



THE INTER-AMERICAN MESSENGER

Always Working To Win Souls

By RAY L. JACOBS

President, Franco-Haitian Union Mission of SDA

"AND HOW long have you been holding this lay effort?" we asked the speaker who had just presented the subject of the second coming of Christ in a clear and forceful way.

"Four years," he answered as a smile covered his face.

"Four years!" I exclaimed, fearful lest my meager knowledge of French was showing up. But it was four years. This faithful member had held more than two hundred meetings in that little "court" and with his associates was still "going strong".

I had felt impressed to visit some of our members around the Bethel church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where I was soon to hold some meetings. Not knowing where any Adventists lived in that area, I had gone to the church. It was closed, but there were two juniors beside the building who gladly agreed to take me to the home of one of the members.

When we arrived, I was warmly greeted by two of the laymen. Looking through the open patio door I was surprised to see a group of people seated on simple benches facing a little table behind which was the lay preacher, ready to begin his meeting.

As the service proceeded a group of members moved about quietly, bringing in more visitors, seeing that they were comfortably seated. It appeared that they were literally fulfilling the Scripture by going out into the "highways and hedges," compelling them to come in. Two men were shown a place with their arms loaded



In Haiti numerous laymen like the one pictured above hold continuous branch Sabbath schools and Bible studies in their search for souls.

with trousers they were evidently delivering. A woman was brought in with purchases she had made at the market, and a young man apparently returning from the soccer game across the street was brought in. A few did not remain long, but surely none went away without having had impressed upon his mind the thought that Jesus is soon coming to save those who "love his appearing".

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Evangelism

Hundreds Witness First Baptism in Panama City, Panama

DESPITE the political anxiety over the approaching presidential elections in the City of Panama, on Sunday morning, May 3, hundreds gathered on the banks of the Juan Diaz River to witness the baptism of 70 new believers who thus sealed their pact with Jesus. These constitute the first fruits of the Christ Is the Answer evangelistic effort conducted by Owen U. Holness, the conference evangelist, and assisted by Lance Shand and Albert R. Green, his co-workers.

Of the scores now being visited and prepared for membership with the remnant church, another group of 25 or more will be baptised on June 7. More baptisms will follow.

From the encouraging response to day-to-day visitation and the increasing attendance at the Bible classes, there is a firm conviction that we will reap a rich harvest of souls from this campaign.

—Albert R. Green
Pastor, Panama Central Church



The group of ministers who took part in the first baptism of the Panama English Big Tent effort. From left to right: the conference evangelist, Owen Holness; Lance Shand, associate evangelist; Fulton Archbold, departmental secretary; Glen Maxson, conference president; Dionisio Christian, departmental secretary; and the district pastor, Flavio Villareal.

From Here and There . . .

► Victoria Avila is the first Cuna Indian woman to be baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She with five other San Blas Indian youths are the first fruits from Playon Chico. Victoria and four others are now attending our boarding school.

► H. E. Nembhard, president of the East Jamaica Conference, writes that the Penwood evangelistic campaign held in Kingston, Jamaica, is coming to a close. The first baptism added 86 members to the church, and on June 20 another 40 or 50 taking this important step. This new group will also be organised into a church at that time, bringing the total to 12 organised churches in the city of Kingston.

► Soon to begin are major evangelistic efforts in Mexico City, Mexico, and in Bogota, Colombia. Carlos Aeschlimann, son of Alfredo Aeschlimann and an evangelist of the South

American Division, is to head the crusade and training programme for workers in Mexico City. Hector Pereyra, editor of *El Centinela*, will be the evangelist in the Bogota campaign.

► Harold Bohr, president of the East Venezuela Mission, reports that he, Glenn Henriksen, and Othir Carrera made a trip to the Gran Sabana to visit the Maurak Indian church members. Besides holding revival meetings and treating the sick, they baptised 24 new believers, celebrated 16 marriages, prayed God's special blessing for 29 babies, and gave out 10 diplomas from the Department of Education to those who had finished courses of study.

"We are to be one with Christ as He is one with the Father, and the Father will love us as He loves His Son. We may have the same help that Christ had, we may have strength for every emergency; for God will be our front guard and our rearward."—E. G. White.



Victoria Avila

*A challenging point of view concerning
the standards of the church*

HEIGHTS

the

TOWARD

By **ARNOLD V. WALLENKAMPF**

IN SOME church circles today there is a tendency to minimise or ignore Christian standards because they are said to depict only externals or the minutiae of Christian experience. It is suggested that all that really matters is a correct spirit.

Today's liberals in Christendom declare that it was the emphasis on doctrines or on standards that ruined nascent, dynamic Christianity in the postapostolic period, and produced a sterile Christianity in the post-Reformation era. However, adherence to standards is no more stifling to a virile Christian experience than the skeleton is to the correct and intended functioning of the human body. Rather, standards may be cogent helpers toward the kingdom of God.

Several summers ago we visited Itasca State Park in northern Minnesota. In the centre of this park is a watchtower for fire spotters. Our children and I climbed the nearly 150 steps to the highest platform open to the public. As we rested and looked out over the apparently endless pine forests interspersed by crystal-clear lakes, the danger of falling from the tower occurred to me. In the next instant I thought with gratefulness of the railing against which we were leaning.

Likewise Christians are grateful for standards that God has established

as guides in right doing, and a fence of protection around them. Therefore, "if any part of God's Word condemns any habit you have cherished, any feeling you have indulged, any spirit you have manifested, turn not from the Word of God; but turn away from the evil of your doings, and let Jesus cleanse and sanctify your heart."—*My Life Today*, p. 22.

Minimum Requirements

Standards, however, express only minimum requirements. They merely outlaw unacceptable conduct or performance, or define the lowest acceptable level of achievement or behaviour. They never prohibit greater excellency or perfection.

In the School of Medicine at Loma Linda University, for instance, a student must not drop below a grade of B in more than half of the subject hours enrolled. This is the bottom level for promotion. This does not prohibit a student, of course, from earning higher grades—even A in every subject. The standard sets forth the minimum requirements for promotion below which a student must not fall.

