



"BE THOU PERFECT"*

BY T. J. MICHAEL

Very early in the Bible record God indicated to man just what standard of character He intended that His people should measure up to. To Abraham He said, "Walk before Me, and be thou perfect." Genesis 17:1. And in many other parts of the Holy Scriptures we learn that perfection, and nothing short of perfection, is God's standard for those who would seek after righteousness, and for those who desire to become indeed the sons and daughters of the Most High.

Sometimes we hesitate, lest some might become discouraged, rightly to emphasize the fact that God does require a very high standard of His children; and I have observed through the years, that our leaders oftentimes avoid speaking very much about this subject of perfection, lest we set the standard too high. I recognize that there are some points of difference of opinion in the study of a question like this; but I must say that I believe with all my heart that God's standard for us is a great deal higher than we are sometimes willing to admit. Have we not that beautiful statement as our authority for claiming a high standard,—"Higher than the highest human thought can reach, is God's ideal for His children"? (See *Education*, p. 18.) Brethren, let us keep our standard of Christian character always *high!* "Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached."—*Ibid.*

I wish to speak to you a little while this morning concerning the admonition that God has given in His word with reference to His standard of perfection for mankind.

In the instruction given to Abraham,

as referred to in our text, I believe that God would speak directly to our hearts, inviting us to walk before Him and to be perfect,—to walk continually in His ways, as though conscious that we are in the very presence of God. I believe that if we have that consciousness of being continually in the presence of God we would measure up to a much higher standard of perfection than we have yet attained.

Jesus Himself instructed His followers, in beautiful language, and by various illustrations, in the art of perfect living. More than that, He lived a life of perfection, as an example to all who should follow after Him. And it is from His divine lips that we have received those soul-stirring words: "Be ye therefore perfect." Not perfect in the eyes of men; not perfect before our families only; not perfect according to our own standards of righteous living. Oh, no! Yet all these things are included. Notice the closing part of this passage: "*Even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*" Matt. 5:48.

The apostle Paul also recognized perfection as an objective for the Christian to be continually striving toward. In 2 Corinthians 13:11 he reaches the peak of his admonition to the believers when he says, "Finally, brethren, farewell. *Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*"

And so it seems to me that the ultimate objective of all our working, our thinking, our planning, so far as we are individually concerned, is the attainment of perfection. That is clearly the standard set forth in the word of God.

In the book of James, chapter one, verse four, we read: "Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be *perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*" That is, complete in Him. Well rounded out, in

mind, in spirit, and in life. There is no half-way standard of righteousness indicated here,—no compromise, no lowering of the standard; for the apostle definitely declares that when Patience has done her perfect work, perfection, entirety, completeness, will be the result.

The question that most seriously concerns us, as we think of the conditions in which we find ourselves at this present time,—surrounded by so many things that are so pitifully short of perfection,—is: How are we to attain this high standard of perfection? How can we ever hope to measure up to this wonderful pattern that the Lord has placed before us? The standard is there; the instruction is clear; the requirements of God's law are unchangeable. These things should solemnize our hearts, and bring to us a sense of our unworthiness, but not of discouragement. It seems to me that the question for us to keep ever before our minds and hearts is this: *How can we do—what can we do—more nearly to please God in all that He has given us to do?*

This matter of perfection involves our *living above sin*, for sin is an imperfection and it produces imperfections in our characters. In Galatians 5:16 we read: "This I say, then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." And again in the eighteenth verse: "But if ye be led by the Spirit, ye shall not be under the law." In other words, it seems clear to my mind that if we walk in the Spirit, we shall not be under the law,—under sin!

I am impressed, Brethren and Sisters, that what we need most to do is to pray for the power of the Spirit in our lives, and upon our work. It is true that we need money, and we need it badly. We also need men, and we need men still more desperately than we need money. But these temporal needs are not our greatest needs, and far above all these physical, temporal necessities, is our great need of the Spirit of God in our lives and in our individual hearts. Let me repeat: Our lack, our greatest lack,

* Selections from the study given by Elder Michael on the morning of November 20, in the Devotional Service for that day, toward the close of the Annual Session of the Division Committee held in Miami, Florida, in November, 1946.

is not the shortage of money nor of men, but the desperate lack of the Spirit of God in our lives, and upon our efforts.

