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By S. D. A. Foreign Mission Board

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Brother Jose Angel Hernandez and His Wife
of Salvador, C. A.

**Topic: North Latin American
Union**

SUGGESTIVE PROGRAM

March 1

The Official Notice
"The Heathen Nearer"
"Cuba"

March 8

"Honduras Mission"
"The West Caribbean Field"
"The Gospel in Salvador"

March 15

"Honduras"
"Josefa"
"The Time to Sow"

March 22

"Guatemala"
A Dialogue — "Foreign Mission Field"

March 29

"Responding to His Call"
A Dialogue — "How Much We Love"
Offering
Prayer for the work in the North Latin
American Union.

The Official Notice

September 11, 1918.

Mrs. L. Flora Plummer,
Secretary Sabbath School Department,
Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sister Plummer :—

At a recent meeting of the General Conference Committee it was decided to request through your department that all the Sabbath schools of the denomination devote their offerings for the Thirteenth Sabbath of the first quarter of 1919 to the work of the North Latin American Union, which includes in its territory our missions of Mexico, Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Venezuela, Cuba, Porto Rico, Haiti, and the West Caribbean Conference.

In many ways this is a difficult field to operate. The transportation facilities by land are generally very poor, and at present are but little better by sea, some island sections being almost entirely isolated during prevailing war conditions. This makes the field an expensive one for the Mission Board, our appropriation for 1918 being \$63,000, while for 1919 we must expect even greater demands.

The Committee has decided to request your department to appeal to the Sabbath schools for an offering of \$40,000 toward meeting this appropriation, with the understanding that any surplus will be used to augment our appropriation.

I might say in connection with this that there are many places in the Union that greatly need help in addition to what the Mission Board has felt able to provide, among which as an example might be mentioned the school enterprise heretofore conducted by Brother Karl Snow at Siguatepeque, but which has been taken over by the local field, and is to be reestablished at or near San Pedro, Honduras. Any supplementary allowance that could be given them as the result of a substantial overflow in the offerings will be a great boon to them, as their accommodations and facilities are very meager.

Trusting that this request for the Mission Board will strongly appeal to the liberality of our schools, and that a very substantial offering may be the result, I am,

Sincerely yours,

W. T. KNOX.

"The Heathen Nearer"

R. W. PARMELE

IN traveling through the territory comprising the North Latin American Union Conference, one is often impressed by the sentiment of the old missionary song, —

"If you cannot cross the ocean
And the heathen lands explore,
You can find the heathen nearer,
You can help them at your door."

At the very doors of the United States lies a land with which many people are really less

acquainted than with some of the heathen fields of China, India, and Africa. When



Begging as a Penance

foreign missions are mentioned, the mind goes instinctively to one of these countries across the ocean. Those fields are important ones, but at our doors is another with its millions of people just as needy of a pure gospel.

The Latin countries surrounding the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea for centuries

have been dominated by the Roman Catholic church. In recent years the Lord has been awakening these people, the same as he has awakened the people in countries that are professedly heathen, to hear his last message of mercy. But as they have been breaking away from the thralldom of Rome, the majority have regarded the change as a breaking away from religion. Hence, agnosticism is very common. Others, wishing freedom from the yoke of Romanism but still desiring the consolation of the hope of a life to come, have turned to Spiritualism. So today are found in these countries three classes of people : Catholics, agnostics, and Spiritualists. All three classes are grossly ignorant of the God of the Bible, and for them Protestant missionaries are working.

Near Santiago, Cuba, is a little town called El Cobre. The Catholics of the island believe that some years ago an image of the "Virgin of Charity" fell from heaven, and was brought in a boat to this town. (This reminds one of Diana of the Ephesians.) A temple was built in its honor. The image was placed in the temple, and the people have been taught to pray to this virgin. While I was at the home of Elder J. E. Anderson, our missionaries at Esperanza, Cuba, two women, evidently mother and daughter, came to the door begging. They carried with them a picture of this idol, before which they performed their acts of devotion. They had also two candles which some one had given them ; these they will doubtless use in their feast to the virgin,

when their begging penance is ended. We gave them ten cents to allow us to take their picture, which is presented herewith. Brother and Sister Anderson's little girl appears in the doorway. Incidentally this picture also shows how the houses are built, with narrow sidewalks, and generally rough streets.

