

THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

VOL. V

BALBOA, CANAL ZONE, JULY, 1928

No. 8

The Work of Soul-Saving

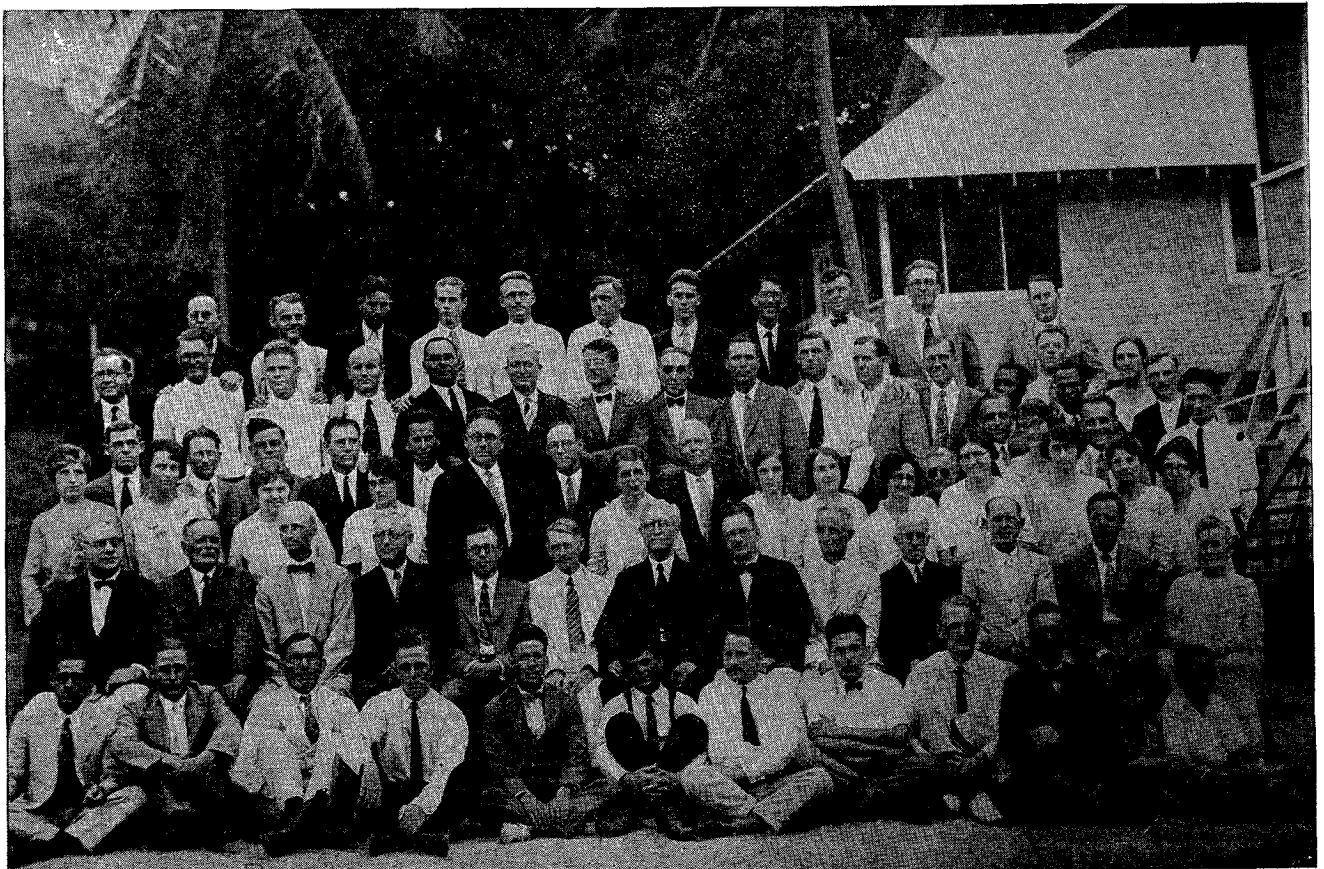
God has given me a message for His people. They must awake, spread their tents, and enlarge their borders. My brethren and sisters, you have been bought with a price, and all that you have and are is to be used to the glory of God and for the good of your fellowmen. Christ died on the cross to save the world from perishing in sin. He asks your cooperation in this work. You are to be His helping hand. With earnest, unwearying effort you are to seek to save the lost. Remember that it was your sins that made the cross necessary. When you accepted Christ as your Saviour, you pledged yourself to unite with

Him in bearing the cross. For life and for death you are bound up with Him, a part of the great plan of redemption.

The transforming power of Christ's grace molds the one who gives himself to God's service. Imbued with the Spirit of the Redeemer, he is ready to deny self, ready to take up the cross, ready to make any sacrifice for the Master. No longer can he be indifferent to the souls perishing around him. He is lifted above self-serving. He has been created anew in Christ, and self-serving has no place in his life. He realizes that every part of his being belongs to Christ, who has redeemed him from the slavery of

sin; that every moment of his future has been bought with the precious life-blood of God's only-begotten Son.

Have you so deep an appreciation of the sacrifice made on Calvary that you are willing to make every other interest subordinate to the work of saving souls? The same intensity of desire to save sinners that marked the life of the Saviour marks the life of His true follower. The Christian has no desire to live for self. He delights to consecrate all that he has and is to the Master's service. He is moved by an inexpressible desire to win souls to Christ.—*Testimonies* Vol. VII, pp. 9, 10.



Delegates in attendance at the Balboa Convention, May 26 to June 4.

MOUNT RORAIMA INDIAN MISSION

The first quarter of 1928 is in the past, and we can now look back over seven months of missionary work among the "Davis" Indians. It was on August 23, 1927, that we arrived at our present mission station on the Arobopo River on the slopes of Mount Roraima. On the following Sabbath, August 27, we opened our first Sabbath school among the Indians of this neighborhood. On September 17 our Sabbath school was organized with a membership of twelve adults and eleven children. During the first six months our membership has grown nearly three hundred per cent; and, although this rate of increase in numbers has not been maintained during recent weeks, the spirituality of the school has increased; there is a growing desire for the things of God, and a deeper yearning in individual hearts for the coming of the Master. The membership at the end of the first quarter was thirty-eight adults and thirty children.

