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"The Grace of God Bringeth Salvation" *

By W. H. BRANSON

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14.

IN THE STUDY of this text we notice first that the grace of God has appeared unto all men. We recognize, of course, that sin has become universal. That man is in a lost condition. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Sin is the great tragedy of this world. In fact, it is the only thing that is wrong with this world; for all the trouble and strife among nations, all the sorrow, all the heartache, all trouble of all kinds, and finally, death itself, are all here because of sin. Let me repeat: if it had not been for sin, nothing adverse would have ever happened in this world, or to any member of the human family.

But sin has come, and it has cut us off from God. And of himself, man is without life, and without hope for the future, for he partook of sin of his own choice. And as far as he is concerned, or any power that he may have, he is helpless, undone, lost! He is utterly beyond the possibility of doing anything to regain the place that he had in the beginning. Therefore, of himself, he is lost; hopelessly, eternally lost!

Sin is likened to a great pit into which man has fallen, and from which he is unable to escape. It is also likened to a great gulf that separates man from God, for man has no

means of crossing that gulf. There are many illustrations in the Bible indicating that man has altogether separated himself from God. We know that Adam's sin affected not only himself, but all the human family; and we know that to the sins inherited from Adam, we have added our own sins. Therefore the sentence of eternal death has been passed upon all the human family.

But our text says that God's grace brought man salvation. By pure grace, God came to man's rescue. There was no cause, or reason for His doing this; for man had become a rebel. He had forfeited all right to the goodness of his Creator. By grace, and by grace alone, God brought salvation to man. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the very essence of the plan of salvation; for the Word says that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8. And again: "For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8, 9.

No one who is saved in the kingdom of God will ever have any reason or cause for boasting. For it will not be by anything that he is, or has done, or ever can do, that he is there. He will be there by the sheer gift of God in extending grace for the forgiveness of inherited and individual sin. Salvation, my friends, is the gift of God!

Many of the texts to which we shall refer are familiar to us; but the thing I wish to emphasize this morning is that salvation is a gift to all those who will accept it. It is not forced upon any one. It is a gift. And I want

* A Condensed Report of an Address to Workers, Given During the Annual Meeting of the Division Committee in Havana, Cuba, on November 23, 1944.

you to notice also that salvation is not sought or won. Not at all. It is brought to us by the grace of God. Salvation is not something that man can work out for himself. It is brought to him by the goodness of God. "Not of works, lest any man should boast." I am glad that Paul added that thought; for how prone human nature is to take the credit for whatever is worthy or commendable in his experience. If we are ever saved, my Brethren, it will be because of the pure grace of God.

In the story of the prodigal son, and in the experiences and teachings of the Saviour during His ministry on this earth, we have illustrated again and again the infinite love of God for those who have rebelled against the government of heaven. Man is a rebel; yet God, through infinite grace, calls us friends, and claims us as his sons and daughters! Even the vilest sinner He is willing to accept, if that sinner will accept Christ as his Saviour, and by faith accept the forgiveness of his sins.

But our heavenly Father does more than that. He not only accepts us, in the name of Christ, and forgives our sins, but He offers us eternal life as the substitute for eternal death, which is the heritage of every human being. The Father extends hope in place of despair. He gives beauty for ashes, and the oil of joy for the spirit of heaviness. It is impossible for us, with our poor, finite minds, to fathom this great goodness of God to man; yet, even if we cannot comprehend it, we can accept the gift, and become sharers of the eternal inheritance.

When God sought to provide for the redemption of man, He found no easy way in which to do it. Man transgressed God's law, and the wages of sin is death. God's law could not be set aside, for that law is holy, and just, and good. It is the perfect law of liberty. The throne of God rests upon the unchangeableness of His divine law. And God had said that if man should eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he should die. Therefore, any plan that God might make to bring salvation within the reach of mankind, would of necessity include the forfeiture of life; for the death penalty had to be paid.

The death of a man could not substitute for the life of the sinner. Angels could not fully represent the government of God, or become surety for it. And the plan for the restoration of man required the reincarnation of man, and obedience in the sinful flesh of the human race, that a divine human obedi-

ence might become the substitute for the disobedience that is ours. Moreover, the plan required that man's representative be one with creative power, in order that He might restore the image of God, which man had lost at the fall. Man could not be modified, or changed, or made over in any way. He had to be recreated. Therefore a substitute for man had to be a being who is a partaker of the character of God, who had creative power, who could represent the government of God, and who could represent man in his earthly flesh. There was only One in all the universe of God who could meet those requirements, and that was the Son of God.