The occasion of this begging expedition is this: These women had prayed for some favor of this virgin, promising that they would beg for a certain length of time, if their prayer was answered. The favor was granted, and they are now fulfilling their promise. When the penance is ended, they will make a feast in honor of the virgin, with the money obtained in their begging, and invite to the feast all their neighbors.

A well-to-do lady had promised the virgin that if she would answer her prayer, she would go barefooted for a certain number of months. She is accounted a very devout woman, because she may now be seen shopping, or at church or social functions unshod. These people are so wedded to these practices that it is hard to get them to understand that "the just shall live by faith."

The agnostic is not sure that there is a God, and is not sure that any one can be sure. The Spiritualist fancies he has many daily evidences of the existence of spirits, and he has to continually appease them. The mother of one of our sisters requires her to set a portion of food daily for the spirits. While all these classes are hard to reach, yet many honest souls are found among them. These

greatly rejoice when they find the sure foundation of God's eternal truth, and his unerring Guide-book.

One of our brethren who is now preaching the message successfully, never saw a Bible that he recognized as such until nine years ago. He had heard of it, but the priest had told him that it was a very expensive book, and a very large one. He had never hoped to be able to own one, but did entertain the hope that possibly some day he might be able to make a visit to the Pope and see the Bible that he heard was in his possession. And to think that this brother was born and reared within one hundred miles of our own shores! Surely it is for a purpose that these countries have broken the yoke of Rome, and proclaimed religious liberty. Many of these people are now looking to the United States for their ideals.

Cuba

E. P. WILSON

As the North American Latin Union is to be the happy recipient of the first Thirteenth Sabbath Offering of 1919, and Cuba is a part of this union, it affords me great pleasure to present to the large family of readers of this leaflet some of the interesting experiences in connection with our work in this island field, and at the same time impress their minds anew with some of its imperative needs.

I have just returned from my first trip through the island, visiting the churches and

workers, and as far as possible, the isolated believers in this field. When traveling in this country every one rides in the smoker, for smoking is permitted in all the coaches. It is not an uncommon thing to see a woman, with a nursing child in her arms, smoking a cigar or cigarette, or drinking beer or some other intoxicating liquor. It is a universal custom to expectorate and to throw all refuse from lunches, which are abundant, upon the floor; so one can imagine the condition of a coach after a few hours.



Members of One Family

As this is a tropical climate, the people do not have to be very heavily clad. One evening while conducting a meeting in a hall in one of the principal towns of the island, among others who were standing on the outside listening, was a small boy of seven or

eight years, and as I looked at him I saw that he had nothing on his body for a covering except a small handkerchief tied around one leg. After discovering that every one else in the audience had on clothes, he quietly retired, but soon returned with a small bath towel thrown about his shoulders; thus he enjoyed the remainder of the service without further embarrassment.

Recently I visited a place where one of our faithful colporteurs had been studying with a family that had previously learned something of the truth, and also with others in the neighborhood. As a result, five were ready for baptism when I reached there. A beautiful little incident in the life of this family is worth relating, for it shows how God has in every land those who are waiting for his law.

A few years ago there came to the home of this family a poor, unfortunate man, afflicted with an incurable disease. They took him in without pay, and kept him for a long time, in fact until he was ordered by the physician to go to the hospital for an operation. He died soon after. He was an artist, and before leaving the house or his friends he called for a brush and some paint, and up over the front door, in beautifully embellished letters, he painted these words: "*Un matrimonio feliz*" (One happy marriage). He gave as his reason for doing so, that he had been in the home of this kind and hospitable family for a long time, but had never heard one single cross word spoken by any member of the home.

