at my conversion I solemnly promised that I would give to his cause a fixed proportion of all that my business brought in to me, and every year since I made that promise it has brought me in about double what it did the year before, so that I easily can, as I do, double my gifts for His service.' And so good old John Bunyan tells us,—

*'A man there was, some called him mad,
The more he gave, the more he had.'*

And there are truth and instruction in the inscription on the Italian tombstone, 'What I gave away I saved, what I spent I used, what I kept I lost.' 'Giving to the Lord,' says another, 'is but transporting our goods to a higher floor.' And, says Dr. Barrow, 'In defiance of all the torture and malice and might of the world, the liberal man will ever be rich, for God's providence is his estate, God's wisdom and power his defense, God's love and favor his reward, and God's word his security.'"

walk instead of ride eight miles to the post office, as did Elder White with that first number of *The Present Truth*, but like him, we will earn a "Paid in Full" receipt when the trip is over. And such a receipt as that will be worth something, will it not? So let us "settle with the tract society in full," remembering, as we do so, that we are following the example set by the founder of our publishing work, and are carrying out the recommendation of the General Conference.

H. H. HALL.

THAT EMANCIPATION ACT

Freedom is prized more highly than any other privilege. Slavery is abhorred by the ignorant and the cultured, the rich and the poor alike. Three-fourths of the struggles of the human race have been for the precious blessing of freedom; and a large proportion of human suffering has been caused by conditions of slavery. The strongest sense of resentment awakens in a man when he is deprived of his liberty, because it stirs the deepest pangs of remorse. Freedom is so precious that it has been the theme of the sublimest poetry and prose, of song and speech; and it thrills the breast of the man who breathes its inspirations.

But freedom is destroyed by debt: "The borrower is a servant (or slave) to the lender." Prov. 22:7. Have you not observed the change that comes over a man when he starts borrowing? He loses his poise and passes you by on the other side. His mind becomes uneasy, his cheek blushes, he is unhappy, and all this indicates that he is a victim of the powerful octopus called debt. Because he cannot pay you, he cannot sleep, his appetite fails, he does not relish your company. Not that you are unkind, or exacting, nor is your friendship less sincere. But he is a tortured slave. He might as well be behind prison bars. Debt has robbed him of his mental liberty. It is the inevitable sequel of an unwise policy of living.

Not far from the home of the writer there lives a man whose face, hands, and feet have been mutilated by the terrible scourge of leprosy. He is cut off from society, living only with others of like affliction. They are all outcasts, limited to a few rooms and a fenced yard. When they are visited, none can approach them. Rules and barriers to prevent infection by contact deprive them of the cordial hand-shake or the loving embrace. The one first mentioned hides his face, for he does not wish anyone to see how the ravages of this foul disease have disfigured and distorted him. Tears stream down our cheeks as we pray that the Lord may comfort and sustain this victim of leprosy. When we would wish him "farewell" a lump in the throat stifles our words. We try to smile and hide the deep emotions that swell within, and leave impressed within a terrible dread of so awful an affliction.

Yet this loathsome disease is made a symbol of debt: "We should shun debt as we would shun the leprosy." "Tes-

imonies," Vol. 6, page 217. It is evident therefore, that what leprosy does for the physical man, debt does for the spiritual man. It eats away his spiritual vitality, destroys his courage, and weakens his holy boldness at the throne of grace. Hands and feet become fettered, and, conscience-smitten, the debtor would fain hide himself from those who are his best friends.

With few exceptions, debt reveals the lack of certain righteous elements in a man's character, and the presence of traits men usually endeavor to hide. To live in debt is to live above one's income. That is pride, born of a disposition to appear to be something we are not. Many so-called honest debts are sheer robbery, though not intended, perhaps; for they are incurred without the certainty of being able to repay. Frequently debt demonstrates that the debtor is thriftless and lacking in energy. Plans to repay are often as subtle and deceptive to the borrower as are the mirages of the desert that never materialize.

It is not the Lord's intention that His people should have to borrow. He says:

"Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God to observe to do all these commandments which I command thee this day, For the Lord thy God blesseth thee, as He promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations." Deut. 15: 5, 6.

