



THE INTER-AMERICAN MESSENGER

The Run-a-way Steward

By CLYDE O. FRANZ, Treasurer

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

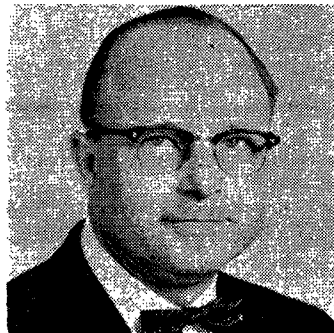
NOW IT came to pass that there was in a certain country of the Inter-American Division, a man who was a steward of his Lord's goods. It was obvious that this steward had been the recipient and custodian of many blessings. He owned a comfortable home. Around this home were cultivated acres, groves of fruit, and herds of cattle.

The steward was known in his local church as a man of piety and good deeds. He was faithful in his attendance at the Sabbath school and church services. He was numbered among the faithful at the mid-week prayer meeting.

But gradually, almost imperceptibly, a change came about. As the steward meditated on his growing savings account, his flourishing crops, his fat cattle, he seemed to have less and less time for the things of the church. Attendance at the services of the church began to seem less important to him, and the desire to associate with his brethren in the faith became less urgent.

It came to pass on a certain morning that the steward was looking over his fields and planning his programme for the day. As he was occupied in this task, a messenger, sent from the Lord, appeared at his side and reminded him that on this day the members of the local church were dedicating their time to the repairing, cleaning, and painting of the Lord's sanctuary. "Give of your strength and your means to this project," the messenger urged. The steward promised to consider this matter. He felt that he ought to go, but finally he decided that he must care for urgent business in an opposite direction from the church.

A few days later the messenger of the Lord again appeared to the steward. His countenance betrayed the fact that his message was a serious one. "The records of the church treasurer indicate that you have fallen



Clyde O. Franz

behind in paying your tithe to the Lord." The steward appeared to be startled. He had really not intended to defraud the Lord. He had just been too busy, and so he promised to go to the bank immediately and draw from his savings sufficient to pay his debt to the Lord.

He went to the bank. He drew out the necessary amount, but upon leaving the bank he encountered an acquaintance who offered him a field at a very good price, almost exactly the amount that he had withdrawn. He did not go to the church treasurer; rather he went

to see this property and he purchased it.

Once more the messenger of the Lord appeared to the steward. "You are to go to the Middle East Division," was the message this time.

"Oh, no!" responded the steward. "I cannot possibly do that. How can I leave my farms and my cattle and my business?"

"The Lord does not ask you to go personally," responded the messenger, "but it will be good for your soul and will help finish the Lord's work, if you will give a generous 13th Sabbath offering. The overflow from this offering will work for you in the Middle East Division."

As he thought of the small amounts he had been placing in the Sabbath school envelope recently, the steward was pricked in his conscience. He determined that he would do better. But on the morning when the 13th Sabbath offering was to be received, a strange malady afflicted the steward, and he told his wife that he did not feel well enough to go to Sabbath school that day. His wife wondered at his good appetite at breakfast, in spite of his malady. By noon the steward felt much better and appeared quite normal again.

(Continued on page 10)

Adventist Truth Penetrates Prison Walls

FOR more than two years Carlota de Lopez has been working in the San Salvador prison, dedicating her Sabbath afternoons to visiting the prisoners, giving them tracts, and conducting a Bible study for all who wished to hear the Word of God explained. She, first with Moses Cortes and then with Saul Cortes, helped all who followed one of the Bible correspondence school courses.

This has never been easy work, but at times it was made even more difficult by the opposition of prison authorities. Although he was not in full agreement with them, Colonel Sanchez, the warden, did finally give permission for these lay workers to hold meetings every Sabbath afternoon between two and four o'clock.

As some 20 of the 1,000 prisoners studied their lessons with interest and application, the Bible truths touched their hearts. When they comprehended the truth on baptism, they began to beg that they be privileged to take that important step. Two of the interested men added that they did not wish to continue unless they could personally receive the blessing of baptism.

Sister Carlota worked diligently to find a plan that would make a



Left to right: a prison guard, Sister Carlota Lopez, Prisoners Saul Mineros Barrera and Pablo Pineda Castro, Brother Humberto Lopez, and the other guard stand beside the Adventist welfare centre truck which took them from prison to church.

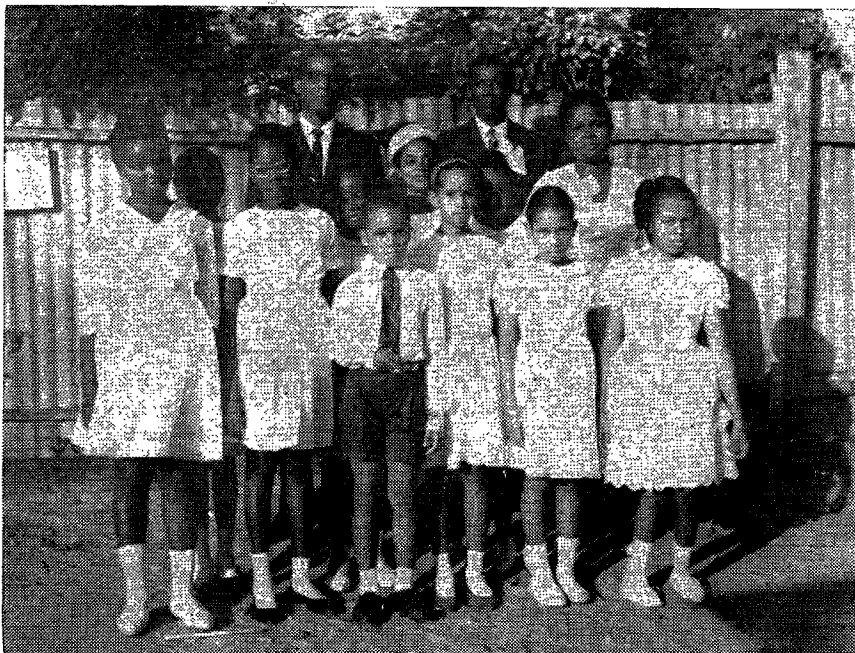
baptismal service possible. For a short time it seemed that a baptism could be realised within the prison walls, but finally the authorities said that it would not be convenient. What could be done? Every Sabbath Sister Carlota and Sister Cerna heard the interested men ask when they

could be baptised. Finally, after praying earnestly that God would touch the colonel's heart, Sister Carlota visited Colonel Sanchez again. How grateful she was to hear the warden say that he would give permission for the men to visit the Seventh-day Adventist church on the following Sabbath.