Is it any wonder, dear friends, that God sent our good colporteur here to instruct this family more fully in the way of life, and that it was my privilege to baptize the father, mother, and two bright boys, one fourteen and the other sixteen years of age?

One other experience: In company with one of our native evangelists I made a trip on horseback up into the mountains, where two dear souls are waiting for baptism, one of whom is an old man of seventy-eight years, who had used tobacco since he was six.

When I asked him if he understood about the body's being the temple of the Lord, and how we should keep it clean for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and if he could give up all those habits of former years for Christ's sake, his face lighted up with a look of childish pride as he said: "I have already given them up, and have been waiting for this privilege for a long time." Just such diamonds in the rough, are to be found in all parts of this field.

Our needs are many. We do not own a single church building, or a building for our headquarters. We do not have a single doctor or nurse. We have no school where our foreign workers can send their children to be taught of God while they are giving their lives for the salvation of the natives, and we do not have a home for our workers who come to this trying field, where, because of high rents, it is impossible to secure a house with good sanitation.

How long we shall have to wait for these

things, you will help to answer by your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Perhaps some of you will say to the Mission Board, "Here am I, send me," or perhaps some one will say to wife and children, "Let us go to Cuba where we can use our knowledge of agriculture to teach the natives how to gain a living from the soil, and thus win them to the truth, while we are doing self-supporting work.

May God help each of you to answer aright the question of what you can do.

Honduras

KARL SNOW

It was our privilege to take the gospel to a poor, withered old man who had been a paralytic for more than thirty years. He lived in a stick shanty with mud floors and a thatched roof, out in the mountains of Honduras. He was discouraged and downcast, for his only hope was in the saints, and although he had sent his son on long pilgrimages to different images of noted saints, he had found neither hope nor comfort. He had prayed to the virgin through his little saint box but all his efforts were in vain. At last his son came to our place, thirty miles distant, and we sent the aged man some tracts. Some months later we had the privilege of visiting him. A block of wood was given me for a chair by the old man's bedside. All day long we studied the precious Word of God. He found what he was looking for, and although opposed by his family, he gave his heart to God.

That night he went to sleep happy, and so did we. Mrs. Snow's bed consisted of some poles covered with a dry, raw cowhide; our saddle blankets and an oilcloth were laid over them to make the bed a little softer. Mine was a hewn mahogany plank; a sack of grass served for a pillow, and my slicker for a covering. But our joy was too great to worry about the beds.

After two years of witnessing for the truth to those who visited the home, the old man passed away, a staunch Seventh-day Adventist. I want to ask you if you think it pays to work for such people?

When you are tempted to spend your means for the many unnecessary things to which you are accustomed, please stop and think of the millions that are dying without hope and those who are giving their lives for the truth, giving up the association of friends and loved ones, the pleasures, and even the necessities of life, for these needy ones. Let us all be partakers in the joy of soul-saving, either personally or with our means.

My greatest desire is that when the Master comes he will find me out in the mountains plodding toward some lowly cottage with his blessed Word.

The West Caribbean Field

H. C. KEPHART

THE present problem in this field is the opening up of the Spanish work, for by far the greater number of people here are Spanish-speaking. If the language were the only barrier to overcome, the problem would not be so great; but the work must be done for a people who have for centuries been under the direct control of the papacy. Results with people whose lives have been thus influenced come slowly, and persecution is often the reward of faithful effort.

Two years ago Elder J. W. Shultz was asked to divide his efforts between the care of the English churches established in the republic of Costa Rica and the learning of the Spanish language. Though restricted in this way, Elder Shultz has gained a good knowledge of the language, and his efforts the first year were blessed by the gaining of several baptized believers. There have been many openings for Bible studies and the distribution of literature, and both Elder and Mrs. Shultz have been busily engaged in their interesting work.

Our field missionary was next given the opportunity of studying the language, and was stationed in the heart of our largest republic, Columbia. With him several canvassers have been traveling through that great republic, scattering many thousands of dollars' worth of the Spanish health book, and this work has paved the way for a successful campaign with

our doctrinal literature. Interests have sprung up wherever these brethren have labored; and as they see the growing interest, their constant appeal is that additional workers be provided.