So Christ came to this world, and lived in the flesh. He became subject to the same temptations that man is subject to, and He represented the law and the government of the Eternal during His earthly ministry, just as He

ALL POWER IN HIM

(Col. 1:19)

Power to keep the law of God.
Power to be kind in the home.
Power to live like Christ.
Power to triumph over death.
Power to become sons of God.
He is all and in all.
We are saved by His death.
We are transformed by His life.
And He says to each of us:
"My son, give Me thine heart."

W. H. BRANSON.

does in the courts of heaven. But there is one other qualification that I think we sometimes overlook in our study of the plan of salvation. The representative of God's law, who should stand between God and man, as it were, must also be someone who had the power to bestow eternal life. Here again we have pointed out that man's substitute must be a member of the Godhead,—One who is equal with God,—even His beloved Son.

The great truth,—the mystery of salvation, is all summed up in the beautiful words: "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

In this connection I recall a beautiful statement in the Spirit of prophecy which tells us that God would have done this,—risked all heaven for the sins of mankind,—would have given His

only Son to save men from the pit into which he had fallen, if there had been only one person on earth to be saved!

When I come to the place where I fully understand that I am that one person, it helps me to understand something of the love of God. It helps me to put a new value upon human life. In God's dealings with Abraham we have illustrated again, the great truth that God, Himself, is the One who provided for man's salvation; and Abraham spoke a prophetic answer to Isaac's question when he said: "God will provide Himself a Lamb." Indeed, "The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

Man has no claim to the goodness of God. He has nothing to pay. There is nothing that he can do for God. There is no possible means by which he can merit consideration from a holy God. The story of the two debtors aptly illustrates the impossibility of man's ever doing anything to redeem himself from the pit into which he has fallen because of sin. It is true that one may be a greater debtor than another; but both are in the same position before God. They cannot save themselves; and their only hope is in the goodness of God.

And, my friends, this is as true of men and women today, as it ever was, for we are born under sin, we are carnal, sinful beings; and there is nothing that we can do to change our ways before God, or to merit salvation. And yet, if we come to Him in faith, if we accept the life of the Son of God as our substitute before the tribunal of heaven, if we receive Him, we are accepted of God, and made sharers of the eternal inheritance, and are counted as sons and daughters of God.

I thank God that He has made provision for the weakness of sinful flesh. I thank Him for what He has done for me! I can do nothing but come to Him in faith. "In my hand no price I bring. Simply to Thy cross I cling!"



An Important Announcement

WITH THE MAY ISSUE of the MESSENGER we begin the task of condensing the excellent information that comes to us concerning our field, to the Committee-prescribed limitations of eight pages of printed material each month instead of twelve, as heretofore. Obviously this is quite an undertaking; and we hereby invite the serious cooperation of all our contributors to the

end of presenting approximately two-thirds the amount of material formerly required.

This move is made in the interests of economy as well as because of war-time restrictions; and we believe our contributors will be glad to keep in mind when writing, that words are at very much of a premium these days, and will endeavor to make each sentence a clear-cut and direct means to the end of expressing the most possible, with the fewest possible words. If we all keep this objective in mind, we believe the task can be performed; and, as those who handle your good manuscripts month by month, we thank you most sincerely for further efforts in the interests of brevity of expression.

In the April issue we printed the cream of the material presented in the annual reports of the superintendents of three of our union fields; and in the May issue we shall endeavor to do the same for the other three unions; namely, Central America, Colombia-Venezuela, and Mexico. We believe you will enjoy these reports as much as we enjoyed them when they were presented at the time of the Division Committee meeting in Havana, Cuba, in late November and early December, 1944.

E. A. J.

Central American Union Mission

Superintendent N. H. KINZER
Secretary-Treasurer & Auditor .. H. L. HIGGINS

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Highlights of the Superintendent's Annual Report

By NOEL H. KINZER

Of the many flags on display here this morning in the Division office, it appears that one-half represent various countries within the territory of the Central American Union Mission; and, by the way, our union comprises practically one-third of the territory of Inter-America, so you can see that our task is one of considerable importance.

To evangelize Central America was the goal set by the workers gathered in San José, Costa Rica, at the time of our recent union session and Evangelists' Council, and it was agreed that this was to be brought about by giving priority to prayer and Bible study. As you listen to this report, I believe you will recognize that through the grace of

God the workers in Central America are accomplishing their goal; for we have a most loyal and co-operative group of men and women as leaders, and they have all worked hard during 1944. This is also true of our church members all through the field, for it is due to their co-operation and faithful work that we are able to report the good results thus far attained.

Political Unrest

Several countries in Central America have suffered revolutions during the past year, and quite naturally these have taken their toll in the interruption of our work. One of our church buildings was perforated from all sides and from above by machine gun bullets. One of our church members lost his life upon leaving the building, as he endeavored to arrive home during the revolution. But in the three countries most affected, the difficulty died down long enough for our workers to hold some evangelistic efforts and to launch and complete the Ingathering Campaign. Then trouble started again. But in spite of all this we have much to be thankful for, and 1944 has proved to be the most prosperous year in the history of our work, in practically every line of endeavor. This includes financial items as well as gains in membership, and in other lines of denominational activity.