The same is true in almost every area of life and also in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The standards adopted and maintained by the church denote the minimum level of performance for acceptance into, or for remaining a member of, the church. These standards aim at lifting us out of, or preventing us from falling into, moral and spiritual degeneracy. However, they do not forbid us from doing more than the standards require or specify.

Actually, how virtuous are we if we do only what is required? Slaves are compelled to comply with requirements; it is the second mile or the optional addition that makes us truly free. Any respectable citizen does what the state requires of him; any honourable man pays his taxes and debts.

In the matter of food a candidate in order to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church vows to abstain from unclean flesh foods as defined in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. An Adventist may eat the flesh of clean animals all the days of his life and remain in "good and regular standing" in the church. But the Adventist ideal in this respect is a meatless diet in conformity with God's original dietary for man. When creation has been restored to its original sin-free condition and we have been redeemed from this world of sin we shall follow this pattern throughout eternity.

We are now habituating ourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God to live such lives. To this end we have received special instruction on this point for these last days, namely, that "among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet."—*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, pp. 380, 381.

As born-again Christians with new hearts or minds we rejoice when clearer revelations of God's truths are given to us. We are eager to discover higher standards of Christian living, because we delight to come into ever closer conformity to God's will which we volitionally choose to follow.

The Christian's experience is analogous to that of a successful, progressive physician. When this doctor graduated from medical school years ago he was not privileged to learn

all the techniques known to medical science today, nor did he become acquainted with the new miracle drugs available to the modern medical practitioner. But as new techniques and medicines are brought to his attention through a medical journal, a refresher course, or a medical convention, he eagerly incorporates them into his practice. This willingness to accept better methods and improved techniques indicates that his attitude and motives are correct. On the other hand, a failure to utilize these improved methods because they were not taught him when he took his medical training would be an indictment of his motive.

Likewise the sincere Christian welcomes God's unfolding will. To him the wise man's promise will become a reality: "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Prov. 4:18).

Seek More Knowledge

Our prayer that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven will be accompanied by an incessant seeking for the knowledge of His will. "Much as we may know, and much as we may do, there may be large fields of obedience where we have not taken a single step. The great essentials, of course, if we be Christians at all, we cannot be ignorant of, but it is quite possible to know them, yet be ignorant of other things God would also have us know."—*Pulpit Commentary*, Numbers, p. 189.

Thus we must not measure ourselves by the attainments and opinions of other members of the church. It is no business of ours to judge them so long as they abide by the standards of the church. But what satisfies them should not necessarily satisfy us. As followers of our Lord Jesus we should not rest satisfied merely because we do not break the minimum standards of the church. God has higher aims with respect to His people.

"Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—Godlikeness—is the goal to be reached."—*Education*, p. 18. The standards only outlaw lower attainments; they are not prohibitions against greater personal conformity to God's will. New light from God is not to be looked upon as a

burden but as an aid to lead us onward and upward to the heights, helping us to become more like our Pattern. Jesus opens up before us as His children new vistas of moral excellency. Thus in the Sermon on the Mount He did not ask what His followers believed, but inquired, instead, "What do ye more than others?" (Matt. 5:47).

We are usually circumspect in our conduct when the eyes of men are upon us, in order to safeguard our reputation, but what we do when no human eye can see us may be

more significant, for what we do then reveals our character. It has been said that character is like a rifle; it cannot shoot higher than it is aimed; and Geike said: "Our character is but the stamp on our souls of the free choices of good and evil we have made through life." "A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 332.

The apostle Paul in writing to the Philippian church, said: "But we

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More important than a clean house is

A Clean Heart

By ARDIS J. KRAMER

WHEN we had our living room carpeted we also put a fresh coat of light-coloured paint on the walls. Sitting back to enjoy the effect, I was startled to note how dirty my furniture was in its newly cleaned surroundings. Somehow the dirt hadn't been so evident against our old, rather dark and soiled paint.

It seemed to me that I must clean that furniture immediately, not even waiting for a few days, but circumstances necessitated some delay in my work. Whenever friends stopped by to see the results of our decorating, I felt certain that the first thing they would notice was the soiled backs and arms of my chairs. As the days passed, however, I found that I scarcely noticed the dirty furniture. I had become accustomed to it.

After a few weeks I resumed my "spring cleaning," and my furniture came in for its share of attention; but as I worked I couldn't help thinking how like sin that dirty furniture was! When I first awakened to the fact that I had allowed "dirt" to creep into my living room, I was somewhat shocked and very conscious of it. Then I found that I wasn't noticing it so much any more; and before I really got at the task of removing it, my consciousness no longer even registered it when I sat in my living room.

Everyone knows that a persistently harboured sin ceases to hurt the conscience after a time. In *Testimonies*, volume 4, page 146, Ellen G. White corroborated this general knowledge by saying: "That which looked very wrong to them at first, gradually loses this appearance by being constantly before them, till finally they question whether it is really sin." It's alarming when we realise this, isn't it?

My routine spring cleaning got rid of the dirt in my home, of course, but, more important, it caused me to wonder whether a little "spring cleaning" perhaps was in order for my heart. Our daily devotions and weekly visits to Sabbath school and church really aren't sufficient. They are the equivalent of the regular daily and weekly cleanups in a home. It takes a little special time set aside for soul searching to reveal the sins in our life to which we have become accustomed. Let us not overlook our need for a real "spring cleaning."

In the words of Alexander Pope, "*Vice is a monster of so frightful mien, That to be hated needs but to be seen; Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face, We first endure, then pity, then embrace.*"

—Review and Herald

M E S S E N G E R

The Adventist Home

Parents should share the responsibilities involved in

BUILDING A HOME

By W. JOHN CANNON

SUCCESS in marriage depends to a great extent on the factors that go into the marriage—the kind of people who become husband and wife, their respect for one another, their plans, hopes, religion, et cetera. However, the organization and structure of the home also is important. Home is a relationship, an experience. Such experience is the cumulative work of a lifetime. It makes us what we are.