Columbia's great need has led us to consider very seriously the idea of transferring our one Spanish evangelistic worker to that field. The several millions in this large republic need help, and need it quickly. This worker ought not to go alone; and the Mission Board has been requested to furnish a man to go with the one we are sending, that they may together establish a strong work in some part of the country.

These, and other plans for advancing our work, have tremendously increased our appropriation requests for 1919, and the imperative needs cause us to hope for favorable action by the Mission Board in our behalf. We believe their confidence in the ability and willingness of the Sabbath schools to provide the necessary funds will induce them to make heavy appropriations for this very needy work.

In these closing days of probationary time, our hearts yearn as we see the great fields still to be worked, and we pray that the Spirit of God may influence his people to make this first Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 1919 one which will prove a great blessing to Latin America.

Gospel Work in Salvador

JOHN R. BROWN

THIS little country with its luxuriant vegetation, perpetual summer, high mountains and its numerous volcanoes presents many interesting features to the missionary and traveler. On account of the many earthquakes the country surrounding the volcanoes was called by the early Indians, "Valley of the Hammocks."

It was to this little republic that we were sent in October of 1915 to pioneer the good work and to spread the glad tidings of the soon coming Saviour. The third angel's message was unknown in Salvador, but the Lord blessed every effort put forth for the advancement of the gospel. At the close of our first year's work a baptismal service was celebrated and the first Adventist church was organized with a membership of twenty. Since then other interests have sprung up in different places of the republic and the membership has increased.

Most all the traveling has been done on mule back. As we follow the mountain trails to the little towns hidden among the hills we meet all kinds of experiences. Convenience is a word unknown on such trips. Mosquitoes and fleas and other insects are everywhere to keep us company. It is on such trips that the missionary contracts the deadly tropical malaria fever.

Ignorance and superstition abound everywhere. The moral standard is very low. More than one-half of the children of Salvador

are illegitimate. It costs so much money to secure a civil license and the priest charges so large a sum for performing the marriage ceremony that the poor natives cannot meet these expenses. However, the gospel of Jesus Christ is bringing about a wonderful change in the lives of these people.

Some of our believers are very faithful and happy in this truth. The picture on the cover of this leaflet is that of Brother Jose Hernandez and his wife, Ursula. They were among the first to accept the truth and both have been very faithful and most exemplary in their Christian life. Brother Hernandez is a great home missionary. Being unable either to read or write he purchased a Bible from me, and asked me to underscore with different colors the most important verses sustaining the third angel's message. As he meets his friends he hands them the Bible and asks them to read the underlined texts which he can easily point out by turning to his book marks. He does this whenever he has the opportunity and certainly does lots of good.

I might mention other believers but if these were the only ones as a direct result of the last Thirteenth Sabbath Offering given to the Central American field in 1915, we might all feel well repaid. We sincerely hope that the next Thirteenth Sabbath Offering given to this needy field may be the means of greatly extending the gospel and of bringing many more precious souls to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the kingdom to come.

Honduras Mission

W. E. LANIER

SEVERAL years ago two of our early missionaries were riding along the seashore of Honduras, and one of them noticed a bottle on the shore with a piece of paper in it. He picked it up and found that it contained a note written by a passenger on a ship off the coast of Africa. The writer told who he was, and where he was going, and said that if the finder would write to him he would make him a present. These brethren wrote to him, telling him of the work they were doing and asked that he make good his promise. In due time a box of Bibles was sent them from the Bible Society in London, also \$25 to pay the duty and transportation—a gift from this gentleman. This literature was of much help to our brethren in those early days.

I am glad to know that a "present" is now being made to us by the General Conference in giving to this union the first Thirteenth Sabbath Offering of 1919. This is one of our most needy fields, and it should appeal to the hearts of all our brethren. If the many thousands of Adventists will be half as liberal as the man who put the note in the bottle, we shall be able greatly to enlarge our work in Honduras.