These commandments reach into every phase of activity. They do not merely regulate our spiritual life, such as the exercise of faith and the privilege of prayer and worship. They direct our business relations and prescribe righteous policies of labor each day. Our prosperity is assured if we strictly heed these commands. Of the righteous He says:

"...His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night... He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalm 1: 1-3.

The following statements from the Spirit of Prophecy may well be studied:

"When one voluntarily becomes involved in debt, he is entangling himself in one of Satan's nets which he sets for souls." *Manual for Canvassers*, p. 65.

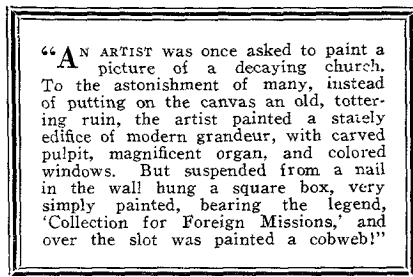
"No worker should manage his affairs in a way to incur debt." *Id.*

"When you place God first, and de-

termine that His house shall no longer be dishonored by debt, God will bless you." *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 103.

Carefully considered these statements confirm Paul's exhortation to "owe no man anything but to love one another." And in the light of such solemn statements it should not be necessary for our tract societies and conferences to hold a tight rein on churches and workers. A solid determination on the part of all to follow the Lord's counsel would soon eliminate all debts from our books, and make it easy to establish once and for all the cash basis for every Adventist home and heart.

Why not call the resolutions passed last year by the bookmen's convention,



the union and division committees, calling upon all to follow absolutely the cash-basis policy henceforth, THE EMANCIPATION ACT? And then as it is promulgated in the name of the King of kings, let all who are slaves of debt get free in Christ; for whom the Son makes free, he shall be free indeed.

HERBERT J. EDMED.

GOD'S POCKETBOOK AND MINE

What relationship do I sustain to God?

"Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6: 19, 20.

How did I become His property?

"Ye were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ." 1 Peter 1: 18, 19.

What interest has He in my possessions?

"Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also with all that therein is." Deut. 10: 14.

Do not my wages belong to me?

"Say not in thy heart, my power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth, but thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth." Deut. 8: 17, 18.

By what right then do I hold property?

"As the steward of God." Titus 1: 7.

What does God require of me as His steward?

"It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." 1 Cor 4: 2.

Shall I have to give an account of my stewardship to God?

"Every one of us shall give an account of himself to God." Rom. 4: 12.

Is there any danger of my losing my stewardship?

"What is this that I hear of thee? Render the account of thy stewardship, for thou canst be no longer steward." Luke 16: 2. (R. V.)

What return ought I to make to God for the use of what He entrusts to me?

"Of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee." Genesis 28: 22.

What portion of my increase shall I tithe?

"Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first-fruits of all thine increase." Prov. 3: 9.

May I not look after my own wants first?

"The first of the first fruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the Lord thy God." Ex. 23: 19.

Does He expect this from me and does He lay claim to it?

"All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree is the Lord's it is holy unto the Lord." Lev. 27: 30.

Would it be honest to withhold any part of this from Him?

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings." Mal. 3: 8.

Can I afford to give so much?

"There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." Prov. 11: 24.

Will not poverty excuse me?

"They shall not appear before the Lord empty. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee." Deut. 16: 16, 17.

How shall I give?

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9: 7.

Has God promised blessing upon those who thus honor Him?

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Mal. 3: 10.—Arranged.

"A story is told of an Indian who one day asked Bishop Whipple to give him two one-dollar bills for a two-dollar note. The bishop asked, 'Why?' He said, 'One dollar for me to give to Jesus, and one dollar for my wife to give.' The bishop asked him if it was all the money he had. He said, 'Yes.' The bishop was about to tell him, 'It is too much, when an Indian clergyman who was standing by whispered, 'It might be too much for you to give, but not too much for an Indian who has this year heard for the first Time of the love of Jesus.'"

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Every Christian is under stewardship obligation. In the parable illustration given by our Lord which shows most clearly the personal responsibility of His servants, it is said that "the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work."