Completing Church

When we arrived here our church consisted merely of a log floor with a roof thatched with palm leaves overhead, and no walls. But now our church is completed, and the floor has been covered with bark. We have also made some benches hewn from logs for the Indians to sit on, whereas formerly they sat around us on the floor of the building. The Indians at first intended that we should live in this building, but it was too near to their own *banaboos* or huts to be used for this purpose.

Using Kindergarten Methods

During the past quarter the sand box has been introduced into our school with very gratifying results. It has proved of great assistance in our Sabbath school work, not only for the children, but for the fathers and mothers as well, for they all have the minds of children, and we find that the entire Sabbath school look on during the sand box demonstration. In fact, it is the chief source of interest during the period. We now have a collection of figures, animals and birds, etc., which we have cut from cardboard and colored with crayons for our demonstrations of creation week, and these are added to as we proceed with our Bible studies. The children collect various flowers and plants for us as we require them, and the representation of the garden of Eden with the material that we had available served to impress them with the reality of the Bible story, while Isaac showed his approval by the words, "Good, good," and would explain the lesson over again in his own words after we had finished speaking.

The playing of our victrola is also looked forward to with much pleasure; and although many of the records are now cracked and broken, we frequently

take it with us to Sabbath school. There is one record which is a favorite with them above all others, the name of this being, "The Holy City." They often ask us to play this one for them, for they have heard so much about the glories of the New Jerusalem and the homes that Jesus has gone to prepare for them.

A Calendar of Knots

Our Indians here are learning the claims that the Sabbath has upon them, and that one-seventh of their time belongs to God. Some weeks ago one of our Indians, before starting on a journey that would take him about two weeks, came to say goodby to us. Before leaving he showed us a piece of string on which were tied a number of knots. He explained that each knot represented a day of the week, and we noticed that every seventh knot had a white cord to it. By this he said he could know when it was the Sabbath, and that he would rest on that day.

Longing for Jesus to Come

Quite recently Isaac, the chief of our village here, and the man who buried Elder Davis, was offered some tobacco in part payment for work that he had done for a diamond prospector who was passing through; but shaking his head, and with the word "Jesus," he pointed to the sky, and refused what many Indians would gladly have accepted. It is such experiences that have proved to us that the work for these "children of the forest" will not be in vain, and we are confident that the Lord will gather out a faithful company of believers from the neighborhood of Mount Roraima.

The good spirit manifested in our meetings of late has been of great encouragement to us, and it is an inspiration to hear the Indians pray individually in meeting. Although we do not understand all that is said, we hear them mention our names in their prayers, that we and they may be good, so that we can go with Jesus when He comes. How much we wish that others might see their faces lighted up in eager anticipation when we speak of the coming of the Lord; they are not troubled about the thought of leaving their possessions, for they have little or nothing that this world has ever given them, and to them the glories of the coming kingdom are a reality to which they look forward with joy.

Sabbath Evening

One Sabbath evening just before sundown, my wife and I took a short walk along the trail in the direction of civilization from which we are so far removed. As we approached the village on our return, we heard some Indians singing as the sun was sinking, and found that they had already gathered in our little church for the evening

meeting at the close of the Sabbath, and while waiting for us, they were singing the advent songs that they had been taught and which they now know so well.

In the Garden for Prayer

One morning we were in our garden where it is our custom to go for private worship. At this time several of our Indians came to the place, and seeing my wife kneeling, they filed up to her so quietly that she scarcely heard them, and kneeling down close beside her, they remained in silent prayer, their faces covered with their hands. I was some little distance away, and was greatly moved as I saw this act of devotion. With what tender love must the Lord regard such efforts of these children of nature to worship Him. Surely He will hear their prayers.

There are four Indians for whom we are especially praying at this time that they may give their hearts fully to God. Perhaps if we mention who they are, you will unite your prayers with ours on their behalf.

Ella, a Little Cripple

The first is Ella, a little cripple who lives in one of the huts in our mission. She is usually alone, for she has no parents to care for her. She says that when Jesus comes she is going to be with Him, and she will have two wings and fly like a bird. Will the children who hear of this little Indian girl, remember her name in their prayers that she may be kept faithful, that she may be shielded from the perils of the last days, that her heart may be warmed and her lonely life brightened by the Saviour's presence?

Louisa's Song

The second is an Indian woman, well advanced in years, by the name of Louisa. Early the other morning when I was in our little church, she came in, and after looking earnestly for a few moments at the pictures on the walls that we have selected from the picture rolls that we have with us, she went to the chart of the ten commandments and repeated a prayer while pointing to the letters on the chart.

She then came to me singing, "Lift up the trumpet, and loud let it ring; Jesus is coming again," the song now so well known, and sung by the Indians in places far removed from our mission. In sad tones she spoke of Pastor Davis whom she knew, and, while pointing over the hill in the direction of the place where he is now sleeping, she said that he used to sing that song. She then sang it over again to me, and raising her hands upwards she said she would go up to meet Jesus when He comes. May God grant that this desire of her heart may soon be realized.

Francisco's Glimpse of Jesus

The third for whom we are praying is Francisco, an Indian who visited our camp a few days ago, and lives about two days' march from our mission. While he was here I took the opportunity of speaking to him and his two friends, in our church, which, although with its mud walls is devoid of outward adornment, is the place where heavenly messengers often meet with us, and where the Holy Spirit works upon the hearts of our Indians. Francisco's eyes became moist as he saw a picture that we have of Jesus hanging on the cross and heard of the great sacrifice made on his behalf, and he said that he would get ready for the coming of the Lord. May he also be unfaltering in his purpose, and wear the victor's crown at last.

Visit from Andre, the Chief

The fourth is Andre, the chief of a company of Arekuna Indians who came a four days' journey to our mission. They arrived on the Sabbath after our Sabbath school was finished, but another meeting was held with them the same day. Andre brought along with him an Indian who could speak a little Portuguese, and he was of considerable help in giving them the message. Throughout this meeting Andre listened attentively and was much impressed. It was evident that the Spirit of the Lord was at work in his heart. At the close of the meeting both he and his men were given several pictures from our picture rolls to take home with them. It is impossible to estimate what good this man could accomplish on behalf of his people were he a consecrated worker for God, for he has considerable influence in his neighborhood.

