

The British West Indies VISITOR

Volume I

September, 1944

Number 3

God's Voice in the Hurricane

As our VISITOR goes to press this week death and destruction have just visited our beautiful island of Jamaica on a scale not witnessed in over forty years. The hurricane that swept most of the island has left in its wake thousands of demolished homes, desolated fields, scores of dead and injured, and many more without shelter. Truly this is one of the worst catastrophes to strike Jamaica for many years.

While we are binding up our wounds and building again our homes we should not fail to hear the voice of God speaking through the whirlwind. This violent hurricane, along with every increasing numbers of like disasters in all parts of the world speak to us with one accord: "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." (Matt. 24:33.)

The Saviour, nearly two thousand years ago, foretold the advent of such physical disturbances in nature. He warns us to see in these disasters the signs of the times and prepare to meet our Lord at His soon coming.

Down through the ages God has permitted unusual upheavals in nature to startle men and women from their sinful ways and to remind them of their duty toward Him. This was true in the days of Noah when God sent the flood to destroy the wicked antediluvian world.

Four hundred and fifty years later the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were reduced to ashes by fire from God, "making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly." (2 Peter 2:6.)

In the days of Pharaoh when the Egyptian monarch refused to permit the children of Israel to leave his country, God turned nature out of its course in ten great plagues that fell upon the Egyptians. Pharaoh was compelled to yield to the plans of the living God.

Centuries later, during the time of Elijah the prophet, God again used the forces of nature as an omen of judgment against Ahab the apostate king of Israel. Jesus in speaking of this experience refers to it as a time disaster.

"In the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land." (Luke 4:25.)

So it has been down through the ages—God has on many occasions used preternatural forces to bring to the people warning, omens of calamity and judgments to come. Behind this unnatural behaviour of the elements we hear the voice of the Almighty:

"The earth mourneth and fadeth away . . . because they have transgressed the law, changed the ordin-



ance, broken the everlasting covenant." (Isaiah 24:4-6.)

It is as though the very elements rebel at the wickedness of man as he spurns the love of His Creator.

Today nature brings another message of warning to a sinful world! Though it is an announcement of impending judgment, for the Christian it is freighted with hope—the blessed hope of a soon-coming Saviour.

As our Lord rested one day upon the grassy slopes of the Mount of Olives the twelve

disciples came to Him with the question:

"What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matt. 24:3.)

This is a question that has intrigued men of all generations since the first advent of Christ to this world. Especially in these days of unparalleled events it is one that vitally concerns every judgment bound individual. It is one that each one of us, dear fellow-believers, dare not pass over lightly lest it cost us our own soul! Consider it with me once more today in the light of the Master Teacher's own words as He replies to His disciples' query:

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." (Matt. 24:7.)

So, brethren and sisters, this hurricane that has just wreaked its fury upon our beautiful island home is but another evidence of the times in which we live. God's voice through the storm seeks to remind us that Jesus' coming is very near and that we should be getting ready to meet Him now! He is counseling us to get sin out of our lives and to seek most earnestly the Robe of Christ's righteousness that we might be covered in the day when our cases shall come up before the judgment bar of God.

"Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (1 John 3:3.) Brethren, sisters, has the blessed hope of Jesus' soon-coming purified your lives? Let us not fail to hear God's voice in the hurricane telling us that we have no time to lose! Let us truly seek Him with all our hearts "for yet a little while and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." (Heb. 10:37.)

R. H. PIERSON.

"Circumstances may separate friends. The restless waters of the wide sea may roll between us and them, but no circumstances, no distance can separate us from the Saviour."