Public Evangelism

While we can report for only the first ten months of the year, as later reports are not yet in hand, we are glad to observe that 18 major public efforts have already been completed, and that eight others are in progress. Many of these efforts have been held in places heretofore unentered. Thirteen new churches and companies have been organized, and several have been strengthened as the result of these efforts. Other similar results will be effected before the close of the year.

Elder Peter Nygaard and Brother Alfredo Lutz held an effort in Comayagua, a new city just across the river from Tegucigalpa, and as a result, some 25 souls have been baptized.

Brethren Daniel Moncada and Miguel Cerna recently held an effort in El Progreso, Honduras, which is also a new place, and a large Sabbath school has been organized, and there will be a baptism before the close of the year.

Elder R. G. Jones, together with Eduardo Revelo and Rubén Ruiz, held an effort in the early part of the year in the fanatical city of León, Nicaragua;

and they expect to organize a church there soon.

Elder Orley Ford, and our blind preacher, Gonzalo González, held an effort in Puntarenas, the port for San José, on the Pacific Coast, and already 20 have been baptized, while a number of others are still in the baptismal class.

One of the most outstanding efforts during the year was the one held by Elder R. T. Rankin, in Port Limón, Costa Rica, for the English-speaking people of that area. Fifty-two were first reported from this effort, then the number grew to 76, and a possible thirty more will take their stand before the close of the year, bringing the fruitage from that effort to well over a hundred souls. It is needless to say that this good increase will greatly strengthen our church in that place.

Elder Samuel Farrell, the Panama Conference evangelist, and his helpers, entered Colon, Panama, and held a most successful effort for the English-speaking people of that area. The effort was held in a large tent, and the baptism was conducted at the beach. It was reported that 4,000 people witnessed the baptismal ceremony while 91 persons were baptized into church fellowship. We believe this is the largest baptismal service ever held in Central America; but the total fruitage of the effort reached 145, and a new church of 165 members has now been organized, thus giving us three churches in the city of Colon.

Vision for the Work

After such a recital of evangelistic work, it is scarcely necessary to say that our workers in Central America have caught a new vision, and are determined to carry the message to all the unentered territories of our field. Much of this is being done through public evangelism; and this is the way in which we are instructed to labor. (See "Gospel Workers," p. 52, Old Ed.) "If we extend over as much ground as we can possibly occupy to advantage, going in every direction to raise up new companies of believers," the Lord will abundantly bless our efforts in the winning of souls.

Various Features of Progress

The work of our lay preachers in Central America is most commendable, for they also have caught the vision of the finishing of God's work in the earth, and are holding efforts here and there, and bringing people to a knowledge of the truth. Their work is par-

ticularly appreciated because they must carry on their missionary work in addition to their regular work of earning a living for their families. We thank God for the faithfulness of the laymen of the movement!

We have 31 very active Dorcas Societies throughout the Union, and these groups have distributed approximately 20,000 pieces of clothing to the needy during the year. In several cases the local newspapers have taken special notice of their activities, for this good work is appreciated by the public generally. One society has prepared bandages for the Red Cross; another has distributed large sacks of food to the poor of the district; and still another is very active in general missionary endeavor. We have a most active membership in Central America; but are sadly in need of a union Home Missionary secretary to lead our forces into the most effective type of soul winning endeavor.

Our Ingathering work has also been greatly prospered of God so that the returns exceed those of any previous year; and best of all, the major responsibility of the campaign has been carried by the churches themselves. Church school students, academy young people, and singing bands from among the churches, have all joined in the effort to provide funds for the development of the work. Many donors have doubled their gifts; and in one instance a company increased its offering from \$15.00 to \$200.00.

The Voice of Prophecy

We are now on the air over ten stations in Central America, having recently added "The Voice of Guatemala," two new stations in Panama, and two in Honduras. At the end of the first ten months we had an enrolment of 3,500 in "Radio Escuela Postal," and already 150 have finished the Bible course and have received certificates. Several have been baptized, and many other interests are being followed up. We could tell numerous stories of interest that have come to us through this means of evangelism; but space forbids. However, we believe that the radio is one of those means referred to in the instruction given many years ago, when Sister White told us that "means will be devised to reach hearts. Some of the methods used in this work will be different from the methods used in the work in the past; but let no one, because of this, block the way by criticism."—*Review and Herald, Sept. 30, 1902.*

Our Educational Work

Our union academy near San José, has the largest enrolment this year that it has ever enjoyed. With 140 students attending, we find our two dormitories, the dining room, and the class rooms, taxed to capacity. In fact, it will be necessary for us to do some building without delay.