More Help Needed

Shall we not remember these Indians in our prayers, and not these alone, but the numerous tribes speaking many different languages in this vast country? Can we not have more help in this needy field in order that these scattered Indians may be reached while there is yet time? The Lord is at this time laying bare His arm to do a mighty work in the mission fields. Let us not limit our requests but ask more largely than in the past, and then expect an answer to our prayers. We can pray with confidence for an abundant harvest of souls during this time of the latter rain, and we have the assurance that He "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." A. W. Corr.

Mount Roraima, Guiana.

THE GUATEMALA INDIAN MISSION

In April 1927, Pastor E. P. Howard and I began our quest for a location in this great, new Indian territory, going about 400 miles in my Ford sedan. We

carried food and blankets with us, ate our meals by the roadside, and slept in the auto. Other trips were made in May and June. In August 1927, Pastors W. E. Baxter, C. E. Wood, C. B. Sutton, E. P. Howard and I made a final trip in my Ford, retracing some of the roads Brother Howard and I had travelled over on our first journey. The rainy season had begun, and we often had to get out and walk, leaving one to drive the car; and sometimes several would have to push. Once the muddy road caved away letting the auto tip over heavily on one side in a deep hole; yet we trusted the Lord was guiding, and was leading us definitely to the place He had long foreseen was the proper site for this new mission.

Finding the Location

Early one morning Pastor Baxter and I were alone in the Ford, making a little run out of Sololá, when a man, living by the roadside, called our attention to a beautiful strip of rolling land covered with bright green pine trees. This, he said, was for sale.

We walked around for about two minutes when Brother Baxter said: "This is great. We must go right back to town and bring the brethren out to see this piece." Without any hesitation all felt the Lord had now fulfilled our request, showing us just the property to purchase. In a few more hours the owner in Sololá had been found, the first legal matters accomplished, and the land was ours. Then we drove back to the mission site, knelt down in the green grass beneath the tall trees, and gave thanks to God for His guidance and for aiding in the purchase of the property. Then we opened our lunch boxes and had a "picnic dinner in the woods"—a suitable occasion I believe for such a happy luncheon.

The property consists of about twelve acres—possibly a little more—lying in a rectangle, with the main highway—a good gravelled road—as the eastern boundary. The soil is a rich black sand loam, having been untilled for many years. The pines are straight and large enough to furnish sufficient lumber for most of the mission needs for several years. The location is quite ideal, about two and one-half miles from Sololá, one of the great gathering centers of the Indians of this territory.

Our Journey to It

Because of heavy rains the brethren decided it best to leave the Ford at Lake Atitlan, five miles below Sololá, and return to Guatemala City by ferry across the beautiful lake of Atitlan, by horseback over a rough road to the railroad, and then by train to Guatemala City.

At once Mrs. Boehne and I began packing our light housekeeping equipment to move out here, although, we had little idea where we could live aside

from the hotel in Sololá. Our journey was quite pleasant all the way—by train, auto, horseback, and ferry, to where I left the Ford—although the horseback ride was tiring to Mrs. Boehne. The Lord surely favored us with beautiful weather for as soon as we were "at home" in the Sololá hotel the rains began again.

Our Adobe Home

As is usual the hotels in this country have chilly, damp rooms with few or no windows, hard uncomfortable beds, and very unsatisfactory food. Mrs. Boehne and I both became ill before long from the food; so, as soon as I could get our things transported from the railroad, we rented an adobe house one-half mile from our mission. We left Guatemala City August 23 and moved into the adobe house September 9. Those were busy and trying days, but we were happy indeed to get settled by ourselves again.

Finding Workmen

The next proposition was securing sawyers. I now began to get acquainted with these Indians. Briefly stated, I am sorry to say their governing incentive to work is to get money to buy liquor. As soon as they recover from one spell of drinking, they begin to plan to secure more money for another spree. They beg for pay in advance, promising to come on a certain day to work. If they delay coming to work too long, the next step is to inform the *alcalde* (mayor), pay him a fee, whereupon a soldier is sent and the Indian is forced to come and work out his debt, including the fee.

After looking up various sawyers and getting their prices with the help of interpreters, I engaged an Indian and his three sons. They have done good work and have proved faithful when not intoxicated, but, as is their custom, they only come a few days in a month, possibly only two or three; then they go and spend their time and money for liquor and in numerous *fiestas*. Many other sawyers from far and near have come seeking work, but always they demand money in advance, promising to come a certain day of the following week. Only a few of these who live rather near have I entrusted with pay in advance and sometimes I must send the *alcalde* to bring them to work.

The securing of workers to help me with the common labor—felling trees, clearing a garden site and a roadway, preparing poles for use in framing, and excavating for foundation of the building—was a new venture for me and one, as I soon learned, that required much patience. I must leave everything and go to the office of the *alcalde* in Sololá on Monday morning to present my slip of paper at nine A. M. promptly, along with scores of others whom I find waiting for the door of the clerk's office to open. Then I must wait till two P. M.

before I can pay the wages of the number of workers called for on my slip (unless I can find someone whom I can entrust with the money to pay it for me, thus permitting my return home). On Monday following I must go again to Sololá to receive the workers and pay an additional fee to the officer who has procured them for me. Peradventure some special *fiesta* is beginning, or in progress, I must return without any laborers. Then go down one week later and see what the prospects are. If the laborers are there I take down their names the best I can—for they cannot show me how to write their names—and receive their promise to appear on the mission ready for work the next morning.

Tuesday morning there is quite a satisfaction in seeing them on hand early, for they are accustomed to rise early to go to work or to town, etc. Continually I must show them the right way to do their various lines of work. They come for six days only. Then next week they must "rest up" by going to town to spend their earnings. I cannot hire them even at double the wage to come the following week.

Prayer Answered

Mrs. Boehne and I were so happy recently when Brother Howard surprised us by sending a believer, Brother Candelario Ruiz, to assist in the work. He is a most active, willing, steady worker, and takes keen interest in all that is to be done, working early and late with me, ever singing gospel songs. Mrs. Boehne and I certainly believe the Lord heard and answered our continued prayer that such a helper be sent here. Our prayer now is for a sawyer, who is a believer.