Faithfulness in serving the Lord means stewardship of all things He has given us. Were we to write a list of the concrete things of which the Christian must give account, in his stewardship, the list would be a long one. We only have space to name three: The stewardship of time; the stewardship of opportunity; the stewardship of means.

The Stewardship of Time

The element of time enters into the account in a prominent way when we consider Sabbath school activities. To be a good Sabbath school member means that we recognize that proper stewardship of our time requires the setting apart of a portion of each day for the study of the Sabbath school lesson. Lack of time is not such a hindrance in the accomplishment of this, as the unwise use of the time we each have. If the time is spent by Seventh-day Adventists in doing useless things were summed up, how many days, months and years would it aggregate? If our manner of living were in harmony with God's plans, how many hours a week would be saved in each home?—Enough, without doubt, to enable each family to spend a portion of time each day in studying the Sabbath school lesson. Faithful stewardship of our time would work a reformation in many homes.

Acting as a teacher or an officer in the Sabbath school increases our obligation to give *time* to Sabbath school work. Time for preparation, time for teacher's meeting, time for personal work, time for prayer—all are vital.

The right stewardship of our time

means daily vigilance. We can not lock up an hour, thinking to use it by and by. We may lay up money for future use, but not time. We can only save time by using it properly when it comes to us. An hour wasted is gone forever. Some one has said, "The greatest spend-thrift is he who wastes time."

The Stewardship of Opportunity

The opportunities created for one who assumes responsibility in the Sabbath school are many and important. Unquestionably we are responsible for the use or misuse of opportunities. The apostle Paul admonishes us, "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." In no phase of stewardship is faithfulness more needed than in this. To fail to come up to the measure of an opportunity is serious. To wholly neglect an opportunity is disastrous.

Personal work for every pupil should be the rule of action engraved in living letters in the heart of every teacher. No teacher can safely turn aside from the opportunity his position gives him to do thorough personal work for his pupils. Many teachers who can talk easily to a class become singularly embarrassed when trying to talk alone with a pupil about surrendering his heart to the Lord. It must be remembered that the process in soul-winning is instruction in the word of God, prayer for the pupil, and personal appeals to the pupil.

A successful worker writes, "I believe thoroughly in personal, individual work. It is the confidential, tenderly spoken word, to one person alone, at some golden instant of opportunity, which weighs in the balance of life's decision. A word of earnest, heart-felt praise to the boy or girl who has tried and gained some small victory over sin; a gentle word or look of sorrow for one who has failed, with the never-to-be-omitted hope for the future's bettering; a quiet little talk of counsel for the perplexed or tried or troubled one—these are the things which count, after all.

"Let them be spoken in the home of pupil or teacher, or on the street; even in the pause of waiting for a car—the world is full of golden chances."

Very definite instruction has been given us concerning this work:

"Who will be earnest workers for souls in our Sabbath schools? Who will take the youth separately, and talk and pray with them, and make personal appeals to them, beseeching them to yield their hearts to Jesus."—"Testimonies on Sabbath School Work," p. 15.

Let us remember that many a battle has been lost because the opportune moment for an advance was not seized. No greater regret can come to us than the remorse caused by a neglect of opportunity.

The Stewardship of Means

Acknowledgement of God's ownership of all things is the basis of our appreciation of our duty as faithful stewards of the money that passes through our hands. One item is quite concrete—one-tenth is to be returned to the Lord.

But tithing in recognition of God's ownership of all things is not all

THE

THEY passed it along from pew to pew,
And gathered the coins, now fast, now few,
That rattled upon it; and every time
Some eager fingers would drop a dime
On the silver plate with a silvery sound,
A boy who sat in the aisle, looked around
With a wistful look—"O, if only I
Had a dime to offer, how glad I'd be!"
He fumbled his pockets, but didn't dare
To hope he would find a penny there;
And much as he searched, when all was done,
He hadn't discovered a single one.

He had listened with wide-set, earnest eyes
As the minister, in a plaintive wise,
Had spoken of children all abroad
The world who had never heard of God,
Poor, pitiful pagans, who didn't know,
When they came to die, where their souls would
And who shrieked with fear when their mother
Them kneel to an idol god,—afraid
He might eat them up,—so fierce, and wild,
And horrid he seemed to the frightened child.