We are very happy to be able to report that with the exception of two or three, all of the graduates of the academy are employed in the organized work. We are now stressing especially the normal work, for we need teachers for the church schools that are growing up here and there. In fact, we are operating 37 elementary schools already; but with 108 churches, there should be many more. We must provide teachers to care for these pressing needs, and initiate plans that will encourage ambitious young people to devote their talents to this branch of the Lord's work.

Our educational project in Panama is also a growing concern. Although we have no buildings for the accommodation of an academy, we are carrying on at night, using the church school building for the one hundred and more students who have already undertaken their secondary education. Plans for the new buildings are taking shape; but it will be some time before we can meet the needs of our young people of Panama, in the way they ought to be met. We have the Panama Academy up on our hearts, and thank God, and our brethren for the provision thus far made for this institution. Professor Wheeler and Mr. Henriquez are conducting the school under handicaps, and are anxiously awaiting the time when better facilities can be made available.

I recently visited the island of Guana-ja, of the Bay Islands group, of Honduras, where Brother Elden Ford is conducting a most interesting school, but with very limited facilities. However, the surroundings have taken on the atmosphere of a school, and more than 80 students are enrolled. This is already a three-teacher school; and if we had the necessary facilities, we could increase the enrolment to 150 almost immediately. In fact, it seems that we should look forward to making the Bay Islands school a Junior Academy in the near future.

Other Items of Interest

Our Missionary Volunteer work dovetails with educational and other lines of departmental endeavor; for we have a

very energetic army of young people in Central America, and thank God for the place they are taking in the development of the organized work. Of the 2291 young people in the union, more than 1,000 have been invested during the last year and a half.

Our Sabbath school work is another unit of satisfaction, for our membership has contributed generously, having given more than \$32,500.00 to the cause during the first nine months of the year, and having conducted many branch Sabbath schools as well, a number of these having been organized as the result of colporteur work.

Elder F. W. Steeves, our Publishing Department secretary, is active in the leadership of his faithful army, and they are doing a noble work for God through literature ministry. In the last seven and a half years our colporteurs have sold more than \$200,000.00 worth of literature, and half of that amount has been sold during the last two and a half years. Deliveries have been good, and many souls have been won as a result of this phase of our work.

Our needs in the field are many; but our courage is good, and we thank God for His evident blessings upon our feeble efforts, and take courage for the future of the work in Central America.

Colombia - Venezuela Union Mission

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Our Work in the Colombia- Venezuela Union

BY W. A. BERGHERM

The Colombia-Venezuela Union Mission is located on the mainland of South America, with the exception of the island territory making up the Curacao group of the Netherlands West Indies. It is the largest union in the Division as far as territory is concerned, and stands second in the number of inhabitants, for approximately 14,000,000 people live within its boundaries. If placed in the United States, this union would occupy all of the territory east of the Mississippi, from Maine clear down to Florida, with the exception of a small tip of the southern portion of Florida. The union is divided into four local missions, and we have a most loyal and earnest corps of workers and church

members to carry on the work which is still in its infancy.

Adventists are fairly well known in the great Republics of Colombia and Venezuela, and we wish that some of the publicity given us through the public press were more to our liking, although we believe that man can do nothing to hinder the work of God on this earth. We thank God for the faithfulness of our workers, even under adverse circumstances, and invite your prayers constantly, in their behalf, as they continue their labors of love in the winning of souls for the kingdom of heaven.

Membership Gains

During 1942, there were 230 persons baptized in this union. In 1943, there were 255; while our church membership for the union at the close of 1943, stood at 2,836. At the close of the third quarter of 1944 there were 181 baptisms reported, as compared with 171 for the same period of 1943. We wish our gain had been greater, but in view of the fact that our union evangelistic group was unable to function this year, we are grateful for the small increase that is evident.

Financial Progress

Our tithe for the year 1943 was the highest in our history in this union; and for the first nine months of the present year the tithes amounted to \$57,632.73 (pesos) as compared with \$45,177.13 (pesos) for the same period of 1943. This is most encouraging to us. The offerings also reveal a good gain over those of former records.

Departmental Activities

We are happy to be able to report something more aggressive in the departmental work this year. During the latter part of 1943 Elder L. L. Reile and family arrived from the United States to serve in the leadership of the Home Missionary, the Educational, and the Missionary Volunteer Departments. After six months of language study, Elder Reile entered upon his work with enthusiasm. His work is proving a valuable addition to our work.