Marriage is not a severance with the past and the beginning of an entirely new life. Two people are not suddenly changed by a miracle at the marriage ceremony. We bring to marriage our strong qualities and our weaknesses. True love will be patient with the faults of the spouse, and will continue to admire the qualities that kindled love's flame in the beginning.

Organization of the home necessitates a division of responsibilities. In many homes there is no clear division along this line. Both husband and wife follow an occupation so they may be able to meet their financial obligations. Both come home exhausted to face the evening household chores. No one is sure who should care for the children—if they are cared for at all.

There is often a heavy price to pay for this state of affairs. Children feel neglected and are often undisciplined. Leaving children unsupervised for several hours each day, without either parent at home, frequently gives rise to emotional problems and possible delinquency.

Husband's Role

What is the ideal role of the husband? By tradition he is the breadwinner for the family. It would seem that Paul had this in mind when he said, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (I Tim. 5:8). An essential part of

the responsibilities of the husband is to provide and protect.

This same responsibility calls for consideration on the part of the husband. He is to give aid and understanding sympathy. "Many a husband and father might learn a helpful lesson from the carefulness of the faithful shepherd. Jacob, when urged to undertake a rapid and difficult journey, made answer: 'The children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me; and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die. . . . I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me, and the children be able to endure.'"—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 374.

The husband should have time for his family. Says God's messenger: "Leave your business cares and perplexities and annoyances when you leave your business. Come to your family with a cheerful countenance, with sympathy, tenderness, and love. This will be better than expending money for medicines or physicians for your wife. It will be health to the body and strength to the soul."—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 695.

Not only should the husband be a helpful influence when he comes home, he should spend sufficient time at home. There can be no justifiable reason why a husband and father should be continuously absent. What shall such a father say when the great Judge of all the earth asks, "Where is thy flock, thy beautiful flock?"

The husband and father carries serious spiritual responsibilities. He is to be priest of the household. He is held accountable to God for the religious exercises of the home. He should see that morning and evening worship are conducted. A family that gathers around the family altar morning and evening will have the presence and peace of heaven in

their hearts. Love for God is the only secure basis for true love in the home. In the organization of the home, time for worship is a must if the marriage is to be truly successful.

Yes, there should be time for worship. This is more than the saying of prayers or the hurried reading of a few verses. There must be time for communion with God. Church attendance and participation will go along with this.

The picture of the husband and father as head of the home organization is not one of autocratic leader, but rather that of a shepherd, who cares for, understands, and loves his flock. This is the kind of role that Jesus resumes toward His people.

The Wife's Responsibilities

Now what of the wife? To get a true picture of this relationship we need to go back to the beginning of things. God created man. "And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18). Lamsa's translation for the Peshitta say, "I will make him a helper like him." Created from a rib from man's side, woman was to be a companion, a helper, one who would be at his side; she was to him bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh (verse 23).

In the home organization the wife is to have her responsibilities. She bears and cares for the children. The care of the home also is primarily her responsibility. When these tasks are well done they constitute a full-time occupation.

When the wife and mother resigns her place as queen of the home, something happens to the children and the family. Children lack the care and love that are rightfully theirs. Much of the emotional imbalance in children today can be traced to homes bereft of both parents for a large part of the day. Perhaps much of juvenile de-

linquency finds its first cause here. If this is true to any extent whatsoever, then whatever economic advantage may be gained, the price is far too high to pay. Our children's welfare is much more important than a few dollars of extra income.

Furthermore, the home itself is endangered. When husband and wife return to a house where the chores start with the evening meal, and both are tired out and yet have to work far into the evening getting ready for the next day, is it any wonder that frayed nerves give rise to irritable words? Could this be one cause of the alarming divorce rate? If it is, again it is too high a price to pay for a temporary economic advantage.

In a book written by Judge Louis H. Burke, and others, *With This Ring*, appears a typical reconciliation agreement used in the Supreme Court of Los Angeles. In this agreement are these words: "Successful marriages are those in which husband and wife plan together, work, play and laugh together, and suffer, sacrifice and pray together."

How can a husband and wife play and laugh together when most of their time together is taken up by work or home chores? The part of the day that should be the most delightful of all, the evening hour, when the family enjoys its fellowship, is destroyed by busyness in tasks that should have been the wife's work during the day. The strains and stresses increase under heavy pressures. Fellowship, sharing, and recreation are lost in the task of making a living. This matter is worthy of considerable study and prayerful thought.

Something should be said about the power of words. So often words slip out, in an unguarded moment, that wound deeply the ones we love. Cross words sometimes are the result of frustrations in our dealings with others. We are so eager to be well thought of by our professional associates that we repress our true feelings and transfer the anger to our loved ones on some petty pretext. At other times we expect too much of the partner. Whatever the reason, beware of barbed clichés such as, "I told you so"; "You're always doing that!" "Mother (or father) never did it this way"; or "How dumb can you be?" "Look before you leap" is good advice, but "Think before you speak" is even better.

Confidences Should Be Confidential

In building a home there is another area worthy of consideration. It is the area of trust and respect each for the other. There are certain privacies that could and should be reserved. For example, both husband and wife should have a small amount of pin money, mutually agreed upon. This may seem unimportant, but this will make possible the joy of planning and executing an occasional surprise for the other—a gift, party, et cetera.

Each partner should decide that when difficulties arise he will never discuss the problems with a third party, particularly if that party is of the opposite sex. We have instruction on this point:

"There is a sacred circle around every family which should be preserved. No other one has any right

The Lamp of Life That Now I Hold

The lamp of life that now I hold

Must never shine on me,

But light Thy tender face divine

And draw all men to see

Thy heavenly, Thy saving, grace—

Love that shall endless be.

O Father, grant I hold the lamp

That all may see but Thee!

in that sacred circle. The husband and wife should be all to each other. The wife should have no secrets to keep from her husband and let others know, and the husband should have no secrets to keep from his wife to relate to others. The heart of his wife should be the grave for the faults of the husband, and the heart of the husband the grave for his wife's fault." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 77.