"I can't get interested in missions!" exclaimed a young girl petulantly, and, if truth must be told, a bit superciliously, as she left a thrilling missionary meeting in company with an older lady. We were near enough to hear the answer. "No, dearie," came the plying response, "it is not to be expected you should—yet a while. It's just like getting interest in a bank. You have to put in a little something first; the more you put in, the more interest,—time or money or prayers, it doesn't matter which; but something you have to put in, or you never will have any interest.. Try it, dearie; just put in a little something, and you're sure of the interest."

that is to be taken into account in the stewardship of our means. Offerings for the support of the cause of God is enjoined by the Scriptures. These may represent much careless, indifferent giving, or they may stand for consecrated sacrificial giving.

A gift which does not carry with it a real sacrifice, savors of formality. It was the sacrifice involved that made Mary's alabaster box of ointment so precious.

Faithful stewardship of our possessions means sacrifice. A message applicable at this time is given us in Psalms 50: 5, "Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." An inspired comment upon this text reads: "The Lord has lent means to His people to prove them, to test the depth of their professed love for Him. Some would let go of Him, and give up their heavenly treasure, rather than to decrease their earthly possessions and make a covenant with Him by sacrifice. He calls for them to sacrifice; but love of the world closes their ears, and they will not hear."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 2, p. 198.*

A tremendous degree of unfaithful

stewardship is revealed in the vast sums of money spent in wasteful and unnecessary ways which ought to be devoted to the cause of God. Faithful stewardship means the careful use of money spent upon ourselves as well as the giving of liberal offerings. A forceful writer on this subject says: "A man is to acquire his income, care for it, invest it, spend it, distribute it, as a steward of it, responsible to God for what he does with it."

We believe that it is in the providence of God that the Sabbath school as an organization has become a popular channel for passing on the gifts of the people to the most needy fields. The Sabbath school makes direct appeal to old and young, to the small and to the great among us.

Faithful stewardship means the training of every member to bear his share of financial responsibility in sending the glorious news of the coming King to the ends of the earth.

Conclusion

If the principles of Christian stewardship were well understood and generally practised there would be no gaps anywhere waiting to be filled. With no lack of men and no lack of means, with every believer rendering faithful stewardship, our Lord who is now in a far country would quickly return to reward His faithful servants. He is only waiting for us to adjust our affairs so that we can render to Him an account that He can accept. We can do this quickly and completely if only we yield our hearts to Him so He can dwell therein, directing and guiding us according to His will.

"God wants our best. He in the far-off ages
Once claimed the firstling of the flock, the
finest of the wheat;
And still He asks His own, with gentlest
pleading,
"God wants our best. He in the far-off ages
To lay their highest hopes and brightest talents
at His feet.
He'll not forget the feeblest service, humblylest
love;

He only asks that of our store, we give the
best we have.
"Christ gives the best. He takes the hearts we
offer
And fills them with His glorious beauty, joy
and peace,
And in His service as we're growing stronger
The calls to grand achievement still increase.
The richest gifts for us, on earth or in the
heaven above,
Are hid in Christ. In Jesus we receive the
best we have.
"And is our best too much? O friends, let us
remember
How much our Lord poured out His soul for us.
And, in the prime of His mysterious manhood,
Gave us His precious life upon the cross.
The Lord of Lords, by whom the worlds were
made,
Through bitter grief and tears, gave us the
best He had."

—Charles A. Cook.

MRS. L. FLORA PLUMMER.

GOLD INSTEAD OF BRASS

The Harvest Ingathering campaign will be in progress in the Inter-American Division during practically every month of the year 1926. When the writer looked over the schedule of campaign dates of the various conferences and missions, he was reminded of the statement in Isaiah 60:11, which would seem to be literally fulfilled in these successive campaigns: "Therefore the gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the wealth (marginal reading) of the gentiles."