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES UNION MISSION

FOR QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 1944

NAME OF MISSION	Number of Churches	Membership at Beginning of Quarter	MEMBERS ADDED By Baptism	By Letter	MEMBERS DROPPED By Death	By Apostasy	By Letter	Missing	Entire Church Membership At Close of Quarter	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Licensed Missionaries	Book and Periodical Cavassers	Total Labourers	Total Tithe Receipts	Tithe Per Capita	Total Offerings to Foreign Missions (except S. S.)	Total Sabbath School Contributions (to Foreign Mis.)	Mission Offerings Per Capita	Total Contributions for Home Mission Work	Total Contributions for Local Church Work	Number of Sabbath Schools	Membership
Bahamas Mission	18	473	5	2	2	—	—	—	478	2	2	5	3	12	1227.49	2.56	50.18	108.85	.23	10.77	21.78	16	547
British Honduras Mission	12	375	25	—	3	—	—	—	395	1	1	7	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	553
Cayman Islands Mission	3	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	74	1	1	—	—	2	477.28	6.28	4.64	79.27	1.04	—	—	4	105
East Jamaica Mission	64	5028	174	18	6	32	21	3	5158	7	2	5	51	67	9408.04	1.82	2007.65	1575.00	.30	165.39	—	79	5779
West Jamaica Mission	86	4286	133	9	7	30	15	5	4371	4	3	5	32	51	6694.31	1.53	2816.61	1175.28	.27	75.25	317.50	114	5523
B. W. I. U. Mission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	183	10240	337	29	18	66	38	8	10476	21	9	43	93	169	17807.12	1.70	4879.08	2938.40	.28	251.41	339.28	225	12507

W. E. Atkin, Secretary-Treasurer

THE BAHAMAS MISSION

H. D. COLBURN, Superintendent
P. O. Box 356, Nassau, Bahamas

News Notes

On June first the officers of the Bahamas Mission and Book and Bible House were moved from a mile east on Bay Street to a suite of offices practically on Rawson Square (355 Bay Street) which is in the centre of Nassau. This new location has made everyone happy in that it is more accessible to all of our people. It has added to the efficiency of the workers in the offices also in that it is closer to the public buildings to which they must go continually.

Pastor H. D. Colborn recently visited the churches and company on Watling. He reports a most interesting time on the island, holding meetings in our two churches there. He was able to visit every member on the island, while there he baptized seven candidates.

Sister M. G. Nembhard was recently called to Stevens, Long Island, because of the death of her father, G. N. Turnquist, who had served for many years as elder of the Stevens church. We extend to Sister Nembhard and the other members of the family our sincere sympathy. Brother R. B. Campbell was present and conducted the funeral service.

The Ingathering programme is nearly over for the mission as the goal of £160 has almost been reached. It is expected that £200 will come in again this year when all the reports are in. Many of our people have worked earnestly and faithfully in this year's campaign.

Brother and Sister S. G. Lindo and two children are in Nassau taking a

much needed vacation. They brought with them three baptismal candidates who had recently accepted the truth. On Sunday morning, July 30th, a baptismal service was conducted at Fort Montague and these dear souls were baptized into the family of God. The Lindos are labouring at "The Bluff" on northern Eleuthera.

The Shirley Street Church recently had as their special guests at a Sunday evening service the listening audience of Radio Station ZNS, Nassau. From many reports that have come in, the service was received with satisfaction and pleasure by those who listened in to their radios on that evening.

Word has been received that Elder W. E. Atkin, the union secretary-treasurer, is planning to arrive in Nassau some time in August. He plans to be in the Bahamas approximately two weeks during which time he will audit the mission books.

Brother R. B. Campbell is making his delivery in Long Island. He plans to finish up his work in August and take up his new work as superintendent of the Inagua District immediately afterward.

Brother L. R. Rahming is doing colporteur work in Nassau during the "hurricane months." He is meeting with good success as he faithfully calls on the people in the interest of several of our large books. He is introducing for the first time the new book "Great Prophecies For Our Time."

Miss Lawrence has brought her school to a successful close and is enjoying a well-earned rest for a few days. Two fine school programmes were conducted which resulted in a nice little sum which will be used to better equip the school for next year.

H. D. COLBURN.

BRITISH HONDURAS MISSION

F. R. Archbold, Acting Superintendent
P. O. Box 123, Belize, British Honduras

News Notes

Plans are going forward for the new church building in Douglas. Even during the church building work, our brethren are busily engaged in soul-winning. Brother Correa reports a new interest at Yo Creek and four have already begun to keep the Sabbath. This interest is the result of Bible Readings held by him.

Our brethren at Douglas are all filled with the spirit and enthusiasm that is needed in every church. They are very happy in the service of the Lord, and we may expect to see great things from them.