There are two dangers in sharing home confidences with others. The first is that "the eternal triangle" may be formed, if the confidant(e) is of the opposite sex. How much unhappiness and misery has resulted from broken family confidence! Re-

member your sacred vow, "forsaking all other." If you will refuse to take the first step, the last fateful one will never be taken.

The second danger in sharing home confidences is that the problem of righting the wrong is infinitely greater when a third party is involved. And the difficulty increases as the confidence is repeated until it becomes public property and is inflated beyond recognition. Guard well your family confidences. When deep emotional problems are involved, seek professional advice. Go together if possible.

One other matter should be mentioned. This is the relation of both parents toward the children. The child has a right to expect of his parents (1) love that is shown by active interest, (2) harmony between parents, (3) a good example, (4) justice, (5) a home that is much more than a house, (6) a sense of security.

The family is the foundation of society. It is the keystone of the church and society.

"The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are 'the issues of life' (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. . . The success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 349.

In these days when Satan is all too successful in his attacks on the home, let us determine that with prayerful effort and divine help we shall do all within our power to make our home a place where angels will delight to dwell.

—Review and Herald

Family worship should not be governed by circumstances. You are not to pray occasionally, and when you have a large day's work, neglect it. In thus doing you lead your children to look upon prayer as of no special consequence. Prayer means very much to the children of God, and thank offerings should come up before God morning and evening.—MS 12, 1898

With the Departments

Educational

ICOLVEN, A City of Refuge

By **GILBERTO BUSTAMANTE**
President, Colombia-Venezuela Union College

DESPITE recent financial reverses in both Venezuela and Curacao, which resulted in many less scholarships for student colporteurs during the vacation period, and notwithstanding the upgrading of sister Adventist schools in our union, 305 enthusiastic students matriculated for the 1964 school year at Colombia-Venezuela Union College in Medellin, Colombia. Once again we reached our goal of "Always more; never less." This enrollment surpasses last year's high of 275 students, and it does not include the 50 or more children in the primary school.

Our students hail from the seven different missions of the Colombia-Venezuela Union and from ten different countries, including Germany, Italy, Portugal, Poland, Yugoslavia,

and Lebanon. Although the majority of them belong to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, there are also those who follow the teachings of the Baptist, Presbyterian, Evangelical, and Hindu religions.

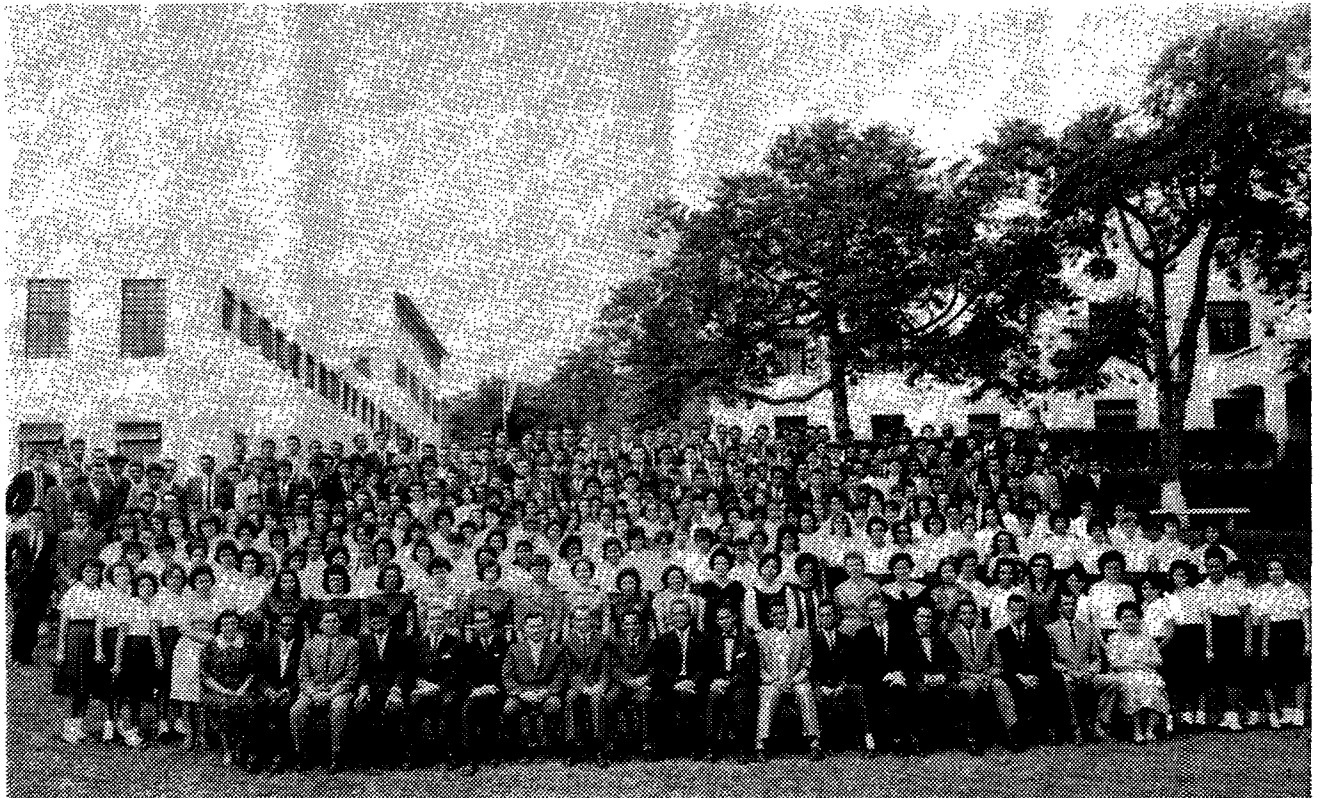
Thirty-three students hope to finish their "bachillerato"—college preparatory—course this year, and 21 others, the junior college courses in ministerial training, normal, secretarial, and commercial fields.