For years we have been working among the English-speaking people, and have had good success. Owing to the difficulty of travel and the lack of workers, it has been almost impossible to open up any new work, and un-

less help comes, we cannot hope now to make any great advance.

As yet we have done but little for the Spanish-speaking people who constitute about ninety per cent of the population. There is no reason why we should not do a great work for them, for there are but few, if any, Protestants working among them. The way is clear for us, if we only had the workers.

For some years Brother Karl Snow has been conducting a school at Siguatepeque. Although this is a small school, it has had great influence for good. It is well spoken of all over the republic, and if it were properly equipped, it might do much good.

The time has come when we should begin a strong effort for the Spanish people. There are quite a number in the interior who are keeping the Sabbath and calling for help. We do not have sufficient help to meet their needs. We need two Spanish workers at an early date, — one for the capital and one for the Pacific coast. I hope the Lord may soon send us this help. Until we get more workers, we cannot hope to do much new work.

The English work has been successful, and there is no reason why the Spanish should not be. Only give us more workers, and with the help of the Lord, we will win souls for him. During the past three months two of us have seen nearly fifty give their hearts to God as a result of our efforts. Had we had more workers we might have had greater results.

Josefa

WM. STEELE

JOSEFA, a little girl of only eight years, attended the services and the Sabbath school held in the little village of Moca, and was converted. She asked to be baptized, but as her parents were very strongly opposed to the truth, we thought best not to baptize her then. After a time her father made a promise to the saints that if they would help him to obtain a certain object, his eldest child should carry the images to the church at a certain Catholic feast.

His wish was granted, and then he told little Josefa that she must carry the images to the church. She told him that she did not believe in images, that she worshiped the true God, and that she could not do what he wanted her to do. The man became very angry, and said he would beat her if she did not do so; but she was firm in her refusal. Finally he said: "This Bible that you believe says that children should obey their parents; therefore, you must obey and carry the images." She said: "All right, father: I will start out with them if you insist that I do so, but I will not be responsible for them should they fall from my hands and be broken." Thinking that it would be a great calamity if he should lose his images, he did not insist further that she carry them to the church.

Finally, her father prohibited her from attending the Sabbath school, and did not provide her with the necessary clothing so she

could go. I visited him a short time after, and had a good talk with him in regard to his daughter, and he promised not to refuse her permission to attend all the services that she could, especially the Sabbath school. Josefa then took a greater interest than ever before, and committed to memory a large number of texts, and many of the psalms.

Later she became seriously ill. It is very difficult for the people to obtain proper medical attention in this part of the country and especially those who are poor. The father did not get a doctor for his little girl, but offered to bring a medium who would, by consulting the spirits, get a prescription which they thought would assure a cure. However, Josefa said that she did not wish her father to bring a medium to the house, that she would not take his prescription, and that if it was the Lord's will He could heal her; if not, she was ready to die. She asked her father to send for Elders Moon and Steele to pray for her. It was not possible for me to visit her at that time, but Elder Moon and Sister Butler did what they could for her, but it was already too late to help her to any great extent. Brother Moon asked her if she was ready to die and if she was trusting in the Lord, and she repeated these words, which were her last :

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea,

though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Here her voice failed, and a short time after, she passed away. When she took sick she told her grandmother that if she should die, she wanted to be given a Christian burial, and that the funeral service be held in the Adventist church. We were glad to fulfil her every wish; and little Josefa sleeps in the Moca cemetery, awaiting the Life-giver's call.

There are many little girls in Porto Rico just as intelligent as Josefa, who would make just as faithful believers as she. Shall we not do all in our power to send the gospel to every soul, that these jewels may be gathered for the kingdom of God?

Foreign Mission Field

[For three boys]

CARL: We read and hear much about foreign fields. Can you tell me, Ivan, what we mean by a foreign country?

IVAN: I think it is any country outside our own.

CARL: Paul, do you think Ivan is right? Give us an example of a country that is foreign to us.