In Douglas the campaign was launched on Sabbath, July 22. We are awaiting great things from Douglas this year.

Calcutta is also on the go. We are awaiting word from the elder about the success obtained.

Pembroke Hall, according to the last report, has reached a little over \$6.00. The goal set is \$10.00. We are awaiting the final result.

Brother Waller recently spent several weeks in Jamaica attending the Youth's Congress in Kingston, and attending to mission business at the union headquarters in Mandeville. He brings back to the believers in British Honduras the cordial greetings of our members old and young in Jamaica.

On Tuesday, June 28, Sister C. Gill, one of our temporary Bible workers, left Corozal for Cow Head Creek. Here she is expected to spend four weeks in following up the interest aroused by the short evangelistic ef-

fort conducted by the writer during the first part of June. Already Sister Gill reports a live interest.

From May Pen comes the word that Sister Cristobel Robinson has also caught the spirit of the lay-man's movement and is now conducting meetings at Double Head Cabbage, and Isabella Bank. We learn that Sister Robinson is having good interest and attendance.

We are happy to report the conclusion of another successful "Extensions" campaign. The gain over last year's record is \$41.57. We are truly grateful for the noble work done by our faithful members.

Sister Florinda Delicia, our church school teacher in Pembroke Hall, has recently been married to Brother Trapp of that place. We wish Brother and Sister Trapp much happiness in their newly established home.

F. R. ARCHBOLD.

CAYMAN ISLANDS MISSION

G. A. E. SMITH, Superintendent
Georgetown, Grand Cayman

News Notes

Our Harvest Ingathering is coming along nicely, and we hope to reach our goal in the allotted time. We are of good courage in the Lord.

I am passing on the experience of Brother George Merren, as another example of the results of the literature ministry:

"From a child my mind was worried as to why we should keep Sunday instead of the Sabbath the Bible speaks of, but when I asked my mother about it she told me we kept Sunday in honour of the Redemption which is greater than Creation. However, I was never fully satisfied.

"Some time after I was married, I obtained copies of the *Signs of the Times* from Elder I. G. Knight regularly. Reading about the Sabbath and other doctrinal teachings of Seventh-day Adventists, I decided to read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation to find out for myself what I must do to be saved. Matthew 19:16-21 had a special appeal to me, and Matthew 28:19, 20 sealed the matter.

"Today I am rejoicing in the promise of a soon-coming Saviour, and thanking God for the privilege of witnessing to my countrymen of the power of God."

G. A. E. SMITH.

WEST JAMAICA MISSION

E. E. PARCHMENT, Superintendent
15 Market Street, Montego Bay, Jamaica

Ingathering total to date is £1025. To My Fellow Comrade of the West Jamaica Mission:

I wish to take this means of passing on to you my personal appreciation for your arduous labours in the Ingathering Campaign.

There might have been a question in the minds of some when we started whether or not we would reach our goal in six weeks. How happy I am to report to you this morning that by the time you shall have received this copy of the *VISITOR*, the mission's goal shall have been passed by at least one hundred pounds.

Our young people have done their part nobly. I am sure that Brother E. C. H. Reid is proud of such a noble army of workers. We are asking you to send in to the Mission office all the names and addresses of those who have contributed a pound or more, as we plan to send them a copy of the *Signs of the Times* during the remaining part of 1944.

Our minute man buttons are in the office, and we will be glad to send a button to any one who has gathered £3. 2. 6 or more. At the time writing there are some churches who have not reached their goal, but I know that they are labouring hard and I am sure that they will do so before the last bulletin is sent out. Please do not fail in collecting all your promises.

We will be happy to know some of the outstanding experiences that you have had, so please do not fail in passing them in to us at the office.