I am not sure at all that we can count on having all the money we need for this finishing of the work in Inter-America. And I am not at all sure that we shall ever have all the workers that the calls would seem to demand. But I am sure that there is available to us all the Power we shall need from the divine storehouse of heaven, for the work that God has given us to do. Every one who really seeks for it, will have the power of the Spirit of God to the extent that he or she is willing to receive it. God has promised it, and He will not fail to fulfill that which He has promised.

Let me repeat: For those who are walking in all the light they have,— for those who are fully consecrated to God, there will be no shortage of the power of the Spirit of God in their lives, and in their ministry. How earnestly we should pray for this power, and how faithfully we should seek to reach the standard of perfection that has been placed before every one of us! Let us plead with God daily, that He will give us the full measure of the Holy Spirit that we need in our personal lives, and in our ministry in His cause.

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matt. 5:48.



Objectives for the Coming Year

By GLENN CALKINS

At the time of the annual winter meeting of the Division Committee, when the presidents and secretary-treasurers of all the unions were in attendance, a goal of 11,000 baptisms for Inter-America during 1947 was adopted as follows:

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| Antillian Union Mission | 2,000 |
| British West Indies Union Mission..... | 2,000 |
| Caribbean Union Conference..... | 2,000 |
| Central American Union Mission..... | 2,000 |
| Colombia-Venezuela Union Mission..... | 1,000 |
| Mexican Union Mission..... | 2,000 |
| Division Total for 1947..... | 11,000 |

Since the time of the Division meeting, it has been my privilege to visit in the Antillian, the British West Indies, and the Mexican Unions; and in each instance there has been a further breaking down of these goals for the unions, thus allocating to each local field a specific goal for baptisms during 1947. In fact, as I recall it now, I believe that the local goals when combined, amounted to more than the goals that had been

set for each union at the time of the Division meeting in November. This brought courage to the hearts of all the workers, for it is a splendid plan, and I sincerely hope that the other unions have followed a similar course in arranging for their evangelistic work for the present year.

From one union whose over-all goal is two thousand baptisms for 1947, and where the lay preachers have baptized an average of from one thousand to twelve hundred persons each year, the regular workers have themselves set individual goals totaling over fifteen hundred baptisms. If the regular conference workers and the lay preachers reach the goals they have individually set for

“Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was. . . . The path of sincerity and integrity is not a path free from obstruction; but in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer. There is no one living who has any power that he has not received from God, and the source whence it comes is open to the weakest human being. ‘Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name,’ said Jesus, ‘that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.’” — *Desire of Ages*, pp. 664, 665.

themselves, they will not only reach the union goal of two thousand, but will go far beyond it.

I cannot cease thinking of the lateness of the hour, and of the rapidity with which world events are taking place. Prophecy is unfolding before our eyes like an ever-changing kaleidoscope, and we are told that “the final movements will be rapid ones.” It is rather difficult to understand how they could be more rapid than they have been during the past few months; but that which we have already seen will be as nothing compared with that which is soon to take place.

NOW is the time when we should put forth every possible effort to finish the task of evangelizing the territory that has been entrusted to us. This completing of the task is a wonderful privilege, and it comes as a ringing challenge to us in all parts of the field. We must not close our eyes and our ears to the fact that if we fail in measuring up to the task, that the Lord will raise up some-

one else in our stead to carry on the great work of spreading the gospel message to all parts of Inter-America.

And so, my brethren and sisters, let us accept the challenge and move forward in faith, believing that it is God’s will that we speedily do that which has been assigned to us. May each union leader, each local field leader, and each individual worker and lay preacher accept personally the responsibility of working as never before in the spreading of this glorious message of truth.

A few days ago I received a letter from Elder Walter Beach, President of the Southern European Division. It was my privilege to spend some time visiting the different countries in that division during 1938, shortly before the outbreak of the last world war; and among other countries that I visited was Rumania, where the heavy hand of persecution has rested upon our work and workers as it has in very few other places. Brother Beach tells me in this recent letter that out of the chaotic conditions that have existed in Rumania during the war, and following the close of hostilities, there now comes a most thrilling report,— that nearly four thousand persons were baptized in that one country alone, during 1946. The people of Rumania are on fire with evangelism. Lay preachers are working everywhere, assisted by lay Bible workers; and as the result we see this wonderful ingathering of souls.

We may expect the same results in our own field, when we put forth the same individual efforts. This is a challenge, my brethren! Let us meet the challenge in the fear of God, with courage in our hearts, and with determination, knowing that with God, all things are possible.