We appreciate the help of Elders W. A. Butler and Wesley Amundsen, in leading our church membership to work for their neighbors and friends. In fact, our laity became so enthusiastic, and raised up so many local interests, that our workers were unable to keep up with them, and were obliged to tell them to hold steady for a time. This merely suggests what can be done in

some of these seemingly difficult lands, by the right approach, and the co-operation of our lay members. One man began to work for others before he himself was baptized; and, being an influential employer, began to pass on the studies that he was receiving in the baptismal class, to his workmen. After this man was baptized, his zeal increased, and he called in others; and when Elder Martínez visited this place he found that a Sabbath school had been organized, and a group of more than one hundred people were ready to hear him present the message.

Ingathering Returns

Each year our Ingathering results grow larger. The amount reported to date for 1944 is over 19,000 pesos. When all the figures are in for the year, we believe this amount will reach 20,000 pesos or nearly \$12,000.00. Our returns for 1943 amounted to \$9,878.00 (U.S.).

For the first time, singing band work was successfully employed in the cities of Barranquilla and Cali, Colombia. Academy students joined in the work, and gave valuable help, raising over five hundred pesos; and double that amount was raised in the city of Medellín, which is by far the largest amount yet raised in that place. But the little mission of Curacao carried off the honors for the union. The latest information we received from them they had raised approximately \$3,525.00. We think this is a most excellent record.

Other Departmental Work

During the first nine months of 1944, 170 young people were invested in the Progressive classes, thirteen of this number being Master Comrades. Last year scarcely anything was done to foster the reading courses and other activities of the Missionary Volunteer Department, so the following few figures represent complete gains in the items listed:

47 Received Bible Year Certificates
431 Received Reading Course Certificates
173 Received Vocational Honor Certificates
13 Received Study and Service League Certificates

We feel that this is a splendid accomplishment, and are looking forward with much confidence to the time when our lay members, both young and old, will do a mighty work in the fields of the Colombia-Venezuela Union. They are only waiting to be organized and led into active service. We have already seen how readily they respond, and what might be accomplished with just a little more help. Our departmental

work must have greater attention and leadership in the future than it has had thus far.

The Educational Department

Our union academy is enjoying its largest attendance this year. There are just one hundred students enrolled in the academic course, and thirty in the primary department. We also had our largest graduating class this year, those receiving diplomas numbering 14, among which group are several promising workers.

Strong ministerial training work has been done during the year by W. E. Baxter, Jr., who developed an enthusiastic class of 19 young people, two of this number being young women, preparing for Bible work. As a part of their training they were given field work, which was a source of great encouragement to them, and a blessing to the field as well.

The Radio Department

The radio work is another valuable medium of getting the messages before the people of our territory. At present we have three radio stations in Colombia and one in Venezuela. We have tried to engage others, but so far have not been successful. The three we already have, are located in the three most liberal cities of the republic; namely, Bogota, Barranquilla, and Cali. There has been some opposition, naturally, but so far the broadcasts continue. Many wonderful contacts have come to us through the radio work, and it is not difficult for us to realize that this branch of our work has become an important medium for the proclamation of the truth. Lawyers, doctors, teachers, business men, government officials, and in fact, people of all walks of life are among those taking the correspondence course. Though our work is young in this field, we have 1,221 enrollees in the Bible course, and a number are already in baptismal classes preparing for church membership.

The Publishing Work

Under the leadership of Brother Rafael Fleitas, our colporteur work has shown a fine gain over the same period of last year, and we expect the total sales for 1944 to exceed anything thus far accomplished in this union mission. During the vacation of 1942-1943, student colporteurs earned 18½ scholarships; but during the last vacation period, 1943-1944, there were 35½ scholarships earned,—almost double those of the former period. We believe our field has

the record for the entire Division in this phase of the work. Brother Enrique Elizabeth, of the Curacao Mission, earned seven scholarships during last vacation period; and we feel that this excellent record is worthy of special mention.

General Remarks

We are grateful to our brethren of the General Conference and of the Division, for their sympathetic support of our work. We appreciate the additions to our working force in the Colombia-Venezuela Union during the past year, and we thank God for the inspiration that their coming brings to the thin line of workers already in the field. As we survey the needs of this union we are staggered at the enormity of the task that lies before us, realizing that it is beyond the power of men to accomplish it. Yet we know that God will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness, using many of the "thousand ways" that may be unknown to us.

Yet it seems to us that if we are ever to do the work Heaven expects us to do in the Colombia-Venezuela Union, we must accompany the evangelistic work with the medical. We teach and preach this, but while we are talking about it, the other protestant denominations are making heavy investments in Colombia, and are doing a strong medical work. They are stealing a march upon us by sending out their nurses and winning the hearts of the people.

At the present time the party in power is favorable to our work, and there is no difficulty in getting permission for foreign workers to enter the country, but we cannot say how much longer this may continue. May the Lord help us to step into the openings now available before it is forever too late.