For the first time in many years we began the 1964 school year with a complete faculty, 29 strong! They, too, are a cosmopolitan group and include J. W. Zackrison, Virgil Fryling, and Eduardo Weiss from the United States, Mrs. Ruth Riffel of Argentina, M. P. Buonfiglio from Italy, Carmen Monzon from Cuba, and Laurel Marr from Jamaica, giving a valuable

leadership to the departments of ministerial training, music, history, normal training, mathematics, and Spanish. However, the main force of this strong group comes with the efficient well-trained Colombian teachers who are dedicating their talents to the training of our youth for service. Filling key positions are R. H. Maury, business manager; Guillermo Sierra, registrar; E. Gomez and Laurel Marr, deans; and Mrs. Amanda Larrazabal, food director.

For all these blessings we raise our voice in gratitude to God and pray that He will continue to bless this school as He has done in the past.

Through the MESSENGER we wish to send greetings and Christian love to all who have been connected with Icolven in former years.



Seated on the front row and standing in the second row are the teachers and staff of Colombia-Venezuela Union College. Standing behind them is the present student body.

A GOOD REPORT

THE BIBLE says, "A good report maketh the bones fat." We have a good report for you concerning branch Sabbath schools. We have just compiled the first quarter's Sabbath school report. What a good one! More than 3,000—yes, 3,000—NEW branch Sabbath schools were started during the first quarter of 1964. That is more than we had in our total two years ago. Surely we are living in the day of God's power, when He is making bare His arm.

Reports like the following come in right along:

"In the Cayman Islands a little church of 11 members has set a goal of 16."

Edwin Hyatt, Central Jamaica's Sabbath school leader, states, "There are ten churches that have qualified for the certificate award for operating one branch school to a class. Three churches qualify for the rose star of two branch schools per class. Spanish Town church has 25 classes and 70 branch schools."

"Ten new branch schools were recently organised in the Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, No. 2 church."

"Three hundred seventy-seven new branch schools were organised in the Dominican conference during the first quarter."

"The Harry Watch church in Jamaica has 70 members and now reports 26 branch Sabbath schools."

Brethren, do you hear the sound in the mulberry trees? Are you keeping pace with the onward programme of God? Come with us and we will do thee good. What a wonderful day when we can report that 5,000 new branch Sabbath schools were started in one quarter! My Brother, my Sister, if you will start yours this week, this will become a reality.

—Feron Retzer

► During 1964 more than 530 student colporteurs have scattered out to every corner of Inter-America selling our truth-filled literature.

► The affiliation of Antillian College with Union College has been approved by the Inter-American Division and the Union College Board.

► Seventy-four students graduated from Montemorelos Vocational and Professional College the weekend of May 30. Of this number five completed the ministerial course; 11, nurse's training; 20, the normal course; 20 received their "Bachillerato"; four completed the commercial course; and 14, their secondary training. This group of normal graduates is the first to graduate with government certification.

► On June 6, fifteen students received diplomas from the Adventist Seminary in Cuba. Five of this class finished ministerial training; two, business administration; three, the Bible worker's course; and five, secretarial training.

ALWAYS WORKING . . .

(Continued from page 1)

When I told the mission president of my visit, he said, "Yes, in every church there are a faithful few who work constantly, year in and year out, to give this Truth. They never stop. Rain or shine, heat or cold, they are always working to win souls."

Then a faraway, troubled look came into his eyes, and there was a moment of silence. I knew what he was thinking even before he expressed his wish—his prayer—that somehow that same spirit might pervade every single member in the church.

How soon the world would be warned if all the believers would begin active work, and then would just keep on keeping on! Sporadic efforts begun and abandoned before fruit is borne to little if any good. Whether it is a literature distribution campaign or a branch Sabbath school, a sunshine band or a lay effort, or any other kind of soul-winning effort, it should be continued until the job

is done and interested souls are brought into God's remnant church.

Four years seem like a long time for one lay effort. But there were more than 30 adults present that Sabbath afternoon, listening to the greatest message ever offered to this world. What if every Sabbath school class in that one church had been out holding a similar effort! Then 300, instead of 30, would have heard the Good News. And if every class in the city of Port-au-Prince had been doing its part, five thousand could have listened to the gospel story, and who knows if we might not even this year see the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).

TOWARD THE HEIGHTS

(Continued from page 4)

are a colony of heaven, and we wait for the Saviour who comes from heaven" (Phil. 3:20, Moffatt). The apostle is here using the figure of a common Roman practice. When Rome added a new province to the empire it often set about Romanising the community immediately. In doing this the Romans sometimes built a typical Roman city and settled their citizens in it. Thus a Roman colony was formed. The purpose of the colony in a barbarian or non-Roman province was for the dissemination of Roman customs and finally the saturation of the whole country with Roman ideals, thus serving as a leavening or Romanising influence in this new region. For this purpose thousands of Romans were living on the fingers of the Roman Empire, or outside it, while doing a service for their country.

These people appreciated the privileges and the hospitality they enjoyed in these other countries, but still most of these settlers remembered they were Roman citizens and that they did not really belong in their present home or environment. Many of them looked with longing anticipation for the day when they would be able to return home to their former domiciles within the Roman Empire.

Carrying out the analogy, we as Christians have a dual citizenship.

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Around the Unions

Central American

Almirante, Panama Church Dedicated

On the afternoon of April 26 the beautiful Almirante, Panama, church was dedicated to the worship of God. The members were host to four hundred fellow believers and friends who gathered for the opening of the church door. Standing room became scarce as all seats in the main sanctuary and the two Sabbath school side rooms were filled.