Thus it was that on Sabbath, June 8, 1963, F. A. Arroyo, president of the Salvador Mission, and Humberto Lopez, husband of Sister Carlota, went to the warden's office to receive Prisoners Pineda Castro and Mineros Barrera. After caring for the necessary details, the men, handcuffed to their two guards, walked out of the prison to the mission bus.

The new believers and their guards occupied the front pews in the church, with the guards in strategic positions as a means of precaution. There they listened attentively during the Sabbath school and divine service. David Garcia, the church pastor, administered the rite of baptism, which resulted in a touching consecration service. While those men, now brothers in Christ, buried their old lives in the baptismal waters, the church members prayerfully renewed their baptismal vows. Afterward the new members stood at the front of the church so that their brethren could file by to greet and

(Continued on page 11)



Eugene Berle (back row, left): president of the French Guiana Mission, stands with 12 new church members, baptised on June 29, the first fruits of an evangelistic effort which Elder Berle held in Cayenne from March 10 to May 29. More than 150 interested persons have manifested a desire to follow Christ wherever He may lead, and 45 are studying in a regular baptismal class.

Dominican Mission Granted Conference Status

By A. RAY NORCLIFFE

IT IS a pleasure to announce to the readers of the MESSENGER that the Dominican Mission of Seventh-day Adventists has been organized into a conference. The Antillian Union Committee voted on July 22 to approve the report of the survey committee and pass on its request to the Inter-American Division for conference status for this field. On the 24th of the same month the Inter-American Division Committee voted favourably, granting conference status as of August 1, 1963.

On the campus of the Dominican Academy, more than 180 accredited delegates met on the evening of July 31 to open the 11th biennial session of the Dominican Mission. W. E. Murray, vice president of the General Conference, and C. L. Powers, president of the Inter-American Division, both brought greetings to the delegates, and Elder Murray presented a stirring message entitled, "To the Ends of the Earth."

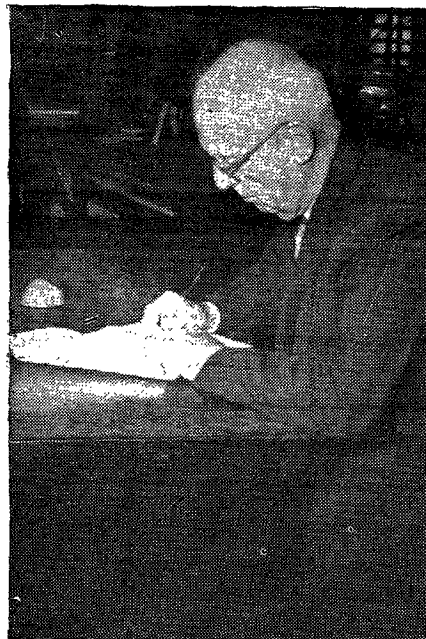
On Thursday morning, following the devotional study by Elder Powers, the delegates were seated, and five new churches were received into the brotherhood of churches. Gabriel Castro, mission president, presented a report showing that the membership had grown to 5,722. The year 1962 was a banner year in baptisms. During that year 1,329 souls were added to the church, 840 as a result of the effort held in Santo Domingo by Arturo Schmidt. The report showed increases in Ingathering, tithe, mission offerings, and mission financial standing.

It was the writer's privilege to read to the assembled delegates a letter from the division president advising of the decision of the division com-

mittee to grant conference status to the Dominican Mission. The recommendations of the survey committee were read and comments were made by the union and division presidents. When the moment came to vote, the entire delegation stood in unison; then they bowed their heads while Elder Murray asked God's blessing on the newly formed conference. Elder Murray, representing the General Conference, signed the charter first; then Elders Powers, Norcliffe, and Castro. Afterwards each delegates signed as he was called by the secretary. This was truly a happy and important moment in the history of the work of Seventh-day Adventists in the Dominican Republic, and it is with great satisfaction that we of the Antillian Union realise that all four of our local fields are now conferences.

The administration of the former mission was re-elected for the newly formed conference: president Gabriel Castro, and secretary-treasurer, Angel Perez. Departmental secretaries elected were: Colombino Gonzalez, lay activities, Sabbath school, and radio; Juan Rodriguez, MV, education, and temperance; Albert Walters, publishing; Gabriel

(Continued on page 7)

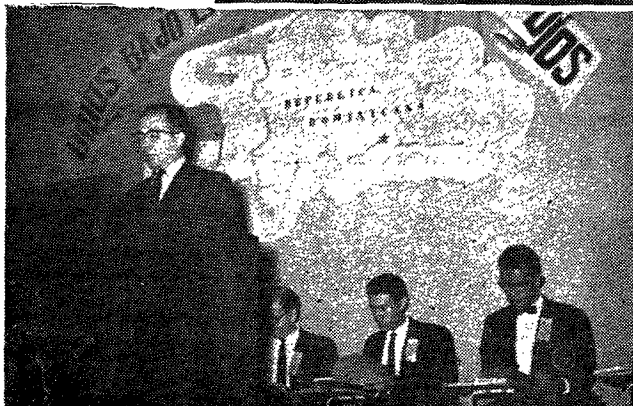
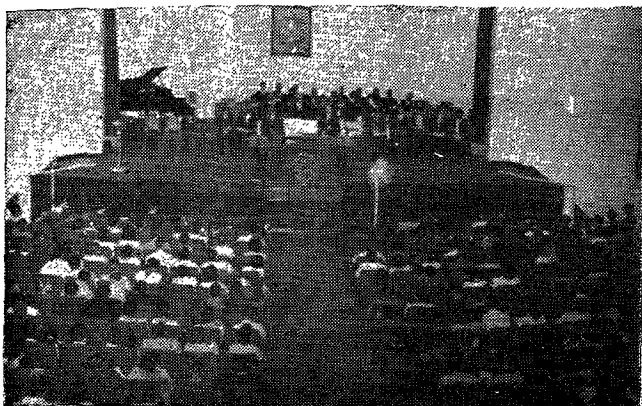


Top right: Elder W. E. Murray signing the charter.

Right centre: A. R. Norcliffe reading a letter from the president of the Inter-American Division advising the delegates that conference status had been granted.

Below left: Part of the audience that attended the Sabbath services.

Below right: Gabriel Castro giving his president's report.