Selections From the Annual Report of the Mexican Union Mission

BY HAROLD F. HOUSE

Two years ago, at the time of the annual meeting of the Division Committee, we announced that 1942 was the banner year for our work in Mexico. Last year I stated that 1943 was a historic year; and now I can truthfully declare that 1944 has been an eventful year indeed in our field.

January.—We started the year by promoting, as never before, the work of our welfare and dorcas societies. There is sufficient evidence that the idea

of helping the poor and needy in Mexico is becoming popular in many of our churches, and is proving a strength to the work as a whole. Our welfare society in Monterrey has imported thousands of articles of clothing from societies in the United States, and has made good use of them, under the direction of Elder and Mrs. C. E. Moon.

Another item that is deserving of mention is the fact that Dr. Bralliar, of Madison College, spent several weeks at our Agricultural and Industrial School, with the result that we now have many new and useful trees to adorn the campus and to provide fruit when they come into bearing.

During the sojourn of Elder Roth at the school, the grounds were improved considerably, as well as the internal machinery of this organization. We appreciate his efforts more than words can tell.

February.—During this month Dr. W. H. Teesdale, of the General Conference Department of Education, visited the school, and stopped in Monterrey to give counsel in relation to our educational work, which was more than appreciated. And it was during the second month also, that some property adjustments in front of our school were effected; and late in February a union colporters' institute was held in Mexico City under the direction of W. R. Mulholland, and with the assistance of Elders Blunden, McAdams and Cone; and local workers as well. This meeting was a great success, being the largest gathering of its kind ever held in Mexico. The inspiration of that meeting, the reports of work already done, and the plans that were laid for the future of our literature work, are bound to have a lasting effect upon the work in this union.

March.—Our annual meeting of the union leaders was celebrated during the month of March, this session also being held in Mexico City, and being favored by the attendance of General Conference, Division, and Pacific Press counsellors. By that time the new Chiapas Mission was functioning as a separate organization, and the new director, Brother Vicente Rodriguez, was with us during the meetings in Mexico City.

Dr. I. S. Ritchie, of Riverside, California, arrived during the meeting, and gave valuable help in planning for the future of our medical work in Mexico. As we look to the future, our hearts are full of courage, for we can recognize the hand of God leading in the development of this phase of the program.

April and May.—During the latter part of April Brother Alvaro Sauza and I left Guadalajara, and traveled to Loma Linda, California, to meet with Elder Calkins, and the other members of the Latin-American Radio Commission, in the interests of our radio program; and during the month of May Brother Sauza did his first work in recording special lectures on health topics and home interests, for use in Mexico. This work was done at the Voice of Prophecy studios in southern California.

June and July.—June was the month when Brother Ernest Sanders and his family visited Mexico, and we were indeed grateful for his sincere effort to help us with the many problems connected with our work. We greatly appreciate his practical and timely assistance.

In July, Elder Branson, Elder and Mrs. Calkins, Elders Bradley, Amundsen, Whitsett, and some others, also visited our field, and gave valuable help in connection with the meetings that were held during their stay. Our church in Monterrey especially appreciated the help of these brethren, and the good counsel and instruction which they gave.

August.—The session held in August was well attended, with delegates from all over Mexico; and it was followed by an Evangelistic Institute and a General Workers' Institute. Strong work was done during these institutes, and excellent instruction was given our forces in this field, which will result in the building up of mission interests in the days to come. These extraordinary meetings were climaxed by the first Na-

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INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

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GLENN CALKINS Associate Editor
EFFIE A. JAMES, Assistant Editor

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tional Youth's Congress ever to be held in Mexico. This important gathering was presided over by C. Lester Bond, of the General Conference staff, and A. H. Roth of the Division Missionary Volunteer Department. Each of our six missions were represented during this meeting by the attendance of youthful delegates, all of them stalwart and faithful in the Adventist faith.

The Youth's Congress was really a great event for our young people, and will mean much to the building up of Educational and Missionary Volunteer interests all through the Mexican Union Mission.

Following the Congress, Elders Roth, Bond, Amundsen and Moon, with the assistance of our local men, conducted a very timely Convention for Departmental secretaries; and a little later the group divided and went to other parts of the field. We especially appreciate the help of Elder Bond and Dr. M. L. Rice, and the excellent instruction they gave to our workers during the session and the other meetings which followed.

September.—During the month of September we found it necessary to make frequent trips from Monterrey, our union headquarters, out to Montemorelos, where our training school is located. In fact, for a time it was necessary for me to be in charge of the school until help came from the Division, in the arrival of Elder and Mrs. Roth who then took over responsibility of leadership at the school. This emergency assistance was greatly appreciated, and has meant much to the educational program we are endeavoring to carry on for the young people of Mexico.

The Whitsett family also visited us during September, in the interest of plans for our radio work in this field. We appreciate this phase of the work in particular, for we believe it will solve many problems in reaching the people with the truth that we represent.