Sleeping in Woods

Mrs. Boehne and I were so glad to move from the hotel to the little adobe house but soon our "home" life there was interrupted, as I had to leave her to live there alone for about four and one-half months. One morning about the middle of October, I found that ten boards had been stolen, though I had tried to keep them carefully piled and counted. That night I slept beside the lumber in the woods, with a camp-fire near my feet; and there I spent every night through those long months until March 2 of this year, when enough boards had been sawed to close in two rooms at one end of the frame work, so that we could move in.

When the cold north winds and rainy weather made it impossible to sleep out without protection, I cleared a roadway to the lumber and parked our Ford sedan adjacent to where I always built the camp fire. In it I was fairly dry and comfortable though I had so many tools stored within that there was scarcely room left for a person to turn over. Each morning, usually while the stars

were yet twinkling, I would renew my camp fire,—as a partial warning to any who might care to intrude,—lock up the auto doors, and hurry down to eat breakfast with my wife. After worship I attended to supplying sufficient wood and water for my wife's needs before hastening back to my work. Mrs. Boehne faithfully prepared and carried our other meals up here day by day to save my time and often on market days she would walk to Sololá, about two miles away, and do our purchasing alone so that I could stay by the work.

Prospects Bright

As to the prospects for the growth of the work and for a wide spread of the message among these people, they are as certain to follow as it is certain that Matthew 24:14 shall be completely fulfilled. We see so many very commendable natural capabilities and splendid traits of character in these Indians that our Christian love for them ever increases. We know that Christ loves them the same as He does us from more favored lands and will abundantly answer our daily prayers for a large harvest for the kingdom. J. E. BOEHNE.

Sololá, Guatemala.

HOME MISSIONARY AND FIELD MISSIONARY SECRETARIES' COUNCIL

On the morning of May 25, the writer in company with Pastor A. R. Ogden, superintendent of the Antillian Union, and four other workers from Jamaica, landed at Cristobal, Canal Zone, enroute to the Home Missionary and Bookmen's Convention at Balboa. After a short visit to the Pacific Press Branch, we took the train to Balboa, the headquarters of our work for the Inter-American Division. This part of our journey was not long, only lasting one and three quarter hours, but it was a pleasant trip as our train carried us through beautiful wooded sections, and at times skirted the banks of the Panama Canal. Now and then we caught glimpses of great ships, quietly making their way from one ocean to the other. It gave me a real thrill to think that our work is located right on the crossroads of the world; for the Canal is a world highway where ships from every nation make their way. At the present time the traffic through the Panama Canal is said to exceed that of the Suez Canal, although the latter takes in more toll.

A little more than halfway across the Isthmus on the banks of the Canal is located our training school for the Republic of Panama. Although across the Canal from the railroad, it can be seen from the train window, and a good sign board with "West Caribbean Training School," in large letters points out the way. We now have a local conference

office and publishing house at the Atlantic end of the Canal, a training school near the center, and the division headquarters at the Pacific end. It cheered our hearts to see the work so firmly entrenched in this section of the world.

At Balboa we were met by the brethren and soon were comfortably located. To our surprise we found the new division buildings, as approved by the General Conference committee, all completed. Five neat, inexpensive cottages have been built, and are now occupied by our workers. The office building is a substantial structure. In the basement of that building,—which is in reality not the basement, for the building has been built so as to place the entire lower floor above the ground,—is located a simple chapel in which the meetings of the convention were held. Our workers here are profoundly thankful to God for this memorial to the truth, and only those who knew the conditions under which they labored, and lived before the office building was completed can appreciate fully what it means for them to have pleasant quarters.

The first meeting in the new chapel was the occasion of a prayer meeting. Already a number of the delegates had come, and we had a blessed season together. Elder Andross, president of the Inter-American Division, led us in a few well chosen thoughts from the word of God, and soon we were all thanking God for His protection over us as we gathered in for the convention. The next day it was our pleasant lot to meet and greet the workers as they came in from all corners of this division. Some had been on the way many days, and it was a happy reunion as the workers greeted old friends and made new acquaintances. The general convention was preceded by a two days' meeting of local and union mission treasurers. Brother F. L. Harrison, secretary-treasurer of the division, presided over this meeting and very careful study was given the problems which this group of workers are facing in mission fields.

The first meeting of the general convention convened Sunday morning, May 27, with home missionary and publishing department representatives from every local and union mission with the exception of the local missions in Mexico. As in many cases one man carried both the home missionary and field missionary secretary's work, it was decided to divide each day between the two departments, and letting them use the morning and afternoon sessions alternately. In this way each secretary was privileged to hear all discussions relating to both departments. We were also privileged to have with us a number of local mission superintendents and all the union mission superintendents. These brethren rendered able assistance in the discussion of the various problems and

in laying good plans for the work.

As the Inter-American Division is the youngest of our eight great world divisions, it was necessary to give careful study to all phases of our departmental work, which, as yet, are not fully organized in many fields. However, the progress seen throughout this division along all lines has been remarkable. As this was the first division-wide convention of home missionary secretaries, particular stress was given this department of our work. The reports given by the various workers indicate that in this division God is doing a great work through our humble church members. Again and again experiences were told of our laity raising up whole churches through their personal witnessing for the message. One union superintendent, where the providences of God have been especially seen, said, "Tell the brethren in the General Conference that we have almost no leaders in our field. The people are going away before us, raising up churches faster than we can get to them to organize them."

This seems to be the condition throughout the entire field. Truly, God has bared His arm for the finishing of the work among the more than 43,000,000 people in this division. For this reason it was necessary to lay broad plans for the direction of the home missionary work in the local missions, not only in the methods of proper organization, but in providing the laity with literature with which to carry on the good work. There is a great need everywhere for cheap literature in the Spanish language, and we are glad the convention laid definite plans for its publication. Pastor C. E. Wood, home missionary secretary of the division, acted as chairman of this section.

In the publishing work the providences of God have been especially marked. Our faithful colporteurs in this field, as in all sections of the world, are carrying the gospel in printed form to every nook and corner. Braving all manner of hardships and privations, these valiant men and women are pioneering the message in every field. As a result of their noble work the seeds of truth are springing up everywhere, and a great harvest of souls is being gathered. It was a real pleasure to meet the men who are leading the forces of our colporteur army throughout the division. Pastor J. A. P. Green, field missionary secretary of the division, carried the responsibilities as chairman of this section. Under his strong leadership the convention ably discussed the publishing department problems and laid good plans for its future work.