It is the Lord's plan that the "wealth of the gentiles" shall flow in a steady stream to the treasury to carry forward the world-wide missionary program in this last generation. While the Ingathering worker in the Inter-American division are resting during the hours of the night, those in the Far Eastern Division take up the work, and thus the treasury "gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night," that this wealth may be received to finish the work quickly.

It would appear that there is an intimation in the seventeenth verse of this

R PLATE

"How different," murmured the boy, while his
Lips trembled, "how different Jesus is!"
As the minister talked on more and more,
The boy's heart ached to its inner core;
And the nearer to him the silver plate
Kept coming, the harder seemed his fate,
That he hadn't a penny (had that sufficed)
To give that the heathen might hear of Christ.
But all at once, as the silver sound
Just tinkled beside him, the boy looked round.
He thought they'd expect a gift from him
And he blushed, as his eyes began to swim.

Then, bravely turning as if he knew
There was nothing better that he could do,
He spoke in a voice that held a tear,
"Put the plate on the bench, beside me here."
And the plate was placed, for they thought he meant
To empty his pockets of every cent.
But he stood up straight, and he softly put
Right square on the midst of the plate his foot,
And he said with a sob controlled before,
"I will give myself — I have nothing more;"
—Selected.

chapter that these gentile gifts will increase in value as we near the end, for it is written: "For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron." Shall we not pray for and expect this increase this year? We can scarcely designate the few thousand dollars we receive in this annual campaign as the "wealth of the gentiles." Truly it is a partial fulfilment of the prophecy; but God is willing to impress men of wealth to make large donations, if we will cooperate with Him in faith.

There is another remarkable promise in this sixtieth chapter of Isaiah. It is found in the closing clause of the eleventh verse: "And that their kings may be brought." It is a lamentable fact that, after years of effort and expenditure of much means, very few kings, or men of prominence have been won to the truth. Does not this verse intimate that, when we have reached the time that "thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the wealth of the gentiles," we may also expect kings (men of wealth and prominence) to be brought?

Will not each individual in the conferences and missions of this great division faithfully do his or her part during the year 1926 to cause this wealth to flow in a continuous stream toward the Lord's treasury? And shall we not earnestly pray that some of these wealthy donors may also give their lives to the Master's service? C. E. WOOD.

"HE IS FAITHFUL THAT PROMISED"

Montaña, P. R. June 30, 1925

"To my friends and brethren of the Porto Rican Mission:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter to you and I only wish that my words may encourage those that read or listen to them to test out the great promise of the Omnipotent.

For some years I have walked with this message and I am convinced that this is the message of power, which should embrace all those who are willing to follow the Master's footsteps.

Friends, one of the great blessings which God has promised is found in the prophecy of Malachi. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse... and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven..." We must see these windows opened before us. Listen, then, to this experience:

In company with Brother Francisco Barreto we planted three acres of cane during the last season, and we promised to pay the Lord faithfully the tithes from the harvest. Our cane grew up green and healthy without the use of artificial fertilizer, and when harvest time came we were able to dispose of it at a better price than did many other planters. What great blessing! We have paid what we owed the Lord and wish to continue in His blessings.

Be faithful, friends, in paying to the heavenly treasury that which belongs to our heavenly Father.

Your brother,
GREGORIO CORTEZ."

WE ARE ALL STEWARDS

The words of Christ recorded in Matt. 25:14 plainly state that man has been placed in this world as a steward. It is required of a steward that he be found faithful in discharging his duty, the responsibility which has been placed upon him. "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts." Haggai 2:8. "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth." Deut. 8:18.

As the reports for the Inter-American Division have been compiled for the year 1925, we have noticed carefully the way the different funds have come in from the various fields. We have appreciated what our faithful brethren and sisters have done in helping to support the work; and still we know that if *all* had been faithful stewards much more would have been received to assist in answering the many calls that come.

There is a very serious charge brought against some in regard to their stewardship. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." Mal. 3:8. Should not each of us examine our own lives to see if we are the ones against whom the Lord is bringing this charge?

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts." Mal. 3:10, 11.