PAUL: Is Porto Rico a country foreign to the United States? I am sure it once was.

CARL: It did once belong to Spain, but now it is a part of the United States and has been for several years. So you see we are not foreign to them nor they to us. What do you understand by a foreign mission field?

PAUL: I think it is a country outside our own where the people do not know much about the Bible, and not knowing it, they do not know and love Jesus.

CARL: But, there is one thing more that is necessary

to make such a country a mission field. Some church must have the work in that field in charge, and set missionaries at work there.

IVAN: It is too bad there are such countries. There ought to be many missionaries on the way to such places, and others getting ready to go.

PAUL: Will all these nations have an opportunity to know about the gospel before Jesus comes? I hope so, don't you?

CARL: I am sure they will, for Jesus himself said in Matthew 24:14, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come."

IVAN: I wonder how they are to learn of the coming of Jesus in so short a time, when there are so few of us to tell them about it.

CARL: There are many ways of telling people what they ought to know. The best way is to let our lives be so like the life of Jesus that the people will want to be like Him. Then they, too, will be missionaries.

PAUL: It seems to me that the same Spirit that can make us missionaries could teach the truth to the people without our help.

CARL: That does not seem to be the Lord's way. Then too, if we have no part in the work, how can we share in the reward?

IVAN: Are there not many more people who are willing to go to the heathen countries as missionaries? It seems to me that the sooner the people learn these things the sooner Jesus will come and take us to the home he has gone to prepare for us.

CARL: Yes, there are men and women waiting to go, but there is not enough money in the treasury to pay their transportation, and to support them while in the field.

PAUL: I see now why Jesus wants us to be careful of the fragments, so that nothing is wasted. If I spend for candy, gum, moving picture shows, and other hurtful things, the money that might be used to carry the gospel to others, I am robbing myself of the privilege of a part in the salvation of souls and in the judgment, God will ask me what I have done with that which he gave me.

MRS. D. A. FITCH.

Responding to His Call

R. W. PARMELE

THE territory of the North Latin American Union Conference surrounds the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean sea, and contains a population of approximately fifty million people. If you could make a trip over this field in an aëroplane, — and that would be the easiest way to traverse it, — you would see scattered all through the mountains, and



Feeding the Baby

huddled together in villages, thousands of large families, living very primitive lives.

Usually until a child is five or six years old, it is not hampered by clothing. But the mother sees to it that the little one is sufficiently fed, even if artificial means must be employed; care is taken that the goat's milk administered is not contaminated in passing

between the animal and the infant consumer.

It is said that some of the goats become so well trained that they run into the house in response to the cry of the infant.

In your flight, you would observe another thing: a Seventh-day Adventist missionary is wending his weary way on muleback to some isolated community amid the mountains. At the door of the humble home he is met by a family composed of a father, two sons, a daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren.

Some literature has found its way to this secluded spot, by the hand of a faithful colporteur, and the desire to meet a living representative of that message has been created. That same humble dwelling is converted into a chapel, and studies with the little community are begun. A few weeks later that pioneer agency, the Sabbath school, is organized. In this "nursery" the members are trained until they are prepared for the solemn rite of baptism and the more sacred responsibilities of church membership.

The transforming power of the truth, through the agencies that God has given us, has wrought a wonderful change. Those who were living in darkness and superstition are awakened to a blessed hope, and the light of their new-born faith shines in their countenances.

This is not a fancied sketch, nor an isolated instance. Many such transformations are taking place in these lands so long held in darkness by the hand of Romanism. God has called to these countries, and one after an-

other has responded to the call by declaring in favor of religious liberty, so that the honest in heart may be sought out and prepared for Jesus' coming.

The Sabbath school here illustrated, though at present only eight weeks' old, has given to



**A Dwelling Converted into a Chapel —
Company of Believers**

the cause of missions an average of nearly ten cents a week for each member. They appreciate what God has done for them, and like Andrew of old, are already beginning to search for their brothers. Though bound by chains of superstition and ignorance, and amid very unfavorable conditions, the honest in heart will some day prove to be diamonds fitly squared for the Master's great building.