It was during September, also, that the sad word came to us by telephone, of the accident that came to our co-worker and friend, Brother Laurence Breitigam, while he was traveling from Mexico City back to Montemorelos by bus. In spite of all that could be done for him, he passed to his rest during the night of September 19, and was laid to rest in the Adventist lot of the Civil Cemetery in Mexico City. We shall miss our brother greatly, for he was fully consecrated to the work, and was faithful in his efforts for the people of this great republic.

September proved to be a month of tragedy for other reasons. Ten of the largest states of Mexico were hit by cyclone, tornadoes, and severe floods. The railroad service was interrupted for days, all over the country; and newspapers reported that the estimated loss to the railroads alone amounted to more than \$3,000,000.00. Although the Gulf states suffered the most stagger-

because of the high mortality resulting from the spread of disease in the wake of the storm. One paper stated that any description of this tragedy would be pale before the facts of raw reality.

These "natural occurrences" affected our own people to a considerable degree, for hundreds of Adventist families were left without food, clothing, or shelter; and since their own crops had been totally destroyed it was necessary to provide some relief from mission resources. This help has been greatly appreciated, although many are still suffering keenly from their severe losses. But we thank God for their spirit of courage, and that He has spared the lives of our people in the midst of this widespread calamity.

October.—During this month Brother and Sister Robert Aragón arrived in Montemorelos from Los Angeles to join us in the Mexican Union, Brother Aragón to continue his medical training, and Mrs. Aragón to connect with the union staff, as English stenographer.

In October Brother and Sister Roth came to connect with the school for a time, and, as mentioned in earlier paragraphs, their assistance in our educational program was, and is, greatly appreciated; and when the time came for them to return to their work in Havana, they left behind many new friends, and a host of grateful hearts, because of the noble and efficient service rendered during their sojourn with us.

November is proving to be an eventful month for a number of reasons. The interests of the work call for attention in many places,—and often at the same time. Another reason why November is usually a difficult time, is that budgets for travel are usually growing slim, and it becomes a real problem to finish up the year's work and still remain within our financial limitations. Most of the union staff were at home at least a part of this month; and committee meetings were held, and plans laid for the work of the remainder of the year.

One of the most important events connected with our work during November was the inauguration of the second National Book Fair in Mexico City. Brother A. J. Calderón, who is in charge of our "Agencia," worked hard, and supervised the preparations for our exhibit. The display of our books and periodicals this year was far more attractive than that of last year; and since the President of Mexico had himself inaugurated the fair, Brother Max Treviño was ready with two beautifully leather-bound books with the President's

NOTICE

WANTED VERY MUCH

The Division office Library desires to procure the following copies of the *Inter-American Division Messenger* for binding and permanent reference. Anyone who has even a single copy of those listed, is requested to get in touch with us promptly, stating just what he has; or better still, sending copies to us at an early date. This co-operative assistance will be much appreciated. Here is the list:

- Vol. I, No. 1 (April, 1924)
- Vol. II, No. 12 (December, 1925)
- Vol. III, Nos. 3, 5, 10 (1926)
- Vol. IV, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 10 (1927)
- Vol. V, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8, 10 (1928)
- Vol. VI, Whole Volume Missing—
13 issues—two in February (1929)
- Vol. VII, Whole Volume Missing—
13 issues—two in February (1930)
- Vol. VIII, No. 7 wanted (1931)
- Vol. X, Nos. 6, 7 (1933)
- Vol. XI, No. 5 wanted (1934)

And we also desire to procure missing copies of *El Mensajero*, as follows:

- Vol. I, No. 1 (January, 1927)
- Vol. II, No. 9 (September, 1928)
- Vol. III, No. 2 (February, 1929)
- Vol. VII,—Nos. 1-12 (January to December, 1934)
- Vol. IX,—Nos. 1-12 (January to December, 1935)
- Vol. X,—Nos. 1-12 ((January to December, 1936)
- Vol. XIV, No. 12 (July 1, 1937)
- Vol. XV,—Nos. 2, 8, 10, (Jan. 15, April 15, May 15, 1938)
- Vol. XXI, No 8 (August, 1944)

ing losses, the inland state of Chihuahua was smitten with untold destruction. In that one state alone, more than 4,500 persons were left homeless. Crops in some parts were almost totally destroyed, and thousands of head of cattle perished. It was reported that a certain large section of Veracruz, would probably be left without any children.

name embossed in gold letters. These he presented to the President in the midst of the pressing crowds, as they passed by our stand. These books were prepared as a special gift from the Mexican Union Mission.

December.—At the time of writing this report, December has not yet arrived; but we all recognize the last month of the year as the month of "asking." When we see that our money is gone, and the needs are still staring us in the face, there is nothing we can do but to seek further support for the work committed to our care. And if I should fail to plead for our work in Mexico, I know that I should betray the trust with which our six local missions have charged Brother Salazar and myself, in coming to the Division meeting.