"The magnitude of our work calls for willing liberality on the part of the people of God. In Africa, in China, in India, there are thousands, yes, millions, who have not heard the message of the truth for this time. They must be warned. The islands of the sea are waiting for a knowledge of God. The Lord has made us His stewards. He has placed His means in our hands for faithful distribution. He asks us to render to Him His own." "Testimonies," Vol. 9, p. 51.

There is a population of 40,405,387 in this division, and our workers are few in proportion to the great task before us. At the close of 1925 we had a total of 355 laborers of which fifty-nine are ordained ministers, thirty-seven licensed, one hundred thirty-four licensed missionaries, and one hundred twenty-five colporteurs carrying our truth-filled literature.

Many good reports come into the division office from time to time telling of how the way is opening up faster than our workers can answer the calls. Truly, we need to strengthen our forces.

While we are glad we can report an increase in tithe and offerings over the previous year, 1924, we sincerely trust that this present year, 1926, will continue to be one of marked progress for our work throughout this field, and that the light of this truth may be carried to many who are not now serving the true and living God. F. L. HARRISON.

GATUN TENT EFFORT

Gatun, where are the locks of the Panama Canal on the Atlantic side, has about one thousand inhabitants, all of whom are Canal Zone employees. Here it has been our privilege to conduct a tent effort, and tell the people about the soon return of Jesus.

The attendance of our meetings, in spite of personal visitation and the distribution of handbills, was small; however, we are glad to state that a few kept coming, and of these three have begun to keep the Sabbath, and have assured us that come what may they intend to remain faithful. Others are very much interested and will in all probability join us soon.

LIN. RASHFORD.

The friends in Porto Rico are anticipating their needs for a larger number of *El Centinela* by increasing their June supply from 500 to 700 and their July from 500 to 1000. They may need a still larger number.

BIG WEEK

August 1-7, 1926

Funds for the missions extension work will be gathered throughout Inter-America at that time.

At the Council of Superintendents and other officers of the conferences and missions of the Inter-American Division, recently held in LaFayette, Indiana, it was decided that the week August 1 to 7 shall be "Big Week" this year throughout Inter-America. This is the time when a special effort will be made by all workers and church members with our literature, the profits from the sales to apply to building up the publishing, educational and medical lines of work. Mission book depositories will be strengthened in countries like Colombia, Guiana, Leeward Islands, Santo Domingo, Honduras, and Guatemala-Salvador. \$4,000 is needed for that. Educational facilities are needed in Haiti, in the Islands of the East Caribbean, and in the Guianas. It is hoped that \$8,500 will be provided to answer calls that have been urgent for several years. Medical missionary work among some of the Indian tribes is especially in need of being strengthened. A small dispensary costing about \$1,500 should be built among the Yaqui Indians of Northwest Mexico.

The Lord has blessed our people greatly the world over in engaging in the Missions Extension work during recent years, and it has resulted in establishing new centers from which the light of truth is now shining. Especially has this been true in the publishing work for which the plan was first begun, and it is believed that the educational and medical work will appeal as strongly to all, now that the purpose has been made threefold, and include these lines of service.

Special literature explaining the plans in detail will be provided and sent to all of the church leaders in sufficient quantity to distribute among the members. Rally day programs and other special material will be mailed to all of the churches from Milwaukee, according to a letter that has just been received from Elder C. E. Wood, Missionary Secretary for the Inter-American Division. All of this material will be in both Spanish and the English, and sent out in the language used in the various places. We believe our people will throw themselves heartily into this "Big Week" effort and begin planning at once to make it a great success.