Behold I Stand at the Door

A review of Christ's message to the church of Laodicea

By **ROBERT L. ROWE**

RAPIDLY fulfilling signs impress earnest Bible students that the end of all things is at hand. Events happen almost daily that would have profoundly moved the pioneers of the Advent message. The signs in the political, social, and religious world fill our daily paper and news magazines.

Yet in spite of the amazing focus of the prophetic messages upon our day, personal preparation for the greatest event of the ages is being neglected or deferred by an alarming number within the church. Too many members still find that houses and lands and money-making schemes occupy the major portion of their thoughts. Instead of discussing ways and means to further the gospel to earth's distant outreaches and to their neighbours nearby, they make the central topic of their conversation... a new car, a TV programme, or, perhaps, their neighbour's shortcomings. Too seldom do they discuss the work of the Lord and preparation for His coming.

The time has come when each church member should make a prayerful, careful analysis of his spiritual condition. Though so-called reform groups are mistaken in their message, there is genuine need for spiritual advancement. Let us not conclude that because some are radical or critical that there is no need for personal improvement. Jesus' words on the Mount of Olives speak down the centuries to our day: "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matt. 24:33). To those who see these fulfilling signs He warns of the suddenness of the end, as in the days of Noah and Lot, and urges a constant readiness for that great day.

A Special Message

To the church in the various periods of history Jesus sent a special message to help it meet the various problems of the age and successfully evade the pitfalls of the evil one. In our own day He has sent a message

especially designed to prepare a people to stand before Him when He comes. It is a message of solemn importance, one that we neglect only at our spiritual peril. It is a message to willing hearts.

Christ is pictured standing outside the heart, seeking admittance to the audience chamber of the soul: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20).

What a theme for contemplation! The Majesty of heaven seeks me, for He says, "If any man." Communion, fellowship with the blessed Lord, is possible for me!

Much may be gained by a study of the message to the church of Laodicea. Some of its truths cut deep with the sword of the Spirit, but it closes with the greatest promise ever given to man—a promise of fellowship forever with the Redeemer in His kingdom. No wonder the prophet wrote, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches" (Rev. 3:22).

Seventh-day Adventists have taught for more than 100 years that we are living in the time of the investigative judgment. Each word and act and motive is being weighed in the sanctuary above. With what interest, then, we should study the message to the church of Laodicea—a name defined to mean "judging the people" or "a people adjudged."

Because of the appalling spiritual need of the group described in the message it is easy to feel that the major application is to contemporary non-Adventist churches. True, the message has an application to the entire Christian church, but it also contains special counsel, and applies with particular force to those who claim to be God's remnant people. So important is it that the Lord's messenger tells us that the destiny of the church hangs upon this message (see *Early Writings*, p. 270).

She further declares that some will

not receive it, but will rise up against it, and that this will cause a shaking among God's people. One group will accept it, be purified, and fitted for translation, another group will reject it and go out from among us (*Ibid.*).

Especially Applicable

Since the shaking and related events take place only a short time before Christ's advent, the message to Laodicea is an all-important present truth. "The Laodicean message must be proclaimed with power; for it is now especially applicable. Now, more than ever before, are seen pride, worldly ambition, self-exaltation, double-dealing, hypocrisy, and deception. Many are speaking great swelling words of vanity, saying, 'I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.' Yet they are miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."—*The SDA Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, on Rev. 3:15, p. 962.

Those who find it easier to see their neighbour's faults than their own sometimes have used the "straight testimony" of the Lord to Laodicea against fellow church members. This is contrary to the purpose for which the message was given. It was not designed "to lead brother to sit in judgment over his brother, . . . but for each individual to search his own heart, and attend to his own individual work."—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, p. 223.

Its proclamation must always be in meekness and love. There is need to "put away your faculty for seeing the mistakes of others. Turn your attention to your own defects. Your self-righteousness is nauseating to the Lord Jesus Christ. [Rev. 3:15-18 quoted.] These words apply to the churches and to many of those in positions of trust in the work of God."—*The SDA Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, on Rev. 3:15, p. 963.

Now, what does "the faithful and true witness" say to Laodicea? First He says, "I know thy works."

Seventh-day Adventists are becoming well-known today as a people of good works—disaster relief, local welfare work, a worldwide ministry through schools and hospitals. Week by week the church seeks to promote greater acts of mercy by calling for individual reports and soliciting a response to local challenges in the home missionary service. It is encouraging to hear the reports telling of gospel literature given away, needy persons helped, acts of mercy performed. We should thank God for the privilege of helping others.

The message to the church of Laodicea is much concerned with our works. In spite of the relatively large achievements and high per capita of the church, Jesus says, "Thou art neither cold nor hot. . . . Thou are lukewarm" (Rev. 3:15, 16).

As we think of the great need that still exists in the world, and the tremendous numbers of the unwarned and unsaved, we should feel that we have only begun to do what we ought to do. And even when we have done all that we possibly can, we have done only that which was our duty. The emphasis upon lukewarmness indicates that our works are short of the Lord's expectation. With such a message, "What manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness." Think of what we ought to be and do in such an hour!

Message of Warning

To continue in a lukewarm state will bring rejection; therefore God sends a message of warning to the church. The Lord's messenger to the remnant declares that "the message to the Laodicean church applies most decidedly to those whose religious experience is insipid, who do not bear decided witness in favour of the truth."—*Ibid.*, p. 962. Again, "You may manifest great zeal in missionary effort, and yet because it is corrupted with selfishness, and tastes strongly of self, it is nought in the sight of God; for it is a tainted, corrupted offering."—*Ibid.*, p. 961. "Your self-righteousness is nauseating."—*Ibid.*, p. 963. "The ardour of the first love has lapsed into a selfish egotism."—*Ibid.*, p. 962. "There may be a wonderful appearance for zeal and ceremonies, but this is the substance of their self-inflated religion. Christ represents them as nauseating to His taste."—*Ibid.*

These are not pleasing words, but

the True Witness has yet more to say to His people. Because God loves, He rebukes and chastens. Every honest Christian will carefully search his own heart and ask, as did the disciples at the Last Supper, "Is it I?"

"Thou savest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing" (Rev. 3:17). It is easy to interpret statistics wrongly and so reach erroneous conclusions. Even to be increased with the Lord's goods has its dangers. We have a worldwide network of schools and hospitals and publishing houses. Compared with the days of poverty and the small numbers at the beginning of our work, we have much. But if merely the number of members, churches, hospitals, and schools is what counts most with God, we are in the wrong camp. Other religious organisations far exceed ours, and, according to prophecy, always will.