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A Very Interesting Trip

By H. B. LUNDQUIST

The business of the church is really a two-pronged goal, soul-winning and soul-saving. In order for the souls to be eventually saved, they must first be won to the truth. But, when these souls, finally through the gateway of baptism are installed as members in good and regular standing, the work of their ultimate redemption has only just

begun. Conversion is the work of a moment sometimes, as in the case of Saul of Tarsus, but sanctification, the finished preparation for heaven, Sister White tells us, is "the work of a lifetime."

In the first part of this business, that of soul-winning, the Antillian Union during 1945 did not do too badly; for our fifty-seven ministers prepared and administered the rite of baptism to 1300 souls, giving an average of 22.8 persons baptized by each minister. We wish to pause here a second to thank God for this wonderful showing and at the same time to breathe a fervent prayer that all these 1300 may go through to the eternal kingdom of God.

Apostasies, deaths and transfers whittled down this impressive total to a net gain for the entire Union of 692. This represents a gain of 5.2 per cent over 1944. Taking a wider scope, and considering the last four years, our union shows a net gain of 3,448, or a gain of 8.9 per cent per year.

From the viewpoint of baptisms, the picture is brighter. During the quadrennium, 5,391 souls were baptized in this Union. During that same period, we had an average of fifty-three ordained and licensed ministers. It will be seen at a glance that this gives an average for each minister of 101 baptisms for the four-year period, or slightly more than twenty-five baptisms per minister per year.

We have just completed a round of workers' meetings throughout the union. The good Spirit of God visited us in each of these convocations. Every worker, without exception, repledged his allegiance and reconsecrated his life to the reaching of his soul-winning goal, which—in every case—has been as high, and in many cases higher than has ever before been made in this Union. The goal of baptisms proposed to us by the Division, of 2,000 for the year, was more than covered by the total of local baptismal goals, which amounted to 2,180; and these local field goals were also exceeded by about 200 by the totals of the goals of the individual workers. To baptize this number will mean a baptism of 700 *more* this year than last, and will place an individual responsibility on the worker of thirty-five souls as against the four-year average of twenty-five. But our workers are determined to reach this goal.

There are being held throughout the union a series of lay workers' schools with a total attendance which will reach somewhere around 200. Splendid work is being accomplished in these schools

by our Home Missionary secretaries, Elders Amundsen of the Division, and Kuester of the Union. In the first of these schools; soul-winning goals of 126 were made by these noble men and women.

A one day's teachers' institute was held by Professors Weaver of the General Conference, and Roth of the Division, on a recent visit to Santurce, Puerto Rico. With the enthusiastic direction which he always gives to his work, Elder Vernon Berry, now returned from furlough, will carry on this program of instruction with the help and support of the writer and the Educational Secretary of the Division, Professor Arthur Roth.

Professors Weaver and Roth, and Brother David Baash conducted a very successful Youth's Congress session at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. There were present about 150 young people from various parts of the island. Not only were the young people fed, but housed as well, on the grounds. The timely discussions and the rounds of Missionary Volunteer "pep" songs, as well as the wholesome opportunity for Christian fellowship, afforded by this gathering, will long remain a cherished memory in the hearts of all who were privileged to be present.

And now Haiti has done it again! Done what? Given the union a net gain of souls in 1945 of 424 over 1944, or almost two-thirds of the Union total. In the workers' meeting held at Port-au-Prince, under the able direction of the new superintendent of the field, Elder M. D. Howard, the nine or ten workers set their soul-winning goals which totaled 900, or almost a hundred each. From a short visit of inspection through the field, it was readily seen that the picture which has been painted of the possibilities of this marvelous field has not been exaggerated. In one district there are 1,500 members. The church at this place has no permanent abode. There are eight regular Sabbath schools and seven branch Sabbath schools fostered by this one mother church. In another city nearby, the brethren have built themselves a very fine church building, contributing six of the eight thousand *gourds*,—over \$1,000, from their penury. One sister mortgaged her house in order to pay her pledge of one hundred *gourds*, and then gave fifty *gourds* more. God blessed her by helping her clear away the mortgage a month before its expiration. And how those dear people can sing! But we sorely need church buildings in this prosperous mission, as well as a training school for

the preparation of workers. It is hoped that before long one large church and several smaller ones may be constructed, and also that our work may be completed on the new school plant for the Haitian Training College.