THE "EL CENTINELA" FOR JULY

The July *El Centinela*, which will be mailed the first week in June, will be a very attractive and message-filled number. It will feature some of the world's recent turmoils, leading out with an article on the situation in China by E. R. Thiele, Editor of the Chinese *Signs of the Times*. The Home department and general news sections will be very interesting, each with a variety that will make way for the more decidedly religious feature of the magazine. The articles on Evolution by Elder F. D. Nichol have been greatly appreciated. In this number he deals with the question of embryology. "Are You Insured?" is a practical article that brings the reader face to face with the need of spiritual preparation for the future. Another of Professor M. W. Newton's talks on Astronomy, this time featuring Saturn, will be a good selling feature, as it is nicely illustrated and written in a most interesting style. The news notes deal with significant happenings, and the number throughout is well illustrated. Help increase the circulation and influence of *El Centinela*. It is the missionary paper in Spanish for the Inter-American field. Whenever it is introduced it is found that the people like it, and interests in the truth are following in places where it is used. Many people are as willing to subscribe for a year, when they are asked to do so, as they would be to buy a single copy. One of our men sent in ten subscriptions recently that he had secured just in a few calls on his way to the Post Office and return. The subscription price of *El Centinela* is only \$1.00 a year; single copy price is 10 cents. Think of the possibilities in getting *El Centinela* coming regularly into a home for a year.



Another edition of Spanish Leaves of Autumn, 100,000—10,000 each of the ten numbers—has just been completed, and orders on file have been filled. It is hoped that there will be a continued demand for a large number of these little messengers of truth. They can be scattered everywhere at little expense. The price of Leaves of Autumn are as follows:

1000 copies (100 of each number)	\$3.50
500 copies (50 of each number)	2.00
250 copies (25 of each number)	1.00
100 copies (10 of each number)	.40
10 copies (1 of each number)	.10

Sold only in unbroken packages as above described.

January 15th I sailed for Watlings Island. It was five weeks before my return. While there I held meetings every night, made many visits and sold over ten pounds worth of books and took orders for about two pounds more. We have a church of twenty-seven members there.

There had arisen some differences but as we presented the Word of God these were all put aside and we left the church in harmony and of good courage.

On my return to Nassau our ship was at once put into quarantine where I spent nineteen days under very trying conditions. I am glad to be free once more, but the loss of the three weeks are making it very hard for me to do all I ought to; in fact I cannot visit all the different companies I would like to.

B. E. BIDWELL.

Brother F. A. Brower, formerly Field Missionary Secretary of the Atlantic Colombia Mission, has recently reached Bogota, Colombia, from which place he will work out in pioneering the work in the Central Colombia Mission. He will depend very largely on literature, having ordered a large supply of Spanish Patriarch and Prophets, as well as several hundred copies of recent numbers of the *El Centinela*. Our last note from him is to the effect that he is leaving for Cali, where he will work with books for upwards of two months time. Let us remember Brother Brower in that great field. Let us pray that God will help him overcome the obstacles and difficulties that he is bound to meet. He is giving himself unreservedly for service, and we believe the Lord will stand by him in every experience.

With the articles by Elder E. E. Andross and Brother F. L. Harrison mailed from LaFayette, Indiana, Sister Andross addressed a very nice little note to the "Dear Friends who stayed by 'the stuff.'" She said they were enjoying excellent meetings of the leaders of the Inter-American Division there, which she wished all might have attended. As editor of the MESSENGER, she wishes to include in this number a note of thanks to the Pacific Press for taking additional burden on the paper during the absence of the workers from the Inter-American Division office. We assure Sister Andross and her readers that this is a pleasure indeed, our chief interest being to help make the MESSENGER a real blessing to all of the members and churches in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

PURPOSE OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The sole object of the gathering of funds by the church is the preparation of men and women for the kingdom of God. The money raised serves this purpose in a two-fold way. First, it sustains the laborers who are now in the field devoting their entire time to gospel work, and strengthens this force by sending others into the field or improving the facilities now used. Secondly, the payment of an honest tithe and of liberal offerings into the Lord's treasury by the believer reacts upon the giver in spiritual blessings that are absolutely invaluable to him, or her, and that can be had in no other way.

These blessings that come to the liberal soul could not be purchased with all the wealth of the world, but are freely bestowed by a loving Father upon rich and poor alike, as they faithfully render to Him His due, both in the tithe of their income, and in liberal offerings given from the nine-tenths left after the tithe has been paid. These offerings include the hearty support of the mission program by regular weekly contributions through the Sabbath schools, and through other offerings for that purpose.