And if I should list our most urgent needs only, and press those demands, it is certain that I should be considered a most importunate person indeed. The best we can do is to place our requests before the brethren, when the needs of other parts of the Division are also considered, and then let us prayerfully and carefully study through our problems seeking the guidance of our heavenly Father for the work that lies before us.

There are many features of the work, and many projects that we are unable to mention at his time; but we thank God for the good results that are evident all through the Mexican Union Mission, and for the many blessings that He has given us. For the souls won, for the support provided, and for the encouragement that comes to our own hearts, as we see the work of God nearing its close in all the world field, we give thanks to the Lord of the harvest, and seek Him for guidance for the task that lies before us in the Mexican Republic.



In the day of final reckoning, when the records of eternity are made up, there will be one outstanding fact in evidence; and that will be the number of souls saved as a result of the production and circulation of truth-filled literature. Undoubtedly the greatest single helper the living preacher has in the great work of soul winning is the use of the printed page. It is impossible to over-estimate the value and far-reaching influence of the publications that expound the the truths of God's word.

—J. L. McElhany.

People Places and Projects



BY RUTH CONARD

* Early in February, the Division men began to return to the headquarters office from their winter trips through the field. Elder Whitsett was the first to arrive, reaching Havana on February 2, returning from his itinerary in the British West Indies, Colombia-Venezuela, and the Caribbean Unions. Elder Torrey came in on February 6. He had been gone since December, visiting the Central American and the Mexican Union Missions. These brethren have returned with glowing reports of the progress of the work in all parts of the field. As we go to press, February 15, Elder Calkins has just returned to the Division office, having been away since the 19th of December, visiting three of the unions, and attending some of the local sessions as well.

Coming Events

May 5	- - -	Missionary Volunteer Day
June 2	- - - - -	Home Missions
June 9	- - - - -	Educational Day
June 30	- - -	Thirteenth Sabbath (Overflow to General Conference Missions)
July 7	- - - - -	Home Missions
July 21	- - -	Midsummer Offering for Missions

* The Division Educational Department has received very fine reports regarding the enrollment in the secondary schools around the field. Even though this is the first year that the Panama Academy has been in existence, and in spite of the fact that it is still only a night school, it can boast an attendance of 109. The other schools in the Division also report good enrollments. The latest figures which we have are as follows:

Colegio Adventista de las Antillas, Cuba,	170
West Indian Training College, Mandeville, Jamaica,	171
New Hope College, Kingston, Jamaica	96
Colege Vertieres, Port-au-Prince, Haiti,	195
Caribbean Training College, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad,	119
Academia Adventista, San José, Costa Rica,	124
Academia Colombo-Venezolana, Colombia,	124
Escuela Agrícola Industrial, Montemorelos, Mexico	146

* Evangelistic work is in the forefront in Jamaica, and great things are hoped for and expected, with the Lord's help.

from the concerted efforts that are being put forth there this year to carry the message to every part of that island. January 14 was celebrated throughout the entire field as "E-Day,"—the day when evangelism was the major issue among our members, for all the lay preachers throughout the island had made plans to start efforts on that day. A few weeks later, efforts were started by the mission workers.

It is the plan for every worker in the British West Indies Union Mission, from the superintendent down, to hold an effort at some time during this year.

* The Radio Department reports two new radio stations recently on the air, one in Medellin, Colombia, "La Voz de Antioquia," which was scheduled to begin broadcasts in February of the series of health programs which have recently been prepared; and the other, in Caracas, Venezuela, "Ondas Populares," where April was the date set for the starting of the health broadcasts. It is also hoped that before long a program can be started in French, over a Port-au-Prince station, at "The Crossroads of the Americas."

* It has been a pleasure to have Elder R. G. Strickland, General Conference Home Missionary secretary as a visitor in our field. He has been itinerating in the Mexican Union Mission, in company with Elder Amundsen. They conducted lay preachers' institutes among the churches in that field, where so much is being done by the work of our faithful lay workers.

* Radio work has caused a great awakening in Puerto Rico in the study of the word of God. There are now, on that one small island, over 3,000 members in the radio Bible correspondence school. Many people of wealth and influence have enrolled in the Bible course, and are deeply interested in the truths of the third angel's message. A number of "Voice of Prophecy" branch Sabbath schools have been raised up by radio work alone.

* We are happy to introduce a new worker at our Division headquarters office in Rancho Boyeros. She is Miss Olga González. Her help in translation work and along other lines is greatly appreciated. Miss González's home is in Havana, but she recently spent a year and four months in the United States, studying, both at Pacific Union College, and at La Sierra College in Southern California.