If our riches are the doctrines that we believe and teach, we are on safer ground. However, though we have a set of doctrines that can be defended from the Scriptures, this very fact may bring to us a certain smugness and pride that will prevent others from receiving these vital truths. And with many there is dependence on doctrinal books to outline or explain the truth. How would we fare if brought unexpectedly before rulers and councils to explain our beliefs from the Word of God alone? Other things have taken the time that belongs to Bible study, and the deep searching for truth done by the pioneers years ago is accepted as sufficient for our needs. We are in danger of giving assent to beliefs that we have never searched out for ourselves. In days like these, when every wind of doctrine is blowing, we should be keen students of the Word.

If riches refer to budget figures, there is much to be thankful for. Per capita giving of the church is among the highest of all religious bodies. Yet here, too, are indications of lukewarmness. Sabbath school statistics show a steady decline of mission offerings in relation to tithe. What does this mean? It means that though we have more money today, we are giving a smaller percentage of it to God.

Consider, too, the witness that is borne to the world by the way we use what is left. Of how many of us today is the following from the Spirit of Prophecy and accurate picture? "I

have been shown that God's people who profess to believe present truth are not in a waiting, watching position. They are increasing in riches and are laying up their treasures upon the earth. They are becoming rich in worldly things, but not rich toward God. They do not believe in the shortness of time; they do not believe that the end of all things is at hand, that Christ is at the door. They may profess much faith; but they deceive their own souls, for they will act out all the faith that they really possess. Their words show the character of their faith, and testify to those around them that the coming of Christ is not to be in this generation. According to their faith will be their works. Their preparations are being made to remain in this world. They are adding house to house, and land to land, and are citizens of this world."
—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, pp. 196, 197.

Christ is knocking at the door of the heart. Before He brings the last great events of history, He seeks to prepare and save His people. There is danger that we may become so absorbed in the world's mad race for things, that we shall not hear His voice. Perhaps we hear, but are too soon attracted away. We need to provide for our families; but everything not required for our basic needs, if we have true faith in His coming, we shall devote to the cause of Christ. When earnest pleas are made for teachers and workers to bring the truth to those longing to know it, how can we justify expenditures for things that we do not really need?

Long ago Ellen G. White suggested a plan that might help curb needless spending—keep a small bank, and when we are inclined to buy something we do not really need, put an equal amount in the bank for the Lord's work. When we are no longer lukewarm, we shall count it a privilege to give as much as we can to God's cause.

—*Review and Herald*

CALVARY

By Edith V. Spillman

A hill,
Two thieves,
Rabble,
Darkness,
Three crosses,
Salvation's nativity—
On Calvary.

Displaced Christians

By LOUISE C. KLEUSER

THE problem of the backslider should receive the church's sympathetic and intelligent attention. These poorly adjusted and displaced believers may be found on any church-membership list. Among them are some who may have forgotten God entirely, but many are in an approachable mood, ready to return to their church when the occasion presents itself. It is tragic, however, that entirely too many are procrastinating when some initiative on their part might readily restore their peace of mind and a satisfactory church relationship. Such persons must be very unhappy. They have exchanged their Christian joy for a "mess of pottage."

God still loves backsliders and is calling to them to return to His fold. "I will heal their backsliding," He says, "I will love them freely." Read the context of Hosea 14. The concern and expression of the Father's love is that of a soul physician conveying cheerful news to his patient.

The Bible has many similar promises, warm with the love of God. We readily recall the interest of the prodigal son's father in Luke 15. The chapter's theme is finding the lost. First we read that the good shepherd continued his search for the straying sheep until he found it. Next, the possessor of the coin that had rolled away from sight diligently swept the house until it was found. Last—and what a story!—the father of a willful son scanned the horizon awaiting his return. When, after long delay, his son, clothed in the rags the world had provided, did return, that loving father went out to meet him. There was no scolding; he called on his entire household to rejoice with him. Reclaiming the lost, restoring their status in the household of God, should be accompanied with great rejoicing. Rebuke finds no

place when we love the displaced Christian back to God.

Is There Excuse for Backsliding?

The displaced Christians should first be lovingly instructed and then definitely alerted as to the true cause for his detour from the right path. We must help him to face up to Satan's wiles the next time. The enemy will be even more determined to trip up the vacillating one. Backsliding must be healed. The patient should voluntarily come to the Great Physician for a cure, as from a malady. It may require drastic measures to produce a thorough work of healing, but unless this is achieved, the disease of distrust and unfaithfulness to God may return, with greater problems for the future. And here we might remark that several baptisms will not effect the cure. Baptism is the outward sign of a spiritual experience within. The Bible does not teach that this rite itself provides a cure.

Biblically speaking, there can be no excuse for backsliding. Sin may have been courted unwittingly, but it is still an offense against God—and man, perhaps. It must be made clear to the defeated one that all sin leads to death at last. Backsliding, therefore, is no exception. Lovingly, these facts should be presented by the Bible teacher. The straying soul must understand that to be restored in the church he must return to his earlier status—that of the born-again Christian. He takes the initiative by acknowledging his fault, while the church opens her arms to receive him. In God's sight he is justified because he humbly asks forgiveness (Hosea 14:1-4).

During the period when the repentant believer reflects on his detachment from Christ, he should not be subjected to an embarrassing probing into his former behaviour; he should be dealt with in love and

mercy. The Bible does not teach a human confessional for an earthly priesthood; it leads the sinner directly to God's mercy seat. There Christ's love warms the heart and urges a return to a life of obedience, whether in Sabbathkeeping, healthful living, stewardship, or any other neglected responsibility. His changed status toward God now makes him alert to any duty which the Holy Spirit is now controlling.

Still applying the analogy of displacement from Christ, here let us consider another type of delinquent believer the church should endeavour to help. Since apostolic times the warnings to maintain the "faith once delivered to the saints" have been studied by the church. Today these New Testament warnings have new significance because of the varied accumulating voices that question, distort, and destroy sound doctrine, too often tearing down the very foundation upon which Bible doctrine is built—the sound interpretation of truth. We realise with much concern that some of these innovators of truth arise within the church itself, apparently oblivious to their sinful course. Often without direct intent of perverting the truths of the Bible, such guides soon reveal their shallowness in Bible knowledge and in their weakening Christian experience.