"It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." 1 Cor. 4:2

"A steward identifies himself with his master. He accepts the responsibilities of a steward, and he must act in his master's stead, doing as his master would do were he presiding. His master's interests becomes his. The position of a steward is one of dignity, because his master trusts him. If in any wise he acts selfishly, and turns the advantages gained by trading with his lord's goods to his own advantage, he has perverted the trust reposed in him." *"Testimonies," Vol. 9, p. 246.*

Let us never betray the sacred trust reposed in us by the One who has called us to act as His stewards. It matters not whether we have been entrusted with much or with little. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches." Luke 16:10, 11.

The promises of God to the faithful are being literally fulfilled to His people who have heeded His counsel in the payment of their tithes and offerings. In the Inter-American Division we are witnessing the fulfilment of His promises.

We are glad to report a steady increase in the tithe as well as the offerings coming into the treasury from all parts of this field, and many there are who can bear eloquent witness to the faithfulness of our heavenly Father in keeping these as all other of His exceeding great and precious promises.

In the year 1925 \$96,388.12 were raised in tithe. This was \$11.30 for each member of the church for the year. The preceeding year the per capita tithe was \$10.03, showing a gain for the year of \$1.27 for each church member. The mission offerings raised during 1925 were \$62,983.40. For local church work \$14,947.87 were raised, making a grand total of \$174,319.39.

GIVE GOD THE BEST

Give God the best; thus honor Him
With seraphim and cherubim,
Who worship at His feet.
Our Lord is rich, no need He knows.
Our gifts He takes, and then bestows
More blessings than are meet.

Give God the best; to thee He gave
The best of heaven, thy soul to save;
Nor asked for gold or praise.
Thine alabaster box then bring
While heart and soul together sing
And halleluiahs raise.

Give God the best; He e'er will hold;
No thief can steal, nor rust nor mold
Consume thy gifts so dear.
And thou shalt not forgotten be;
The sparrow's fall His eye doth see;
Then hast thou need of fear?

Give God the best; for what is thine
Was His. Then pour into His shrine
The best thou hast to give.
Count not its worth by weights of men;
For love transmutes all gifts again:
Thy gifts with thee shall live.

I. H. EVANS.

This, in addition to that which is supplied by the General Conference from without our field, provides for the immediate needs of the work in this field. Our needs, however, are constantly growing with the growth of the work; but we feel sure that our believers, whose devotion is a constant inspiration to us, will press forward with more earnest efforts and more liberal gifts for the maintenance of our rapidly growing work soon to triumph gloriously.

E. E. ANDROSS.

DOLLARS INSTEAD OF SHILLINGS

"I am sure you will be glad to learn of the success that has followed our Harvest Ingathering efforts," writes

Elder D. D. Fitch, President of the South Caribbean conference. "February 18 we began our campaign and are still at work at it. Brother George Rickard, who had formerly been employed in this field, and was well acquainted with the situation, joined our office force to assist in this work, and part of the time since then three of the force have been working with him, and we have to our credit at present over \$1800.00. Adding about \$75.00 which Mrs. Fitch has succeeded in collecting, we have over \$1900.00 to the credit of what we call our office force. Our district leaders have been stirred up to unusual activities, and where their report last year figured in shillings, this year it figures in dollars. The churches have not all been heard from as yet, so we do not know whether we will reach our four thousand dollar goal or not." Evidently Elder Fitch believes they will reach it, and we rejoice with him for this excellent success.

The work is certainly making splendid progress in Haiti. Everywhere people came by the hundreds to hear the message. It was sometimes pitiful to see people come, for instance on the Sabbath, and find the building crowded and be unable to find room inside, and after a heavy rain go home drenched with rain.

L. F. PASSEBOIS.

Although this denomination has now reached its eighty-first year there are no evident signs of senility; but, instead of the seeds of death finding congenial soil within its bosom, the great Husbandman has watched so tenderly and constantly over it through the passing years that it has been quickened into new life and has gathered increased strength and power.

A brother of the church at Montaña died recently. He was the only Adventist in the family. Before his death he told his wife that the rent which was coming in from a certain house should always be tithed. The woman, although not a believer in our Message, has faithfully fulfilled the trust placed in her. The tithe is entered in the church books under the name of the deceased, and thus, "he being dead, ye speaketh."

H. E. BAASCH.

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