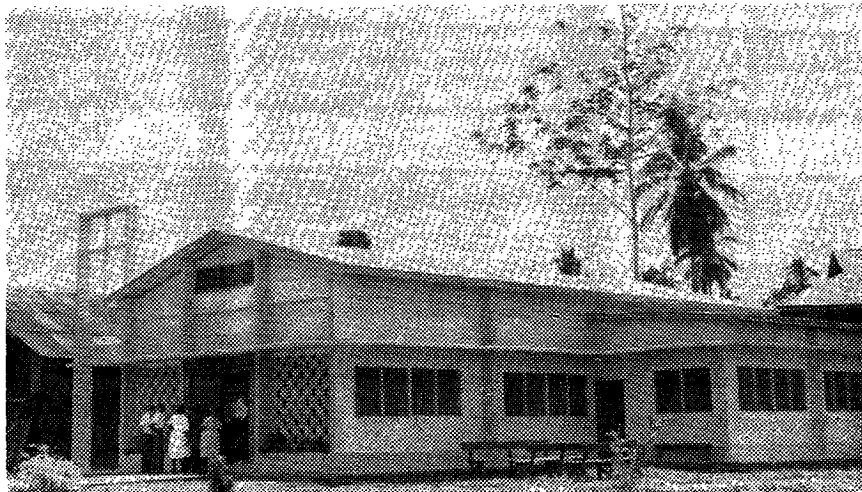
The church building is a simple but beautiful structure, an honour to the Lord. It is the most attractive building in town and is located only a few steps from the main street. The members of the church worked long and hard to bring the building to completion. Special recognition must be given to the members who gave not only free labour and money, but under the leadership of Sister Tharzarbell Biggs, the church treasurer, took time to prepare and present more than twenty fund-raising programmes, Winston Cunningham, the pastor, is an experienced builder, and he personally did much to finish the building.

It was a privilege to have two fellow protestant ministers on the rostrum for the dedication service. The history of the church and the consecration prayer were given by Elder Cunningham; the burning of the debt record was supervised by Rafael Irsula, the conference treasurer; the sermon was preached by the conference president, Glen E. Maxson; and Fulton Archbold, secretary of the department of lay activities, led out in the act of dedication.

In the evening a baptism of five candidates was a fitting first service for this newly dedicated church.

We thank God for a consecrated ministry, for hard-working church members, and for the sacrificial giving of all, both in the mission field and in the homeland!

—Glen E. Maxon



Pictured above is the new Almirante, Panama, Seventh-day Adventist church with W. D. Cunningham, the pastor opening the front door.

Caribbean

Itinerating in the Caribbean Union

During March and April, C. L. Powers and I spent four weeks travelling in the Caribbean Union. Beginning our trip in the U. S. Virgin Islands, we visited St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. Kitts, Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago. We spent one or two days in each place inspecting denominational properties, visiting schools, speaking in our churches, and wherever we went we observed signs of progress. It was an inspiration to witness the dedication and fervor of our believers and a pleasure to be associated with fellow workers.

Included in our itinerary was a 12-day trip to British Guiana. In the Georgetown area we participated in the dedication of three churches and a ground-breaking ceremony, besides meeting regular Sabbath appointments.

Later, accompanied by M. E. Nebblett, president of the British Guiana Mission, K. W. Whitney, secretary-treasurer of the Caribbean Union, and others, we spent several days visiting the Davis Indian district in the interior of the country. To reach the area we flew 200 miles over jungle, rivers, and mountains, landing at the mouth of the Kamarang, River. We then travelled by dugout to the small village of Kako on the Mazaruni River, where we dedicated a lovely new church.

Our next stop was at Paruima, several miles up the Kamarang, where we have a secondary boarding school for the Amerindian young people. We had meetings three or four times a day in the church, which is located at the village, a mile from the school.

Dr. O. J. Pogue, who accompanied us, held clinic each day for the sick. Since medical facilities in the area are almost nonexistent, the doctor's presence was much appreciated by the people.

On our return we stopped at the village of Waramadong, where we found a large number of faithful, energetic believers. Together we laid plans for a new school building. We hope that as a result of our visit among them, the young people received a new vision of training for service in the Lord's vineyard.

—J. G. Fulfer

Dedicated Members Make a Dream Come True

About a year ago the dream of a sacrificing people came true with the dedication of a representative church building on St. Vincent Island. For some 30 years the Richland Park church struggled as it grew from just three members, who had read Adventist literature and become convinced of the truth, to what is now a thriving church of more than 165 members, with an intermediate school of 136 students. In 1940 a small meeting place was built, but this was soon outgrown. The group was compelled to seek larger quarters.

With a meager start of \$1,000, these consecrated, self-sacrificing Seventh-day Adventists ventured forth by faith, putting their all into the cause. Little by little plans took form as hearts and purses were dedicated to repeated sacrificial giving. Today a beautiful structure costing well over \$20,000 tells the story of a joyful people blessed in their worship of the God they love and serve.

No pains were spared in making this church attractive on the outside and restful, cool, and worshipful on the inside. But this was not all. In their planning, the members gave thought to the needs of the children, and two ample classrooms were provided.

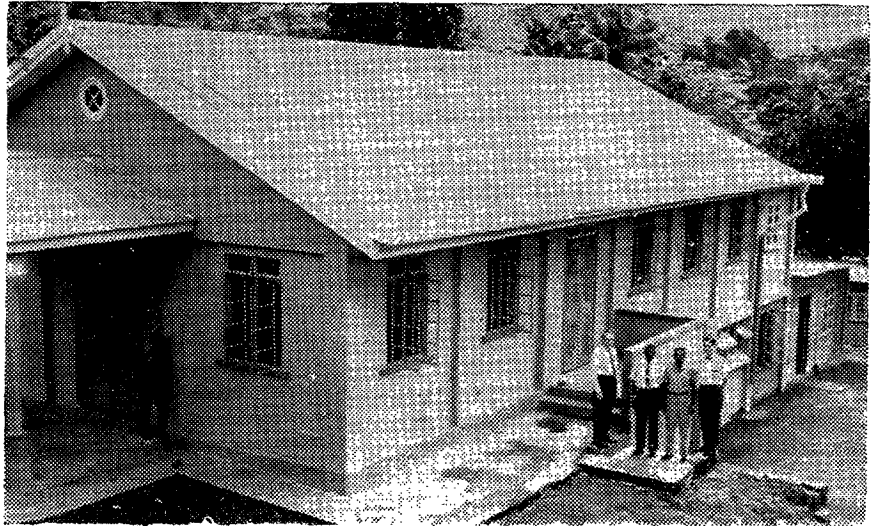
In 1962 all four of the secondary students who sat for the island's Government Cambridge Examination passed commendably. Last year just one student sat for this examination, and he obtained the highest grade possible. This year a former graduate will complete the ministerial course at Caribbean Union College.