In 2 Timothy 3 Paul referred to the self-sufficiency of headstrong men during earth's last days. Church members, those maintaining "a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof," "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God," would be partaking of the spirit of these perilous times. In his Epistle Paul continues his admonition to preach the pure Word of God by sound doctrine. Again he warns that seducers and deceivers would increase to persecute the true believers. Such a picture of our times should make any Christian cautious. It is most important not to sell the truth bought at the price of great sacrifice.

But in conflict with the enemy of all truth, the church today may expect to have some weaker elements to nurse along into a Christian experience. It is always inspiring when we may help frustrated souls find their way back to the Word of God and become well established in its doctrinal teachings. When this is in progress we would advise our lay believers to counsel well with their pastors. Confusion of doctrine may

(Continued on page 12)

"Ask and It Shall Be Given"

FOR the dozen believers at the new mission station in Merida, Venezuela, Sunday, June 16, 1963, was a day of great rejoicing. During the morning hours of that memorable day more than 200 friends, doctors from the faculty of medicine of the nearby University of the Andes, businessmen, and neighbours, gathered for the inauguration of the Adventist clinic.

After a warm welcome Dr. Walter Bishop explained the purpose of the clinic and the great mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the world. The writer offered a fervent prayer of dedication. Dr. Francisco Moncada Reyes, dean of the school of medicine, cut the symbolic ribbon, formally opening the clinic. He remarked, "On few occasions has an instrument like a pair of scissors cut a ribbon to give mankind so generous a service, rendered by people of faith and conscience who wish only to help those who suffer."

The idea of the clinic was born when a house was rented on the other side of the city. Doctor Bishop, a young Adventist doctor from the Argentine and a graduate of the University of the Andes, where he now teaches medicine, became enthusiastic when the idea was suggested to him. The plan was left in the hands of our Divine Leader, and the members began to work. As if led by a superior power, six men, unskilled in the handling of saw and paint, dedicated their Sundays to settling, cleaning, and arranging the place.

At the same time, with the help of Colporteur Juan Solis, we visited businessmen, governmental authorities, and professors in the faculty of medicine, inviting them to share with the Adventists in the establishing of a clinic in that section of Merida. With great joy we saw hearts respond under the influence of God's Spirit. Several companies offered us equipment and medicines. Dr. Pedro Rincon, president of the university, donated dental equipment valuing more than 3,000 bolivars. The minister of health promised to provide the special medicines we would need. From the wastepaper basket to the typewriter, all was donated—equipment worth more than 9,500 bolivars, including medicines valued at some 5,000 bolivars. We



Doctor Francisco Moncada Reyes, dean of the school of medicine of the University of the Andes, cutting the ribbon at the inauguration of the Adventist Clinic in Merida, Venezuela.

can say that these voluntary contributions were made by new friends attracted by the right arm of the message.

The Adventist clinic will be open to serve the needy every Sunday and Thursday. Doctor Bishop with another doctor and two nurses have begun this praiseworthy ministry. Many are the sick who come searching for relief for their bodies and hope for their souls.

Soon we will offer dental service in co-operation with the students of the dental school. We will also give clothing, food, vitamins, and a glass of milk daily to undernourished children.

And all this became a reality in less than four months! We praise God who works great things with few and weak instruments to manifest His power among the great of earth.

—Tirso Escandon

DOMINICAN MISSION . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Castro, public relations; Cesar Puesan, Book and Bible House manager. Tulio Haylock was elected director and business manager of the Dominican Academy.

Sabbath services were held in the auditorium of the conservatory of music, on beautiful George Washing-

ton Boulevard, in Santo Domingo, where more than 900 members gathered to hear the stirring message presented by Elder Murray as he recounted evidences of God's leadership, not only in the early days but also in his church today. In the afternoon reports were given by a number of the workers, and the day came to a close with a solemn ordination service in which four young workers, Angel Gomez, Dionisio Christian, Americo Ciuffardi, and Joel Gomez, were dedicated to the gospel ministry. Elder Murray gave the ordination sermon; the writer offered the dedicatory prayer; Elder Powers gave the charge; and Elder Castro, the welcome.

A wave of sadness spread over the congregation as the announcement was made that Angel Gomez had accepted a call to pastoral work in Nicaragua and Dionisio Christian had accepted a call to serve as educational and MV secretary of the Panama Conference. On the other hand, there was joy that these brethren were going forth to preach this gospel message in other parts of the Inter-American Division. We are certain that God will bless their efforts as they serve in broader fields of labour.

Readers of the MESSENGER will be happy to know that by the end of July two pastors in the Dominican field had reached their 1963 goals of

(Continued on page 11)

With the Departments

Publishing

Antillian Union Colporteurs Make New Strides

It is impossible to give up-to-date news concerning the colporteurs of the Antillian Union, for even while we are writing these lines to tell of their success, they are, with the help of God, reaching still greater heights of accomplishment.

Early in the year the Puerto Rico Book and Bible House, anticipating the needs of the colporteurs and students for the summer, sent the Pacific Press the largest single order they ever received, and we understand that when the books arrived, it was a major problem to find storage space for them. Some feared that the management had overestimated its needs.

However, before the end of June every book had been shipped to the colporteurs, and it was necessary to telephone the Pacific Press asking that more books be sent by airmail in order that all the colporteurs might make their deliveries at the end of June. Also, another large order was placed to care for needs during the month of July.

The total delivery in Puerto Rico for the month of June was \$28,895.40, not only the highest ever made in any one month in that field, but a figure higher than the total delivery reported for the entire Antillian Union in June last year.

The Dominican colporteurs are not behind their Puerto Rican companions, for their June delivery was also the highest in their history, and a 199% increase over June, 1962. Early calculations indicate that July deliveries will be even better in that field.

Although there have been almost insurmountable difficulties in some sections of the Antillian Union, the publishing department closes its records for the first half of 1963 on a note of triumph, with a total gain of \$24,716.38 in deliveries in the two fields where work can be carried on in a normal way. It is also encouraging to learn that even in the restricted areas of the union the colporteurs are still able to deliver a few books from time to time, and we pray that God

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING SECOND QUARTER TOTALS

Antillian Union	\$5,977.39
Caribbean Union	4,815.86
Central American Union	3,039.66
Colombia-Venezuela Union	4,138.67
Franco-Haitian Union	1,323.05
Mexican Union	8,308.95
West Indies Union	3,034.49
TOTAL	\$30,638.07

Congratulations to all the unions, local conferences, and missions in the Inter-American Division. This is the largest 13th Sabbath offering in the history of the Division. We appreciate the sacrificial effort of every one of our members, workers, and administrators in making this a successful offering. To all we say, "Thank you," and "To God be the glory, great things He hath done."