The work of the Book and Bible House secretaries was not lost sight of in the busy program of the convention. This group of workers managed to get in a number of section meetings, and

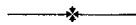
greatly appreciated the opportunity to discuss their work, under the leadership of Brother H. H. Hall, associate secretary of the Publishing Department of the General Conference.

Each morning during the convention, from eight to nine, a devotional meeting was conducted which brought life and courage to the workers. The message brought to us by Elder Andross, setting before the delegates the vital principles underlying both the publishing and the home missionary departments, were most inspiring and will not be forgotten by those attending the meetings. The convention finished its work Friday noon, June 1. Besides Brethren H. H. Cobban, H. H. Hall, and the writer from the General Conference, we were glad to have representatives from the Pacific Press in the persons of Brother J. M. Rowse, from Mountain View, California, and Brother E. W. Everest, manager of the Inter-American branch.

Sabbath evening a service was held which will long linger in the minds of those present. It was the occasion of the dedication of the buildings and chapel of the new headquarters. Pastor Andross preached an appropriate dedicatory sermon after which the property was dedicated in prayer by Pastor C. E. Wood. Brother F. L. Harrison rendered a financial report and recounted some of the evidences of God's leading in securing the property from the government. The buildings are a splendid monument to the Third Angel's Message in one of the world's strategic centers. We solicit an interest in the prayers of our brethren and sisters for the work in the Inter-American Division.

E. F. HACKMAN.

Washington, D. C.



REPORT OF THE PUBLISHING WORK IN THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

Four years of progress, not only in literature sold, but in souls won and interested in this message, constrains us to praise the Lord, and fills us with a desire and a determination to go forward and upward to still greater heights. The figures given below tell the story of progress. This splendid record was made chiefly by our faithful colporteurs going from door to door with our literature:

YEAR	VALUE OF ORDERS
1924	\$134,926.15
1925	142,471.30
1926	134,927.62
1927	182,466.17
	<hr/>
	\$747,953.97

With a population of more than forty million in the Inter-American Division, we hope, with the Lord's help, to sell \$200,000 worth of literature during

1928. This amounts to the small sum of \$5,000 worth for every million.

Our goal can be reached, but, of course, it will require permanent leadership. Fewer changes will mean a greater circulation of truth-filled books and papers, and that will mean more homes reading the last message for this sin-cursed world. It will also mean more strength and greater efficiency of each colporteur. When properly led, our colporteurs are willing to attempt almost anything for the truth's sake.

New Things

Some doubts were expressed concerning "Ministry of Healing" in Spanish, but Venezuela has demonstrated what can be done with the Lord's help. Over 500 copies of "Ministry of Healing" were sold there in a few months; and the colporteurs there are still selling it with good success. And best of all this masterpiece of Sister White's books in Spanish, is winning its way into the hearts of the Latin-speaking people. A supreme court judge said: "No one but a woman could write such a good book." A protestant missionary said, "This is the best book published by the Seventh-day Adventists."

But while this book is paving the way and creating a good impression, our colporteurs are having thrilling experiences also with other literature. From the Rio Grande, skirting the extreme northwest, to the Orinoco, as well as farther east, our men have had every ounce of faith and courage tested.

I am thinking of Brother Luis Cam-po in Venezuela. He was anxious to have a humble part in proclaiming this message to the people living far up in the cold Andean villages. With a load of books and papers on his back, he traveled afoot for three days to the town of Choachi. In the first store he was treated kindly, and found an interested person. As he finished his canvass three other men entered the store, and asked permission to see the periodical. While the presentation was made, the periodical was taken from his hand and rudely torn to pieces. Then the other papers were taken from him and also torn. Not satisfied with this, the men proceeded to empty his box, destroying every book. Next they searched our brother, and finding a Bible, they tore out the sacred pages, leaf by leaf, and threw them to the wind. One of the men took from his pocket a long knife, and said, "You get out of this town as quickly as possible; if you do not, we will give you the same treatment." He left the town afoot, walked back to the office in three days, and was not a little discouraged. His loss amounted to \$56.00.

Colombia is a land in which there is great opposition. Still our faithful colporteurs there are selling many books. The largest colporteur report for the

month of March came from Atlantic Colombia.

And so we could go on, telling stories of what God is doing in the Antillian, the Central American, East Caribbean, Colombia-Venezuela, and the Mexican Unions.

El Centinela

We have colporteurs in our division that never sell a book unless they take a year's subscription for *El Centinela*. In fact, Brother Eugenio Plata said, "The periodical helps to sell the book." The circulation of *El Centinela* is increasing. The sales during the last few months were as follows:

March	29,000
April	25,000
May	30,000

The Outlook

The outlook is good. The first three months of this year show an increase over the same quarter of last year. Three of these reports arrived late, so were not included in the monthly summary sent to Washington. In fact, all the reports have not come in yet.

Months	Colp.	Hours
Jan. to March, 1928	83	16,863
Jan. to March, 1927	95	17,686

	Orders	Value Ord.	Value Del.
1928	5,258	\$44,961.42	\$29,823.09
1927	4,859	41,777.87	21,367.89
Gains	399	3,183.55	8,455.20

Our courage is good, our confidence is strong, and we have faith that God is going to bless us abundantly during the present year; and "as long as probation continues there will be opportunity for the canvasser to work. When the religious denominations unite with the papacy, places where there is religious freedom will be opened by evangelistic canvassing."—*Testimonies* Vol. VI, p. 478.

J. A. P. GREEN.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION PLANS

The annual council of the Inter-American Division Committee was held in the new chapel at the division headquarters, Balboa, Canal Zone, June 4-12. Careful study was given to the needs of the work in the different fields throughout the division.

In addition to our division committee members we were glad to have Brethren H. H. Cobban, H. H. Hall, and E. F. Hackman, of Washington, D. C., present with us in our council.