The Time to Sow

G. D. RAFF

IN my canvassing work I visited the priest of the richest church here in Caracas, Venezuela, and not only succeeded in selling him a book, but in having a friendly visit with him. A week later I visited him again, and he asked for reading matter on the 2300 days.

Such experiences remind me of a statement found in the book "The Story of Prophets and Kings", page 189.

"In the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, . . . God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to his law."

Brother Greenidge who is now stationed in Maracaibo, Venezuela, is meeting with wonderful success. From April 1 to June 1 he worked 242 hours, and has taken 162 orders for "Practical Guide to Health," valued at \$913, and has already delivered \$611 worth of these orders. God has said his word shall not return unto him void.

Last January I visited three small towns, and sold 324 copies of the "World's Crisis" in a short time. Just as I was boarding the train to return home, a young man came to me, asking for another book for his friend. I had to return to a town that I had already canvassed, and a man came to me taking from his pocket a guaranty slip, and asked for his book. When I had made my delivery in the

place I could not find him. He said that the book contained a chapter on the gospel which he wished to have. I could hardly make him believe that I had sold all the books that I had with me.

Some of the people bought books by the dozen, as they did in Carupano, Venezuela, when Brother J. A. P. Green and I spent a week there. In this town we sold 170 copies of the "World's Crisis." In one business place where we delivered several books, more than a dozen influential business men asked us questions in regard to our belief, and listened with interest to what we had to say about God and his truth. They expressed their appreciation of what they had heard in these words, "Send us a Protestant minister, and we will go to hear him preach."

Just the other day a young man called to me on the street, and asked if I was the agent for the book "The Coming King." He had seen one that I had sold, and wanted one too. Like the tendrils on the vine, it is the young who are reaching out for something solid in the form of truth, something that will sustain them through this life and assure them of life eternal.

Guatemala

E. W. THURBER

IN this field there are two million people in an area the size of the State of New York. The larger part of them live away from the

few railroads, some as much as three weeks' journey. About ninety per cent of them are unable to read or write. Many, how many I do not know, do not speak either of the languages spoken by our workers. There are a number of these Indian languages, but as yet we have not work started in this one.

Some of the saddest tragedies of modern times have been enacted in these countries, such as, the systematic deportation and enslavement of the Yaqui Indians of Mexico, who were sold into slavery, that foreigners might possess their pleasant lands. In other countries many have been made slaves right where they were. If a landowner wishes hands to cultivate his fields, he applies to the local authorities, who bring him as many Indians as he wishes. At the end of each week he pays them off at the rate of a few cents a day, and at the same time sells them enough liquor to get his money back.

The herald of the gospel has ever found jewels among every tribe and nation, these Indians not excepted. The gospel must be carried to them. Either foreigners must learn the Indian languages, or must teach some of them to preach to their own people.

In Guatemala there is a good-sized lake, at an altitude of about 6,000 feet, with a score of towns and villages around it. There is a steamer on the lake, which makes these easy of access. This would seem to be a desirable place in which to open work for these thousands of Indians. If a school could be established there, workers could be trained and

sent to the northern part of the country, which is very difficult for white men to work. There they could teach the truth to those neglected races. But we have no appropriations to start such a work. However, a good overflow in the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering would make it possible for us to do so.

We have the lake, and we have the Indians ; we now need the funds. If we had them, could we not expect to see a work done similar to the splendid work done in the Lake Titicaca region ? What shall be our response when the offering is taken ? If that other dollar gets uneasy in your pocket, put it in. " Personal checks accepted. "

How Much We Love

[Before Sabbath school opens, have placed upon the blackboard in bold type Mark 12:30, 31. Edna and Ruth with a copy of " Testimonies for the Church, " Volume VI and their Bibles, coming from rear of room, singing first stanza and chorus of No. 548, " Where Are the Reapers, " slowly approach the front and take seats.]