Let us now do the same for other world fields as the calls come to us from quarter to quarter.

Fernon Retzer, Sabbath school secretary,
Inter-American Division.

will soon make it possible for them to make new strides also.

—Fred B. Moore

student and regular colporteurs will be carried out from November to February.

Directing Souls into God's Kingdom

To lead souls to Jesus and into God's kingdom is the purpose of Inter-America's literature programme. One local conference president said, "One of the reasons for the rapid growth in the number of baptisms in our field is because our colporteurs have been placing our truth-filled publications into the homes of many, many families during the past years. The hearts of the people have been softened and prepared for church membership."

A love for souls led the regular and student colporteurs of Puerto Rico to reach their highest monthly report in all Puerto Rican history during June—\$28,895.40. From Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo, and Mexico record-breaking reports of the work of student and regular colporteurs will be seen during July and August. From other parts of our division the strong campaign of

Miraculous percentage gains during the first six months of 1963 over the same period of last year in several local fields reach from 123% to 963%. The Mexican Union has a gain of 52%. Besides the blessings of God, one of the reasons for this great success is that local fields have recently appointed their first, second, and even third assistant publishing leader.

With Inter-America's forward look and in an all-out effort to direct more and more souls into God's kingdom, the publishing department is rapidly moving toward a two-million-dollar delivery programme per year.

—J. C. Culpepper

On July 21 the Voice of Prophecy was on the air again in Mexico City. This time it is broadcast from station XEL, known as Radio Capital. Please pray that this programme will remain on the air and reach the many millions in Mexico City.

Radio Bible School Wins Another Soul

On February 20, 1962, a gospel mail carrier from the Tizimin, Yucatan, district enrolled a man in the radio Bible school correspondence course entitled "Toward a Better Life." One year later, in early 1963, this student graduated, and in the month of May he and his wife were baptised. On June 20, just a month after his baptism, I went to visit these new church members. At his home I found 12 souls filled with new-found love for God, the result of the work of the radio Bible school and of these new brethren who had helped them.

These 12 interested believers wish to be baptised as soon as possible. More than that, they are building a house where they can hold their religious services. The leader of the group is Eustaquí Puc, the recent graduate from the Voice of Prophecy.

Once again this story underlines the fact that the radio Bible school wins souls and our gospel mail carriers help to search out these souls.

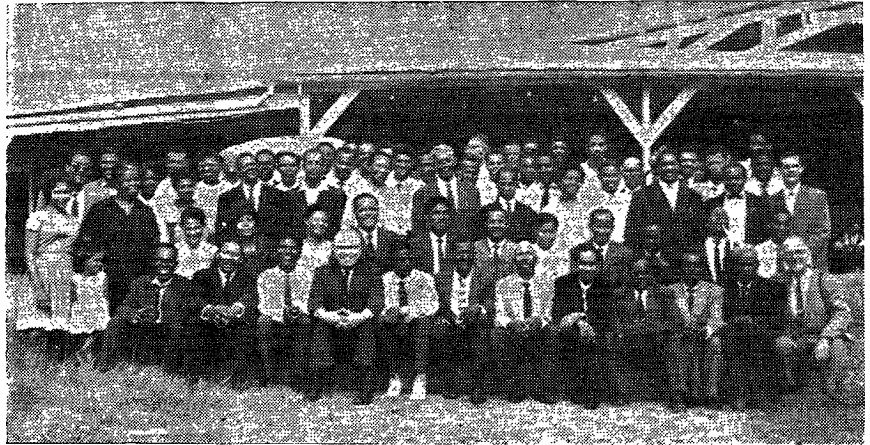
—Nicanor Alfaro

A Prisoner Writes . . .

"One important thing for us is that we are now subject of Jesus Christ. Now the standards that control our lives are totally different from before—they are spiritual ideals. The flag that flies victoriously in the palace of our hearts is the flag of the cross. Now that we have crowned Christ the King of our lives, we are happy to express ourselves in a language that is worthy of the country of joy and peace where we will live one day.

"All this is new to us and new to our former friends, some of whom try to ridicule us while others admire our stand. This admiration becomes interest, giving us an opportunity to testify of what we have learned and to invite these friends to enroll in the Bible course. We trust this will result in their being redeemed by the blood of the lamb of God."

—Angel Pedroza Cardenas



Lay workers present at the institute held in Fort-de-France, FWI.

Lay Congress in FWI

Monday, May 27, to Wednesday, the 29th, were memorable days for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Martinique, French West Indies. Delegates from all the churches and companies of that picturesque island came to Fort-de-France to attend the special meetings planned for them by J. E. Edwards, secretary of the Home Missionary Department of the General Conference, B. L. Archbold, lay activities secretary of the Inter-American Division, and S. B. Jean-Elie, secretary of the same department of the Franco-Haitian Union. Never will the delegates forget the instructions imparted to them as these men, on fire for God, pointed out ways to achieve an unfinished task.

Especially thrilling was the symposium on Wednesday afternoon when many of the laity related their experiences in soul winning. These lay workers set a goal of 178 souls won to God during the balance of 1963.

This was followed by a solemn torch-lighting ceremony, the thrilling climax to three wonderful days. As the light was passed from the General Conference representative to the division representative, to the representatives of the Franco-Haitian Union, to the mission workers, including every minister, then to church officers and members, each one dedicated himself anew to the task of saving souls for the Master, until every person in Martinique and everywhere has been told that Jesus is even at the door.

—Eric Toussaint

Rallies in East Jamaica

The recent visit of J. E. Edwards, home missionary secretary of the General Conference, and B. L. Archbold, lay activities secretary of the Inter-American Division, to the East Jamaica Conference will long be remembered for the inspiration and spiritual revival which these men brought to our field.

Three outstanding rallies were conducted from June 18 to 20 by these brethren, ably assisted by W. A. Holgate, lay activities secretary of the West Indies Union, and C. S. Greene, secretary of the same department of the local conference. The object of the meetings, to re-emphasise the importance of the person-to-person method of soul winning, was brought into focus in a clear, dynamic fashion.

The high light of the rallies came on the closing night when the laymen from Rupert Henry's district presented 33 candidates for baptism as a direct result of their efforts. The baptism was held in an unfinished church building, without roof or windows. The setting was also unique in that the service was performed in an improved canvas baptistry. Over 1,000 people gathered inside for the service with another 500 who had to stand around the building on the outside. The audience listened with rapt attention as Elder Edwards brought a soul-stirring message to them. Pastor Henry, assisted by K. O. Boyd, chaplain of Andrews Memorial Hospital, performed the rite of baptism.