Many of the recommendations adopted by the division council pertain particularly to the local, union, and division committees. Such do not appear on the following list:

GRATITUDE TO GOD

WHEREAS, God has wonderfully blessed the work in our division during the past year, in sparing the lives of our workers, in increased activity of leaders and lay-members in soul-winning work, in the unprecedented awakening we find among the people sitting in darkness, and in a remarkable harvest of souls; therefore,

We recommend, That we express our heartfelt gratitude to our heavenly Father by reconsecrating ourselves to be spent unreservedly in

the finishing of God's work and to press forward, united in heart and hand, in the giving of this blessed message.

EVANGELISM

Recognizing that we have reached the time when the Third Angel's Message is taking on loud-cry proportions, and when every resource of our denomination should be recruited for the accomplishment of the one supreme purpose of the church—the sounding of God's last warning message and the saving of souls; we recommend,

1. That we raise a definite rally call of "evangelism" in the Inter-American Division, holding closely to the preaching of the distinctive truths that have made us a people;

2. That every executive and departmental worker be encouraged to set an example of consecration and enthusiastic service by leading out in, or connecting with, at least one public effort in connection with their other work;

3. That, as far as possible, it be arranged so that principals and teachers in our training schools may be connected with evangelistic efforts during school vacations, and that office workers be given regular time for personal outside missionary work;

4. That we encourage our ministers, Bible workers, colporteurs, and teachers, to have faith to expect definite results from every sermon preached, and from every personal interview, and to make direct personal appeals in order to influence those who are in the "valley of decision" to take their stand for the truth;

5. That ministers and workers continue to encourage our lay members to enlist for soul-winning service, until there shall not be one idler among our membership; and

6. That every departmental worker of our division co-operate in this great evangelistic movement, making soul-winning the chief objective of all his work.

APPRECIATION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

While assembled at our division headquarters to plan for the further prosecution of our work, we are reminded again of the generous and un-failing support given us by the General Conference; therefore,

We do hereby extend to our leaders at the General Conference in Washington, D. C., and to our faithful, self-sacrificing lay members of North America our sincere thanks for their full cooperation and their financial support, and for the special appropriation that made possible our new division headquarters, including five cottages and an office building with a chapel for services; and, further,

We extend our thanks to the General Conference and to the Pacific Press for the excellent help given us through their representatives at our convention and council.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE PANAMA CANAL

We, the delegates, representing all parts of the Inter-American Division as well as our General Conference headquarters in Washington, D. C., now assembled for convention in Balboa, do hereby extend to General Merriweather L. Walker, Governor of the Panama Canal, and to other Canal Zone officials, our unanimous vote of thanks as an expression of our sincere appreciation for the courtesies which they have extended to our workers residing in this place, and especially for the very desirable location assigned to us in Balboa for our division headquarters.

MISSION GOAL

We recommend, (a) That the 1929 mission goal of the Inter-American Division be \$90,000;

(b) That the individual goal for all foreign workers be 60 cents per member;

(c) That the per capita goal for individual fields be as follows:

Bahamas	\$.30	Atlan. Colombia	\$.30
Cuba	.40	Central Colombia	.30
Haiti	.10	Curacao	.30
Jamaica	.15	Venezuela	.30
Porto Rico	.35	Guiana	.10

Santo Domingo	.33	Leeward Islands	.15
Costa Rica	.25	S. Caribbean	.15
Nicaragua	.25	Central Mexican	.20
Guatemala	.15	Gulf	.20
Salvador	.20	Lake	.20
Honduras	.25	Sonora	.20
W. Caribbean	.25	Tehuantepec	.20
Antioqueña	.30	Yucatan	.20

(d) That the Sabbath school goal be based upon one-half the mission goal.

SPECIAL "MESSENGER"

Voted, That a special issue of the MESSENGER be published at the beginning of 1929 with a view of setting before our people the importance of evangelism and that the goal for souls won throughout the division be set at 3,000 for 1929.

NICARAGUA INTO SEPARATE MISSION

Voted, That we approve of the setting off the country of Nicaragua into a separate mission.

NATIVE LEADERSHIP

We recommend, That earnest efforts be made to seek out consecrated natives with leadership ability and encourage them to prepare themselves for carrying responsibilities in the colporteur and home missionary work.

MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, "The church of Christ has been organized on earth for missionary purposes," and it is of the highest importance that every individual member of the church should be a sincere laborer together with God; and

WHEREAS, We are instructed that "in our churches let companies be formed for service"; we recommend,

1. That the enlisting of all the church membership in prayer and missionary hands, be the basis of the missionary organization of the local church for service;

2. That the territory allotted to each church be considered its home mission field, and that suitable and agreeable assignments of territory be made to each member; and

3. That wherever possible, classes for training church members in the art of giving Bible readings, how to handle our literature, how to care for the sick, etc., be formed in our churches in order to reach the public with the message along all our recognized missionary lines.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SECRETARY

WHEREAS, Our denominational organization calls for the appointment of a missionary secretary in every church to act as the business agent of the Book and Bible House, and as the secretary of the missionary organization of the church for service; we recommend,

1. That in all our churches at the time of the annual election, capable persons be selected and elected to fill this important position;

And further, 2. that all literature supplies for the various departments of the church and our lay members, be ordered through the church missionary secretary.

HARVEST INGATHERING

WHEREAS, The Harvest Ingathering campaign has proved to be a great blessing both in the raising of funds for missions and at the same time in acquainting the public with the character and growth of this world-wide movement, we recommend,

1. That the goal for the Inter-American Division be \$33,000;

2. That we ask our members to make their individual goal at least \$5.00 each;

And further, 3. That the winning of souls be our chief aim, and that we encourage all our church members to follow up carefully the Harvest Ingathering interests by giving Bible studies, distributing literature, and by personal visits.

FIRST SABBATH HOME MISSIONARY DAY

WHEREAS, The successful development of missionary work on the part of all our church members requires a regular opportunity for the presentation of instruction and inspirational themes by our ministers and other church leaders, that our people may be enlisted as personal

soul-winners and intelligent as to the work they are to do for God; we recommend,

1. That the first Sabbath of each month be designated as Home Missionary Day.

2. That the Divisional Home Missionary Department prepare suitable programs to be carried out in all our churches on that day.

3. That the regular church offering for that day be kept in the local church, or sent to the local conference or mission to be kept as a trust fund and expended only at the direction of the local church missionary committee, it being understood that this offering is to be used entirely for local missionary work.