The Lord has blessed this faithful church. Perhaps one feature worthy of notice is that this church has accepted and faithfully followed the second tithe plan. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless the members and give them an even greater vision of what can be done through dedicated human instruments.

—A. A. Ward

President, South Caribbean Conference

Those who are Christians in the home will be Christians in the church and in the world.—Signs, Feb., 17, 1904.



C. L. Powers and J. G. Fulfer standing at the side of the Richland Park church with Noel Bailey, the district pastor, and the local church elder.



Leaders Visit St. Vincent, Grenada and Tobago

Highlighting the visit of C. L. Powers and J. G. Fulfer on the picturesque island of St. Vincent was a service in the Kingstown Seventh-day Adventist church on March 22. This meeting was attended by representatives from each of the ten churches on the island.

Located in the heart of the city, the commodious Kingstown church has a seating capacity of 500. It and a smaller church about three miles away were acquired from another church organization some eight years ago, for a sum that could hardly have paid for the equipment.

An effective plan was adopted by the visiting brethren to bring a full message to our people. Both shared the hour and a half at their disposal. Elder Fulfer presented a heart-warming message dealing with the pioneers of the Advent Movement and their gift of loving sacrifice to make possible our heritage—the remnant church. The appeal for greater loyalty, devotion, and sacrifice was met by a spontaneous pledge of dedication.

Elder Powers told of the triumphs of the gospel in Inter-America. Though suffering and hardship have been the lot of many in politically unsettled countries, the marvels of God's blessing and protection stand out as unmistakable evidences of

providential overruling. His church moves on gathering greater momentum, capturing trophies from the enemy's camp.

Later in the itinerary this pair visited the islands of Grenada, known as the spice island of the West Indies, and Tobago, the land of the bird of paradise and a part of Independent Trinidad and Tobago.

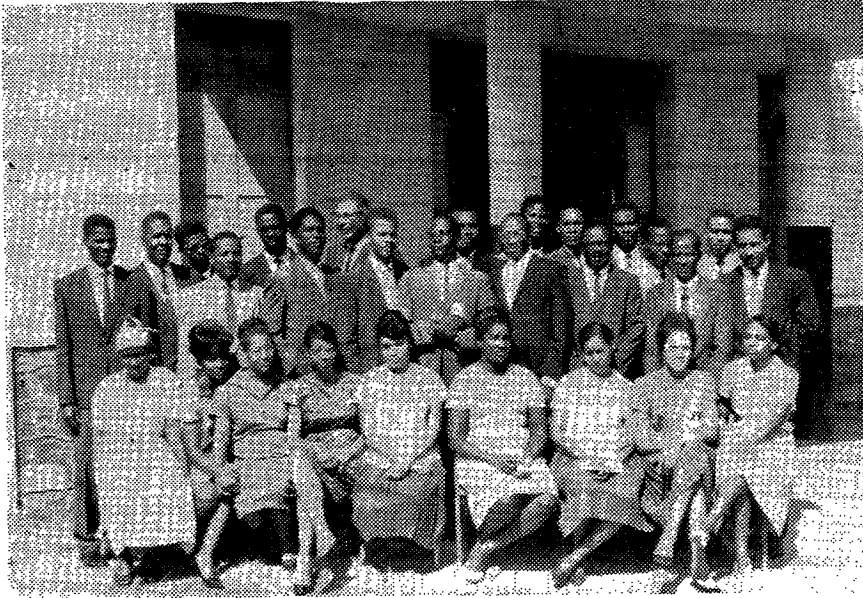
Nine years ago Grenada suffered a staggering blow from Hurricane Janet, and only last year Tobago was crushed by the might of Flora. Nevertheless, in Grenada we have ten churches with a membership of 1,500, and in Tobago 1,300 members meet in 15 church homes. Representatives from these churches filled the spacious meeting places arranged for the special services on these islands.

Although in each case the visit was short, a warm fellowship developed between these Godly visitors and our church members. With happy faces and a characteristic show of hands our believers asked that their greetings be sent to their fellow brethren wherever the division president might go in all of Inter-America.

Our people will long remember this visit, and the inspiration of it will surely result in greater faithfulness as our members prepare for the soon and inevitable end of all things.

—A. A. Ward

MESSENGER



Pictured to the left are the workers and office staff of the French West Indies Mission. Standing fourth, sixth, and ninth from the left are Pastors Depinay, Toussaint, and Erin.

West Indies

M. E. Weir Ordained to the Ministry

In the presence of a capacity crowd Meremouth E. Weir was set apart to the sacred ministry on Sabbath, April 18, at the North Street church. There was a full representation of ministers from the East Jamaica Conference and the West Indies Union.

The field was privileged to have B. L. Archbold, home missionary secretary of the Inter-American Division, present to preach the ordination sermon. Pastor Archbold stressed that the gospel minister is not an ordinary man; rather he is a representative of heaven, God's man.

Others who participated in the service were M. G. Nembhard, secretary of the West Indies Union, who gave the ordination prayer; W. U. Campbell, union president, who presented the charge; and H. E. Nembhard, president of the East Jamaica Conference, who welcomed the candidate to the ministry. E. J. Parchment presented Pastor Weir his ordination certificate.

—M. G. Nembhard

Franco-Haitian

Three Workers Ordained in French West Indies

On Sabbath afternoon, April 18, three workers of the French West Indies Mission were ordained to the gospel ministry. They were Maurice Depinay and Jerome Erin, pastors of large and growing districts in Martinique, and Eric Toussaint, lay activities secretary of the mission. Each has given many years of successful service in soul-winning work.

C. L. Powers, president of the Inter-American Division, presented the sermon, emphasizing the need not only for successful experience in teaching the Truth, but also for the living of consecrated lives. Matthieu Bermingham offered the consecration prayer and Yves Menal presented the charge, after which Ray L. Jacobs, president of the Franco-Haitian Union, and M. S. H. Perau, mission president, extended a hearty welcome to the new ministers.