Up to the time of writing, our baptisms for the year have climbed to 219. Of course you will remember that we set our goal for six hundred. We have quite a few who are in the baptismal classes and who are ready for baptism. We are asking that the leaders of these churches get in touch with their district leader and make arrangements whereby these dear souls can be buried with their Lord in baptism. Remembering that one soul saved in the Kingdom of God is worth more than all this world's goods, let us go forward and by God's help let us sound the message. As we know, there are honest hearted men and women who are ready to accept and join the ranks of Prince Emmanuel. Let us put forth for the remaining part of the year the strong-

EAST JAMAICA MISSION

D. V. POND, Superintendent
176 Orange Street, Kingston, Jamaica

A Work To Be Done

Recently I read again the short statement that somehow takes a firm grip upon my heart every time I read it. Just *six* words—but what a message! "WE ARE FAST APPROACHING THE END."

Who can doubt it? Certainly no Seventh-day Adventist who has ever had an experience in this message. Certainly no Seventh-day Adventist who reads, and compares; who will but watch the great procession of events as they unravel from the ball of prophecy. The ball is surely and positively growing smaller and smaller, and anyone, if they will, can easily see that not very far in the future there will be no ball—*just the end of the string!*

But, when we actually see the end of that string, the work will be finished. How thankful we should be that the prophetic ball is yet unravelling and we still have the opportunity of taking part in the work that is yet to be done.

Again we are told, "We are living near the close of the great conflict, when many souls are to be rescued from the slavery of sin." That is your business; that is my business; to rescue our share of those souls—NOW—while that ball is still unravelling!

You and I each have a work that no one on earth can do for us. It cannot be done by proxy. "Money lent or given will not accomplish it. Sermons will not do it. By visiting the people, talking, praying, sympathizing with them, you will win hearts." And we are promised, "These who labour for the good of others are working in union with the heavenly angels. They have their constant companionship, their unceasing ministry."

While we can still see that ball, tiny as it is today, shall we not fill the place God has for us? It may be the work of the lay preacher, the evangelist, giving Bible studies, or anyone of the many lines of personal labour we can do for those about us—but—let us do *something* to win the souls of men—before we see the end of that string!

D. V. POND.

est evangelistic campaign we have ever had.

E. E. PARCHMENT.

THE WEST INDIAN TRAINING COLLEGE

C. L. von Pohle, Acting President
P. O. Box 22, Mandeville, Jamaica

Good-bye

Dear Believers in Jamaica.

With a great deal of reluctance I have yielded to an urgent call from the General Conference to return to Ethiopia, where we spent sixteen years. The Mission Board is very anxious to have our prewar work there reorganized and continued. Two doctors are under appointment for that field. Six more will be needed to man the hospitals we had functioning before the Italian invasion. Nine other missionaries—teachers, nurses and ministers—are already in the field. His Imperial Majesty Heile Selassie is also anxious to have us re-establish our former work. The mission stations that were closed and taken over by the Italian invaders have been returned to us. Ethiopia is truly stretching out her hands unto God. The time is favourable for stepping in to do a strong work.

Our four years in beautiful Jamaica have passed away too quickly. It has been a real joy and inspiration to us to become acquainted with our loyal, self-sacrificing believers throughout the island. The large prosperous work is truly unique in the denomination. In a special way the college on the hilltop has become very dear to me. I have appreciated the loyal support and co-operation of teachers and students. Much has been achieved in the line of Christian education. What remains to be done can best be accomplished by the earnest prayers and the friendly support of God's people throughout the Island. May the Lord continue to bless and prosper His work in Jamaica. I also solicit the prayers of our believers in Jamaica in behalf of the work in Ethiopia. God be with you all till we meet again.

M. J. SORENSON.

VOICE OF PROPHECY DAY

Sabbath, September 16, is the special Voice of Prophecy Day at which time a special offering should be taken in every church in our union. The proceeds from this special offering will be used in promoting the radio work and the fine Bible correspondence course being used in many parts of Inter America with very fine success.

Although we do not have any radio work in our union we are planning on

opening the Bible correspondence course work early in 1945. This will prove a great boon to our soul-winning programme I am sure, and under the blessing of God 1945 should see several thousands of honest-hearted individuals systematically studying this third angel's message throughout our island fields. So I bespeak from our people a very liberal offering on September 16th that our field along with our sister unions may continue to receive a great blessing from the Voice of Prophecy radio programme and Bible Correspondence Course.