EDNA. Ruth, do you think we always realize the meaning of the words we sing ?

RUTH. Indeed, I do not ; we often sing in a thoughtless, halfhearted manner, I fear. Really, there is much meaning in those words we were just now singing. But what about it ?

EDNA. That's what I say, " What about it ? " What are we doing to garner in " the sheaves of good from the fields of sin " ? Now that our attention is being directed toward Central America and the islands so near us, I would like to do something really worth while.

RUTH. You can pray for the work, Edna.

EDNA. True, Ruth ; but is that enough ? I fear there are too many who think it is enough to pray. Recently, I

read that our watchword should be "Watch, pray, work." So you see, dear, we must *do*. And I fully mean to.

RUTH. That's all right, too, Edna, I suppose you have reference to obtaining money for these mission fields. I am interested also. But there are so many things that I want to buy with the money papa gives me that I don't see how I can do much this time. It's money for this and for that: ribbons, laces, dresses, what not? I surely ought to be thankful that I have a father.

EDNA. And also that you have a Saviour who lived a life of self-denial in order to redeem you. Do not imagine that I am casting reflections, Ruth, but what you have said reminds me of a paragraph in this book. It means so much. If you do not mind I will read it.

RUTH. Go ahead; you have not offended me.

EDNA. [Reads from her book, pages 214, 215, the paragraph commencing "Through erroneous ideas regarding the use of money."] Ruth, do you not think we should do well to go without some of those things for the sake of the souls for whom Christ has sacrificed so much?

RUTH. I do, and I *will*. For what profit is there to gain the applause of even the whole world over our show of garments, and then lose our own souls. I am glad for what you read. It sets me thinking. I think of the poor widow who put all she had into the treasury, and I want to love the cause as she did; for 'twas the love backing her deed that caused Jesus to commend her so highly. How much we love is the summing up of all things, I believe. I shall prove my love for Jesus and my neighbor—these Spanish mission fields—by giving up some of the things that have been so dear to me.

EDNA. Ah, I guess you've been reading the quotation on the blackboard. Just as you say, Ruth, it's all told in the one word—LOVE. In Matthew 13:44 we are told that it will take *all* to buy the field, and how much we want the treasure in the field decides our action. The parable of the pearl of great price contains the same thought. Jesus meant to make a deep impression upon the mind, else he would not have repeated the thought thus. How true it is, that we will work exceedingly hard and sacrifice much for the thing we really want. So the question at present is, How much do we want to help these mission fields?

RUTH. Let's covenant together. In union there is strength. Let's give up some of the things we actually need. 'Twill not hurt us. If it should hurt that will show how little we love. I wish May was with us in this. Here she comes now. Say, May, what about the next Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

[May approaches with Bible.]

EDNA: Yes, May, what do you say to our sacrificing some of the things we want, or even need, for once in our lives, and use the means to help those needy fields so close by.

MAY: I'm with you, girls. But-but-I'll confess that at times I've felt that I wanted to save my money.

RUTH: *Your* money? "Thy silver and thy gold is mine," says the Lord.

MAY: That's right, and we're told not to lay up treasures here. That's in Matt. 6:19-21. Let us read it together. [They read it aloud.]

EDNA: Girls, I'm glad I've no possessions, for if I had, I might be so in love with them that I should not care to give for the lost souls. The way things are going in the world, it looks to me as if the time had come for the owners of possessions to do as Jesus advised the rich young man. Somehow, that story always makes me sad.

RUTH: I feel that way, too, I think James 5:1-3 fits pretty well into what we have been saying. Won't you read it, May?

[May reads.]

EDNA: I tell you, girls, those idolaters (I may as well say it, for Jesus calls covetousness idolatry) those idolaters do not realize what Jesus has done for them, or they would want to give up all they had. Really, if we ourselves fully sensed it as we should, no sacrifice on our part would seem too great. Let us show how much we really love the people in these mission fields.

RUTH: Yes, let's do, not in words only, but in actions, or rather, in offerings.