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER READING COURSES

We recommend, That the Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses for Inter-America for 1929 be as follows:

English Senior

"Providences of the War," "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing" "With Our Missionaries in China."

English Junior

"Peter the Fisherman," "Bedtime Stories" No. 3.

Spanish Senior

"Testimonios Selectos," II, "Martin Lutero."

Spanish Junior

"El Hombre de Galilea," "Cuentos Vespertinos."

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER GOAL

We recommend, That the Missionary Volunteer Goal for 1929 be as follows:

- 6,000 Missionary Volunteers in our societies.
- 4,000 Morning Watch observers.
- 1,000 Bible Year certificates.
- 400 Reading Course certificates.
- 275 Standard of Attainment certificates.
- 500 Young people converted and baptized.

BOOK MARK

We recommend, That a young person who can present three Bible Year certificates, and is entitled to a fourth one, be given a Book Mark with appropriate printing on it, instead of the fourth certificate.

TEMPERANCE WORK

WHEREAS, There is great need for more temperance work being done in this division; and,

WHEREAS, The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that everywhere we should present the principles of true temperance and call for signers to the temperance pledge, we recommend,

(a) That a special effort be made to enlist our young people in more active service along this line; and

(b) That at least two good four-page temperance leaflets be prepared for general circulation.

SOCIAL PURITY LITERATURE

We recommend, That all workers for the young people make special effort to obtain and circulate suitable social purity literature in the English, Spanish, and French.

SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, We greatly appreciate the kindness of the General Conference in giving to Inter-America the 13th Sabbath offering for the last quarter of this year, we recommend,

That the workers in our field pledge themselves to do, by precept and example, all that lies within their power to increase the 13th Sabbath offering for December of this year that we may do our full share in providing the much needed funds for the medical and educational work in Inter-America.

We recommend, That throughout the division we have one general Sabbath School Rally Day, and one Investment Fund program each year; the Rally Day to be observed in the spring, and the Investment Fund Day in autumn.

13TH SABBATH GOALS

Voted, That the 13th Sabbath goal for the Sabbath schools per church member be as follows:

Bahamas	\$.60	Cuba	\$1.00
Haiti	.30	Jamaica	.24
Porto Rico	.75	Nicaragua	.30

Costa Rica	.50	Salvador	.40
Guatemala	.30	Santo Domingo	.75
Honduras	.50	W. Caribbean	.50
Antioqueña	.65	Atlantic Col.	.65
Curacao	.60	Central Col.	.65
Venezuela	.60	Guiana	.25
Leeward Islands	.30	S. Caribbean	.30
Central Mexico	.40	Gulf	.40
Lake	.50	Sonora	.50
Tehuantepec	.30	Yucatan	.40

TELL ME

Am I not on time to Sabbath school, if I enter while the school song is being sung?

Suppose you were to leave on the morning train. Would you consider yourself on time if you reached the railroad station when you could hear the rumbling of the departing train and even could see it disappear around the curve. No; you would feel keenly that you were late. Fortunately, for the late comer, the Sabbath school does not disappear around the curve and the doors are not locked when the signal for opening is given. The opening signal may be the tap of a bell, or silent prayer or a song; but he is late, who enters after the opening signal is given. And he loses a sweet blessing that God bestows upon humble, devoted, on-time worshippers who keep their appointments with Him.

ORDINATION SERVICE

Sabbath afternoon, June 2, Brother Juan de Caenel, one of our faithful workers over in Haiti, was ordained to the gospel ministry. This service also took place in the chapel of the division office.

Following the ordination service was an experience meeting. There was not time for all to speak; but it was inspiring, indeed, to listen to the many testimonies of faith, courage, gratitude, and devotion. Several thanked God for very definite deliverances from death. Brother Parsons referred to four times when God had miraculously delivered him when he stood face to face with death. Brother Babcock said, "God has delivered me and my family many times; and I am so thankful to be here now."

Brother A. R. Ogden, who has come to our field recently, said that he had been impressed especially with the earnest spirit of inquiry that he had noticed wherever he had been; and Brethren Sype and de Caenel related several evidences of remarkable interests in their respective fields—Jamaica and Haiti.

The afternoon services were a call to deeper consecration and more earnest effort for the salvation of the lost. The Spirit of the Lord was present, and, I believe, all went away fully determined to let God have His way in their lives.

SCATTERED AGAIN

The conventions have closed, the division council is over, and the workers have gone to their many fields to resume their work. The division office seemed lonely after the many farewells; but we look forward to a happy reunion.

In one of the last prayer and social meetings during the conventions, Brother

Rowse from the Pacific Press referred to the time when our workers will pack their suitcases for the last time, when the work will be finished, and we can all go home with our blessed Master.

Others took up the phrase for it found a responsive note in every heart. With eager eyes we are looking forward to that happy day; but, I feel sure that all the workers assembled have gone home determined to work as never before until the night cometh, when we can fold our charts, lay aside our books and other good literature, resign from our Christian Help and other band work, and bid adieu to our weather-worn suitcases.

What a wonderful time that will be if we can then look back and say with the Master, "I have finished the work that Thou gavest me to do." I pray that this may be the happy lot of every soul-winner in Inter-America.

EXPERIENCES IN BOQUETE

Our first baptism in Boquete was quite a surprise to the people. It was the talk of the town for a long while.

We kept quiet while we prepared for our second baptism, but somehow the relatives and friends of the candidates learned of it and did everything they could to dissuade them from being baptized. They invented all kinds of tales to make them believe that our religion is a bad one.

I visited the home of one who was a candidate for baptism, and talked with her about the influence being exerted to keep her from being baptized. I shall never forget her expression when, with eyes aglow with a light which sprang from a heart filled with the love of Jesus, she said: "Brother Ellis, how can our religion be bad, when, as I go to church, I am always thinking of God?" This evidence of true conversion was in itself sufficient reward for any amount of labor. Her mind was stayed on God, and nothing could move her.

I went to see a dear old lady of about seventy years of age who was having trouble in her home. Her eldest son had been away from home for thirty years, but had returned about a month before. He was using every influence to persuade his mother to give up the truth; but she would not yield. He said to her: "Mother, if you will not give up that bad religion, I will go away and you will never see me again." She calmly replied: "My son, I am sorry I cannot please you, but my love for Jesus is too strong for me to yield." She was baptized a few days later.