In the Dominican Republic, a brand new, beautiful temple is being finished in the prosperous city of Barahona. In spite of the scarcity of workers in that field, the workers' meeting showed that the valiant little band of four evangelistic workers and one Bible worker are determined to reach their self-imposed goal of 300 baptisms for 1946, an average of seventy-five per worker. May God prosper them!

Nor is Cuba lagging behind. During the first three months of 1946, two new churches were organized in the East Cuba Conference. It was the privilege of the writer to attend the organization of the last of the two, at Puerto Padre, where, as a result of the splendid work of Pastor Emmanuel Pupo and Roberto Perez, a church of fifty-four was organized, twenty-seven being baptized as a result of the effort that was held there, or just fifty per cent of the membership of this new church. A church school had been organized previous to the organization of the church, which is as it should be.

In the West Cuba Conference there is being carried on a church-building program of proportions. In the city of Esperanza, near Santa Clara, a brand new church home has been dedicated to the name of the Lord. Over \$1,000 of the \$4,500 which the building cost, was contributed by the members of the local church. About 400 persons were present, at the dedication, many having come a long distance to join in the rejoicing. Another church building is being provided for the believers in the city of Sancti Spiritus, about sixty or seventy miles distant.

Both of these two conferences have also more than doubled their goals for baptisms, and when these brethren set their heads to the task, it means that the task will be accomplished!

At our Antillian Junior College, under the able direction of Professor J. S. Marshall, the new chapel is being finished, and within a short time the addition to the Women's Home, will also be a reality. These improvements will cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000. The new thirteenth grade courses are being given successfully, and there are definite prospects of an increased attendance at El Colegio Industrial de las Antillas.

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Gleanings From the British West Indies

A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE. — A most interesting photograph was received at the Division office a few weeks ago. It is a picture of a group of workers, and from a little distance it does not appear very much different from any other bit of photography of its kind. But when we examined the picture under a magnifying glass, and then read the finely printed words below, a great wave of inspiration enveloped us, and we determined to pass on, if possible, a little of the joy that came to us as we learned of the work of this group of devoted Christian soldiers.

Some of these workers are quite young people. Others have been "long in the way;" but the expression that beams from their happy faces, — black, or brown, or white, is that which makes this picture particularly beautiful to us. Really, friends, it is an outstanding picture. One to be remembered. One to be thankful for. Some in the group are standing straight and tall. Some appear to have relaxed for a moment, and are leaning a little to one side; and in the front row, earnest, and eager, and happy, are some who appear to have dropped down easily into a half-kneeling position for the taking of the picture. In the center of the front row is the familiar face of a friend, — one who carries upon his willing shoulders the problems and responsibilities of administration in the British West Indies Union Mission. Need we name him?

Under the picture are these words: "Here are some of the men whom the Lord has been using to win souls in the West Jamaica Mission. Together with the regular mission workers are here seen a goodly number of lay preachers who attended the institute in Anchovy, early in 1946. During the eighteen months from January, 1945, to June, 1946, the West Jamaica Mission reported 830 persons won to the message. This is certainly a fine record. May God inspire us all to greater soul-winning achievements in His strength."

God bless the lay preachers of the

West Jamaica Mission, the East Jamaica Mission, of the Caribbean Union, of Mexico, and of every other part of the fruitful Inter-American Division, and continue to give them souls for their hire!

BAPTISMAL EVANGELISM. — Perhaps this is a new term to you. In fact, it is a new expression to us also; but it is suggested by the brief report of a baptismal service held some weeks ago over in Belize, British Honduras. The Bible worker, Sister Amy Campbell, faithful and sincere, had won six persons to the truth of God, and they were to be officially received into church fellowship by baptism. This was a happy, but solemn occasion, and Elder F. R. Archbold, who was soon to leave the believers in Belize, to take up work in his new field of labor in the Colombia-Venezuela Union, carefully explained the rite of baptism as the visible sign of the entrance of the new believer into the new life of surrender and service.

At the close of the sermon Brother Archbold made an earnest appeal to those present who desired to know of the plan of salvation. In response to this call, many came forward, — men, women, and children, in quest of eternal truth. Thus, with the ushering in of the original six who were baptized that day, a number of others were influenced to give their hearts to the Saviour.

Why not make every baptismal service the occasion for seeking other souls who are longing for the Bread of Life? Let us not overlook the possibilities of "baptismal evangelism," but rather, "gather up the fragments" of effort and of opportunity, that "nothing may be lost," of the golden harvest that is "waiting only to be gathered in."