R. H. P.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OFFERING

One of our greatest needs here in the British West Indies is the need of more church schools to care for our thousands of children who are now attending public schools. By sending our children to public schools and thus exposing them to influences entirely out of harmony with the principles of this message, we are placing those who are nearest and dearest to us upon Satan's ground.

"Satan has used the most ingenious methods to weave his plans and principles into the [world's] system of education, and thus gain a strong hold on the minds of the children and youth."—*Vol. VI, p. 127.*

"The object of our schools is to provide places where the younger members of the Lord's family may be trained according to His plan of growth and development."—*Ibid.*

A liberal offering in *your* church on Sabbath, September 23—Elementary School Offering Day—will help increase and support the number of church schools in *your* field and thus help *you* and *yours*.

R. H. P.

Notes and Notices

During the early part of August Elder Pierson was away from the union office for over a week, visiting among the churches in West Jamaica. This has been Elder Pierson's first visit to the West since his arrival in the Island, and we are sure the brethren were happy to meet their union superintendent. A short consecration service was held in each church visited.

Elder A. C. Stockhausen has accepted a call to the East Jamaica Mission to do evangelistic work and pastor such churches as are in the St. Mary section. Elder Stockhausen's headquarters will be Highgate.

MISS LILY HERON,

The Visitor

Organ of the

BRITISH WEST INDIES UNION MISSION
of Seventh-day Adventists

Robert H. Pierson Superintendent
W. E. Atkin Secy.-Treasurer

M. E. Lowry Secretaries
Publishing Educational
S. S. and Home Missionary & Y. P. M. V.

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W. E. Atkin Assistant Editor
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REPORT OF BAPTISMS, WEST JAMAICA

January to August			
District Pastor	1st. qr.	2nd. qr.	Total
Fletcher, Frank	6	34	40
Crawford, L. S.		28	28
Craey, Hugh		17	17
Gouldbourne, L.	19	10	29
Nation, W. S.	18	42	60
Robertson, R. H.	15	31	46
Vaz, Kenneth	5	30	35
	63	192	255

REPORT OF BAPTISMS, EAST JAMAICA

January to June, 1944				
District	Goal	1st. qr.	2nd. qr.	Total
D. B. Reid	150	41	61	102
Roy Jeffries				
A. W. Sangster				
J. N. Williams	125	5	20	25
H. Nembhard	50	6	19	25
G. Newman	50	4	6	10
Har. Nembhard	125	0	32	41
A. D. Laing	150	18	36	54
Totals	650	83	174	257

D. V. Pond.

Obituaries

Mrs. Luisa Tapia was born in Chiantun, Mexico some ninety years ago, and died May 28, 1944 at her home in San Pedro Ambergris. She embraced the Advent Message under the instruction of Brother R. H. Robertson and was baptized by Pastor C. B. Sutton April 4, 1933. She leaves to mourn two sons and a daughter.

W. H. Waller.

Brother Joseph Beavans of British Honduras was born June 2, 1902, and passed away June 26, 1944. Our brother was baptized several years ago by Pastor Sutton and remained faithful unto death. He leaves to mourn, his faithful wife and three children and other relatives.

W. H. Waller.

Brother James Barrow was born March 16, 1865 in Belize, British Honduras, and died June 28, 1944. He united with the Remnant church in 1938. He leaves to cherish his memory a wife, five daughters and three sons. His vacancy in the church will be keenly felt, but we look forward to the glad reunion.

W. H. Waller.

Serviliano Carillo was born August 27, 1909, in Douglas, British Honduras. He died July 20, 1944 at Corozal. He accepted this message and was baptized Dec. 29, 1943. His hope was bright and he awaits the return of the Life-giver. He leaves his wife, three small children and a brother to mourn their loss.

F. R. Archbold.

News From the West Jamaica Colporteurs

Although we have far to go in accomplishing our task for 1944, yet we are very grateful to God for the achievements of the past, both in souls and in deliveries.

Our noble group of colporteurs are of good courage and solicit your constant prayers.

Leaders in deliveries for the month of July are:

Cyril Newman	£38. 12. 0
J. Chin	33. 10. 0
C. H. Hepburn	12. 19. 0
B. E. HURST.	