A brother of the same baptismal class was stabbed in the back. He was given first aid treatment by a nurse, and later I took him to my home and cared for him. He improved rapidly and was baptized not many days later. His friends, urged that he seek revenge at the first

opportunity, but he refused to listen to them. Not long after, the man who had wounded him came to him and begged his forgiveness, and the brother was glad for the opportunity of showing what his new religion had taught him.

Surely, the Lord is doing a good work in Boquete. ISHMAEL ELLIS.

David, R. P.

ANOTHER WEDDING

On the morning of June 20, Sister Carrie Dean, of the Hutchinson Seminary, Minnesota, U. S. A., arrived in Cristobal, Canal Zone; and in the evening, in the presence of the division office family and a few other fellow workers, Brother Carl G. Christiansen and Sister Dean were united in marriage in the division office chapel.

Brother Christiansen has been laboring very faithfully in Colombia for some time. He went there not knowing the Spanish language; but that did not deter him from entering the colporteur work. On the way from the port where he landed up to Bogota he sold many copies of *El Centinela*. God has blessed him greatly in his work.

Coming to the convention in May, he arranged for Miss Dean to meet him here; and now they have gone on together to press forward shoulder to shoulder with our other missionaries in Colombia. We congratulate our workers in that field on the acquisition of the devoted young woman whom Brother Christiansen has persuaded to join our slender forces in that great republic; and our prayers go with Brother and Sister Christiansen for heaven's choicest blessings as they give their lives in service for the lost in Colombia.

DEDICATORY SERVICE

Friday evening, June 1, a simple but very appropriate service was held in the division office chapel, dedicating the division headquarters to the Lord. Gratitude was expressed to God for all His blessings, to the General Conference for the special appropriation that has made the buildings possible, and to the American government for the very desirable location granted for our use. The dedicatory prayer sought strength and wisdom from above in behalf of those who will determine the influence that shall emanate from this memorial to God's work in this part of the world.

NEWS ITEMS

Pastor H. H. Hall, who carries upon his heart a heavy burden for the publishing work in Inter-America, is on an extended trip through the field before returning to America. Sabbath, June 23, he sailed from Cristobal, Canal Zone, for Barranquilla, Colombia. Later, if

plans are permitted to mature, he will visit Curacao, Venezuela, Trinidad, and the Leeward Islands. His help will be greatly appreciated.

After the close of the division council, Brother E. F. Hackman, from the General Conference, visited the Central American Union headquarters and school in San José, Costa Rica. He returned to the division office for a few days and on June 24 he sailed for Haiti, planning to visit that mission and Santo Domingo and Porto Rico on his way back to the

A Wonderful Land

I'll sing to you of a far-away land,
That eye hath never seen,
Where midnight shadings never fall,
And fields are ever green;
Where grief can never chill the heart
Tuned to the heavenly song;
And never a tear will dim the eye,
Through all the ages long.

No tempest rainbow spans its skies
The promise is complete;
And flowers bloom on—bloom evermore
In fragrance full and sweet.
Love's cup fills to its sparkling brim,
And joys a hundred fold
Charm every heart, while tireless feet
Walk out on streets of gold.

A wonderful land, supreme, divine,
With never a fear or blight;
Eyes that have wept forget their tears,
In the smiles of its golden light.
And ever, forever, the life-song rings
With pain and death denied—
A beautiful land—God's gift of love,
Through Him who was crucified.

—Robert Hare.

States. We are sure he will bring much encouragement to the workers in these fields.

Monday morning, June 18, we had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Glen Ray, principal of our Spanish school at San José, Costa Rica. He sailed for America on the *S. S. Manchuria*, June 23, but expects to return to the field before another school year opens. That same steamer carried our music teacher of the West Caribbean Training School, Sister Leona Seibold, back to the homeland after three years of faithful service here in the tropics.

Professor W. H. Wineland, who came back to Inter-America in time for our division council, has gone to Costa Rica, where he has been asked to serve as principal of our Central American Union school. We rejoice that Sister Wineland's health will permit their return to the division where they have served so efficiently.

Pastor H. E. Baasch, after attending the division council, sailed from Balboa, June 19, for a trip through the Colombia-Venezuela Union, his new field of labor. He will spend several months in various missions, helping to build up the work by studying the problems with

the other workers and by joining them in evangelistic efforts in different places.

Pastor D. C. Babcock, writing from Curacao, says: "We had an excellent meeting last Sunday night, and at the close I invited those that had made their decision to obey the message to express the same, and four held up their hands. One of them was an inveterate user of tobacco, and he told me yesterday that the Lord was helping him to give it up. He is a man of some means, and plans on helping build our church here.

"I recently met a lady who runs a little shop here. She has been keeping the Sabbath for seventeen years. Her father became a Mason and left the Catholic church when she was a young girl. He taught her that the seventh day is the Sabbath, and he observed it. She has never read anything on the Sabbath question and all the information that she has ever had is what her father was able to make clear to her, and that was very meager. She closes her little shop at sundown on Friday and keeps it closed all day Sabbath. Two friends who live with her observe the Sabbath also. About five or six miles from town live a man and his wife who are keeping the Sabbath as a result of reading the "Marked Bible."

June 17 was commencement day at the West Caribbean Training School. Eight young men on that day received their diplomas. We rejoice to see them go forth from their Alma Mater, pledged by their class motto, "Ever onward in service for God and man," to cast their lives into the furrow of Inter-America's great need. Three of the graduates joined our regular working force at once. Brother Alberto Carstens sailed for Salvador to assist in evangelistic work while Brethren Ricardo Rankin and Bender Archbold went to help strengthen the advancing lines in Honduras.

Have you noticed that August 23 is mentioned in two of the articles in this paper? It is interesting to observe that that date marks an important event in the history of our two Indian mission stations. It was August 23, 1927 that Brother and Sister Cott, after the inexpressibly hard trip of more than five months, landed at Mount Roraima. And on that very day Brother and Sister Boehne started for their Indian mission station over in Guatemala. Let us continue to pray earnestly for these brave workers out on the lonely frontiers.

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