The ordination service was conducted in the largest theater available in Fort-de-France in order to accommodate the large number of visitors. This service was truly a fitting climax to the workers' meeting which had been held during the three preceding days.

Mme. Marguerite Depinay

TOWARD THE HEIGHTS

(Continued from page 8)

We are citizens of the respective nations in which we live, but primarily we are citizens of the kingdom of God and strangers in this world. As such we choose to live by the laws or standards of God's kingdom even though these may appear strange to the people of this world, but "to have the religion of Christ means that you have absolutely surrendered your all to God, and consented to the guidance of the Holy Spirit."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 30.

The higher the Christian mounts on the ladder to heaven, "the more of the grace of God is revealed in his life, his sentiments, his principles. He is learning, ever learning the terms of his acceptance with God, and the only way to obtain an inheritance in the heavens is to become like Christ in character."—*Our High Calling*, p. 72. Therefore "we are not to lessen the distance between us and worldlings by coming to their standard, stepping down from the high path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in."—*Counsels on Health*, p. 280. Rather we are to habituate ourselves to living on the heights of heavenly society and to the glory of God, because we expect Jesus presently to come and take us to the mansions He is preparing for us.

—Review and Herald



THE INTER-AMERICAN MESSENGER

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BREVITIES . . .

► On May 13 the Central American Union office was moved from San Jose, Costa Rica, where the headquarters have been located since the organization of the union in 1926, to Guatemala City, Guatemala. Their new postal address is Apartado 770.

► The division MV, educational, and publishing advisory council met in Montemorelos, Mexico, May 25 to June 2. Among the visitors were E. E. Cossentine, educational secretary of the General Conference; J. H. Hancock, associate secretary of the General Conference MV Department; G. A. Huse, secretary of the publishing department of the General Conference; F. L. Baer, L. F. Bohner, and D. L. Olsen, of the Pacific Press; and R. G. Campbell, representing the Review and Herald Publishing Association. Their council and inspiration were greatly appreciated by all the delegates.

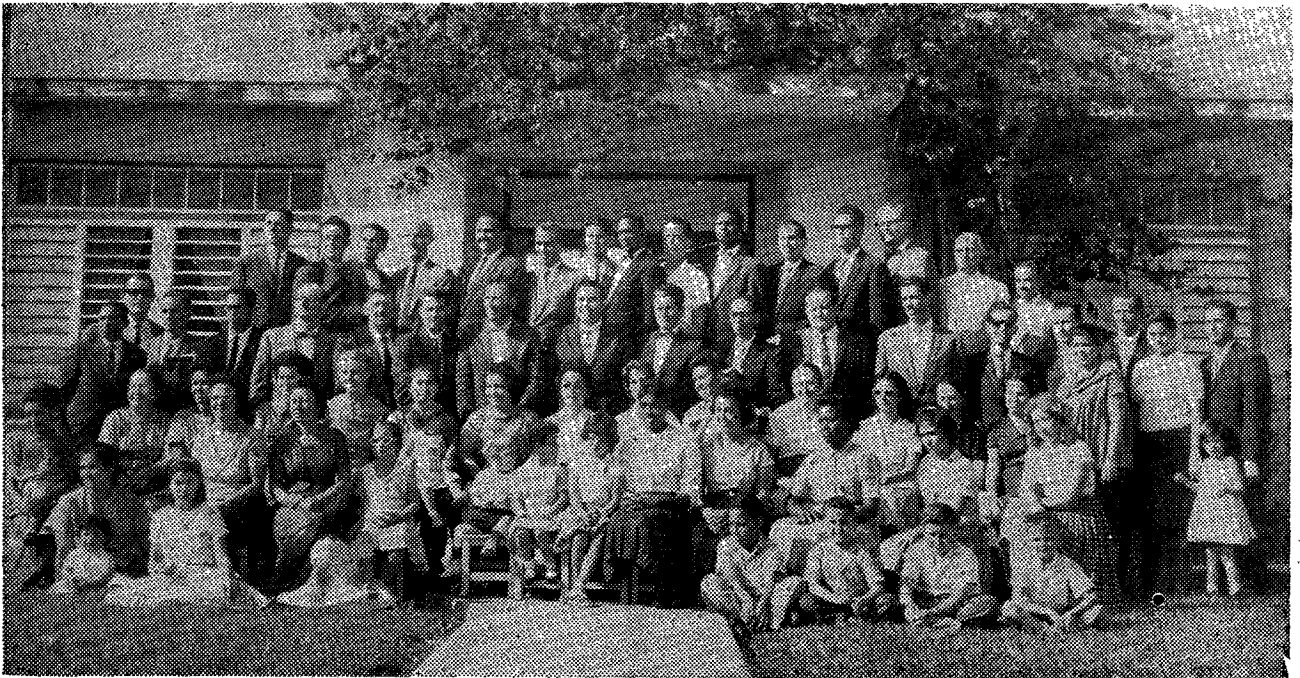
► The division Sabbath school department reports a grand accumulative total of 9,734 branch Sabbath schools at the end of the first quarter of 1964. The South Caribbean Conference reported the largest number of new schools during that time.



ORDINATION IN VENEZUELA

With the laying on of hands by the ministers gathered for the biennial session of the East Venezuela Mission in Caracas, Felix Belzares was set apart for the gospel ministry in the Central church on Friday evening, January 17, 1964. C. L. Powers, the division president, preached the ordination sermon; Rafael Fleitas, mission publishing secretary, offered the prayer; Andres Riffel, president of the Colombia-Venezuela Union, presented the charge; and Harold Bohr, president of the East Venezuela Mission, gave the welcome.

Pastor Belzares has given proof of his calling by his dedication to the winning of souls. He is a graduate of Colombia-Venezuela Union College.



From Cuba comes this picture of the workers and their families who gathered for the East Cuba Conference workers meeting which was held at the Adventist Seminary, in Santa Clara, November 26 to 28, 1963.