—H. E. Nembhard

Around the Unions

Colombia-Venezuela

Six Months of Blessings

As we review the reports for the first six months of 1963, we can only exclaim, "What hath God wrought in the Colombia-Venezuela Union!" A total of 1,063 souls have been added to the church by baptism, an increase of 324 over the same period last year. This brings the total union membership to 19,809 as of June 30. Sabbath school members number 29,057. Without doubt the membership in the Colombia-Venezuela Union will pass the 20,000-mark this year.

L. S. Camacho reports that the treasury department has recorded an 18.5% increase in tithe over the first six months of 1962. God's blessings have also been demonstrated by similar increases in offerings and in Ingathering receipts.

One of the most encouraging notes of progress is the excellent work our literature evangelists have realised with the printed page. With God's blessing Adventist publications valuing Ps.1,100,000 have been delivered, an increase of 33% over January to June of last year.

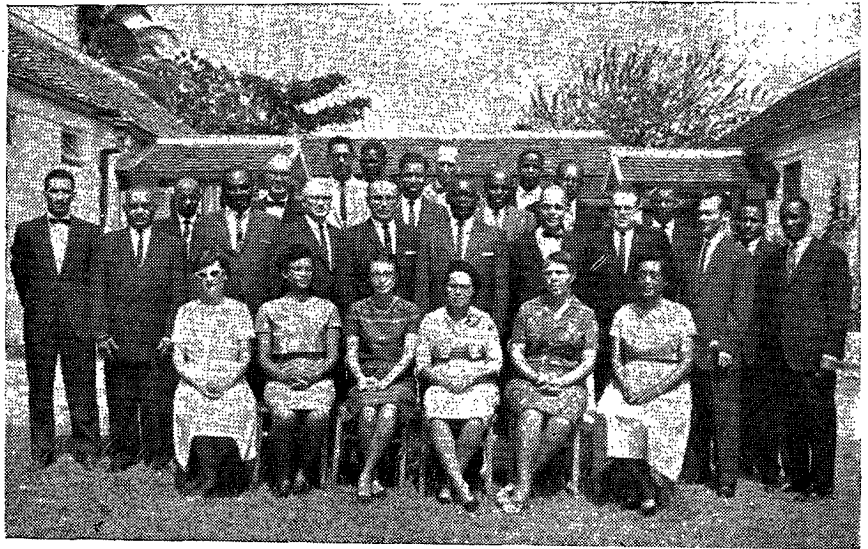
Certainly God has bared his powerful arm to perform great feats in the Colombia-Venezuela Union. We give thanks for God's many blessings, and we consecrate ourselves anew to Him and to His service.

—A. H. Riffel

West Indies

Council for Secretaries and Treasurers

One of the high lights in the West Indies Union during the second quarter was the council for secretaries and treasurers which convened



Delegates to the secretaries and treasurers council held in Jamaica.

at Richmond Hill Inn, Montego Bay, from April 21 to 23. It would be difficult to find a more suitable location than this site overlooking the city and harbour of Montego Bay. This was the second council of its kind, the first having been held at Silver Springs, Ocho Rios, eight years ago.

In attendance were all the administrators of the three Jamaica Conference, the Bahamas Mission, the Cayman Islands Mission, West Indies College, Andrews Memorial Hospital, and representatives from Kingsway and Harrison Memorial High Schools. We were favoured in having R. J. Radcliffe, of the General Conference auditing department, and C. L. Powers and R. B. Caldwell, president and assistant treasurer of the Inter-American Division respectively, who gave valuable counsel.

W. U. Campbell, V. T. Boyce, and M. G. Nembhard led out in the discussions on policies pertaining to our conferences, missions, and institutions. Various workers were invited to present assigned topics. This council was well timed, and all returned to their respective fields with renewed determination to do more efficient work in the Master's service.

—M. G. Nembhard

THE RUN-A-WAY STEWARD . . . (Continued from page 1)

It came to pass that a few weeks later, as the steward was again out in his fields, he saw that storm clouds were gathering. Soon the winds began to blow stronger and ever stronger. Too late he realised that this was no ordinary storm.

When the hurricane was past, the steward, bruised and bleeding, crept out from the remains of what had once been a house. As he looked around, he saw that his cattle were dead, his crops ruined, his coconuts gone. "What a fool I have been! I thought that I could enrich myself by holding back the Lord's portion. Now the wind has taken everything. I know what I will do. I will go back to the church. I will renew my vows. I will return to the Lord His portion of all that comes to my hands."

And he did!

"Faith and love are the true riches, the pure gold which the True Witness counsels the lukewarm to buy. . . . It makes the heart rich; for it has been purged until it is pure, and the more it is tested the more brilliant is its luster."

—TT, pp. 477,478.

Central America

News Items

► The Panama Conference reports that Albert Green, pastor of the Panama City Central church, won 55 souls during the first six months of 1963.

► Medical Student Frank McNeil is spending his vacation from Loma Linda University at the Nicaragua Adventist Hospital. Frank is the son of Elder Fred McNeil, who laid down his life while on business for his Lord, after many years of service in the Colombia-Venezuela Union.

► Efrain Murillo has baptised 72 souls as a result of his Spanish effort in Puerto Limon, Costa Rica. The work is growing so rapidly that the new church is already too small. The recently baptised members have purchased another lot in a new subdivision of town and are raising funds to start a second Spanish church in Limon.

► Camilo Avila, with his wife and two children, have arrived in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where he is assuming his new responsibility as treasurer of the Honduras Mission. W. H. Waller is the mission president.

► Emeterio Escobar has donated a church building, including its furniture and the lot on which the building is situated, to the Salvador Mission. This new house of worship will serve as another light in the Republic of El Salvador to guide sinners on the road to heaven.

► T. J. Harper, president of Colegio Vocacional de America Central, has returned to the college after studying for one year at the University of Colorado. Faculty and students gave the Harpers a hearty welcome on their return.

► During the month of May another successful VBS venture was held in Belize, British Honduras. Under the direction of Mrs. S. F. Clarke, the school attracted an attendance of 123 children, many of them non-Adventists. Mrs. Frank Skoretz and Clara Ferrera assisted.

At the interesting graduation programme Mrs. Ferrera introduced the Bible correspondence course, and 15 of the visitos accepted an invitation to enroll on one of them.

► Whenever the programme "Your

Radio Doctor" is being aired, one can hear it coming from the majority of homes in Belize, British Honduras. A group of Alcoholics Anonymous heard the two programmes on alcoholism and liked them so well that they requested that the programmes be repeated at one of their meetings. Victor Ferrera took a tape recorder to the place where their meetings were held. So pleased were they with the programme that they asked Mr. Ferrera to return and bring some along to lecture. Although this group is particular about the people who visit them, they are glad to have help from the Adventists.

—L. L. Reile

DOMINICAN MISSION . . .

(Continued from page 7)

100 baptisms. Ramon Salcedo has baptised 119, and Angel Gomez, 103, thus becoming the first ministers in the Antillian Union to baptise 100 souls this year.

We are certain that, with the Lord's blessing, the coming biennial period will be the very best in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist church in the Dominican Republic. We ask an interest in your prayers that the work may continue to go forward in this land that Columbus loved best.

ADVENTIST TRUTH . . .

(Continued from page 2)

congratulate them. Mrs. Carmen Portillo gave the men a beautiful Bible each as a memorial of the most important day in their lives.

As they were making preparations to leave, the men asked that the handcuffs be replaced so that they could return to the prison. The guards replied that that would not be necessary, for were not these prisoners indeed new creatures no longer in need of chains to secure them? At the prison the colonel met and congratulated them.

Thus the San Salvador church saw how the doors of the prison open to those "feet that bring good tidings, that publish peace." They saw the fulfillment of the promise, "I will go before thee . . . I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron" (Isaiah 45:2).

Still there is much to be done in that penal centre. There are others who are interested and who will some day be members of our church. With the help of the Voice of



Four-year-old son of Teodoro and Francisca Valero, Rafael Valero shows how he became the youngest champion in the 1963 Ingathering campaign in the East Venezuela Mission.

Prophecy and the unselfish efforts of our missionary-minded laity the work will soon be finished there, and in all parts of this country will be heard the announcement of the imminent return of our beloved Saviour in glory.

—Reported by F. A. Arroyo



THE INTER-AMERICAN MESSENGER

SYLVIA POWERS.....Editor
DAVID H. BAASCH.....Associate Editor

UNION CORRESPONDENTS

Antillian Union.....Lillian Norcliffe
Caribbean Union.....K. W. Whitney
Central American Union.....Ella Santa Cruz
Colombia-Venezuela Union.....A. H. Riffel
Franco-Haitian Union.....S. F. Monnier
Mexican Union.....R. F. Williams
West Indies Union.....Mrs. W. A. Holgate

Published monthly as the Official Organ of the Inter-American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Box 760, Coral Gables, Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

Price: \$1.00 a year.

Printed by the College Press, Caribbean Union College, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, W.I.

All communications relating to editorial and circulation matters should be addressed to "The Messenger", Box 760, Coral Gables, Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

☆ All articles bearing the credit line "Review and Herald" are reprinted from the Review and Herald, the general church paper of the Seventh-day Adventists.



These four workers, left to right: Angel Gomez, Joel Gomez, Americo Ciuffardi, and Dionisio Christian, were dedicated to the gospel ministry on Sabbath, August 3, in the Dominican Conference. After the service Pastors Angel Gomez and Dionisio Christian accepted calls to work in the Central American Union.

DISPLACED CHRISTIANS . . .

(Continued from page 6)

be accompanied with the malady of an obstinate spirit. It may then necessitate the persuasive counsel of several experienced church leaders. The most devoted may become deceived in his reasoning; neither does experience or age shield a saint from self-deception.

Forget the Lapse

When the brother or sister who has become the object of Satan's thrust on doctrinal confusion sincerely recognises his dangerous course, then let those who are sound in the faith refrain from referring to this unfortunate lapse. Elements of skepticism hover close to those of faith. In church fellowship each is to receive new courage and strength from the other members. The church acts as a unit; divisions of opinion and disharmony on points of doctrine merely indicate that the sanctifying work must continue. But weak and defective as the church may be, she is still the object of God's supreme love.

The church of Christ has been aptly compared to a ship meeting the lashes of a severe storm. We do well here to reread Acts, chapter 27. The angel of God had revealed to Paul how the storm-tossed passengers could be safe. They were to believe God and act under His commands. Paul's counsel received from the angel was for all to stay in the ship: "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." No member of the crew was to act independently. Thus, acting in unison, each doing his part to save himself, his brother, and the ship, all came safely to shore.

When eventually the old ship Zion sails into port because the church's mission is accomplished, then, using this analogy of Paul's shipwreck, it may be said of the redeemed, "That they escaped all safe to land." We have been especially counseled to learn the lessons for which this inspiring chapter was included in the Bible. Brother and sister, it will soon be heaven at last! Hold fast to the truth. Hold fast in unity of spirit. Make certain that you take your position on the ship, so you will not be among the displaced. Cherish the fellowship of the saved.

—Review and Herald

News Brevities . . .

► On Sabbath, August 10, Roy E. Perrin, president of the Franco-Haitian Seminary, and Nahum Dorval, minister in the South Haiti Mission, were ordained to the gospel ministry in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

► Salvador Monzon, district leader,

and Leopoldo Blanco, a faithful lay member, are building a church in Liberia, Costa Rica. Brother Blanco has had some outstanding evidences of God's blessings on his crops, as he dedicated portions to the Lord's work. The proceeds are used in the building of the church.

► O. D. Anderson, M.D., an Adventist physician of Miami, Florida, dedicated the week of August 4 to 11 to attending the regional meetings held in Cape Haitian and Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Dr. Anderson's health lectures and personal interviews were greatly appreciated by both the workers and laity in the two Haiti missions.

► Francisco Arroyo, president of the Salvador Mission, has written that they are now starting the third Seventh-day Adventist church in the city of San Salvador. One of the members has donated land for this project, and the members are raising funds to construct the building.

► The Eben-Ezer church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, has been the scene of great activity recently. Twenty teachers, under the general leadership of Gabriel Desvarieux, have been directing 250 enthusiastic children in a Vacation Bible School.

4,728 Baptisms Durnig 2nd Quarter, 1963

Four Thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight individuals chose to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Inter-America during the second quarter of 1963. Never have so many joined our church in the second quarter of the year. This, added to a record-breaking first quarter, has given us 8,122 new members by baptism during 1963. Our total membership is now 167,064. We thank the Lord for these wonderful blessings, but humbly ask for even greater victories in the future.

—David H. Baasch