DEDICATORY SERVICE. — Recent correspondence from the headquarters office of the British West Indies Union Mission brought the thrilling news that on December 8, 1946, fourteen recently-completed Seventh-day Adventist churches were dedicated on the island of Jamaica in a single day! Three other chapels were completed and ready for dedication at the same time, but there was a great downpour of tropical rain which caused local floods, and thus prevented the holding of all of these services as planned. The remaining three churches were dedicated, however, before the close of the year. Surely this is a most outstanding record of mission advance on a single island.

We rejoice with the believers and with the leaders of the British West Indies Union in this commendable accomplishment, and wish them every suc-

cess in their evangelistic efforts during the coming year.

E. A. J.

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Tidings From New Amsterdam, British Guiana

By O. P. REID, *Evangelist*

The Lord has promised to be with His servants always, even unto the end of the world, and to give victory in His cause. Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, in chapter 43, He says: "Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back; bring My sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth."

These wonderful words of promise are being fulfilled in many lands of earth, but especially is this true here in British Guiana. Since my arrival here in 1941, we have conducted six evangelistic efforts, and many hundreds of people have been baptized. The most recent effort was held in New Amsterdam, the second largest city of the Colony, and the meetings were conducted in the town hall. We were very fortunate in securing the use of this hall, for it is a most desirable place for the holding of such an effort, and it seats from five to six hundred people.

The meetings were attended by some of the best people in the town, including the mayor, who is now attending our church services. I have been studying the Bible with him and his family at his home, and he has expressed his desire to obey the truth. There are also two Syrian young men in the Bible class. Their parents are from far away Mount Lebanon, in old Syria. These young men have met with great persecution from their parents and friends, and yet they are determined to be faithful. We hope that they will be baptized before long. Their aim is to attend our school and prepare themselves for places of usefulness in the work of God.

Our meetings began early in the month of September, and continued through October. We had preaching services six nights a week, only two nights being missed during the entire series. The attendance was everything that could be expected, and the Lord blessed our ef-



Thirty-one Newly Baptized Believers in New Amsterdam, British Guiana. The Third Sister from the Left, Second Row, is the Ninety-one-year old Member who Gave the Stirring Testimony at our Farewell Meeting. The Second from the Right, in the Back Row, is the Young Syrian Brother who Desires to Become a Worker for God.

forts. Mrs. Reid served as a Bible instructor, and even our little eleven-year-old daughter helped as an assistant pianist. Of course we enjoyed the cooperation of the members of the local church.

When the Sabbath message was presented, hundreds of persons responded to the appeal. This set the whole town in an uproar, and opposition came from every quarter. However, we are glad to be able to report that a class of fifty-nine was organized for further study of Bible truth; and from this group thirty-one precious souls were baptized a short time later. Twenty-nine others are continuing their study in the Bible Class, and will doubtless be baptized before long. After spending nearly four months in New Amsterdam, I returned to our headquarters in the city of Georgetown.

On a Wednesday night, before my departure from New Amsterdam, when I was bidding the brethren and sisters farewell, the invitation was extended by the church pastor to those who would like to bear testimony to the goodness of the Lord. One said plainly that even as the Lord had sent Peter to Cornelius of old, so the Lord had sent Pastor Reid to her home town that she might receive the message of truth.

Another lady, who is more than ninety-one years of age, and who has been a pillar in the church of another Protestant body, stated that she had waited long for the message of truth, even as the patriarch Simeon had waited for the coming of the Messiah. She was ill and bed-ridden when the invitation first came to her, and she prayed that God would restore her strength so that she might attend the meetings about to be held in her home town. Her prayer was heard and her faith was rewarded, so that she was able to attend the meetings in the town hall. She is now a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist

church, and gives God the praise for her restoration physically and spiritually. Her decision to leave the church of which she was a member for so many years, and join the Adventists, is the talk of the town.

Many others are deciding to cast in their lot with the people of God. The accompanying picture shows the group of new believers who were baptized at the close of the effort in New Amsterdam, the pastor and his wife, — center front, — and some of the church members who helped with the meetings. We ask an interest in your prayers that God will keep those who are meeting with persecution, and will establish their faith in the truths of His divine Word.



Central American Union Mission

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Another Soul-Winning Campaign

By EDWARD PARCHMENT, Local Church Elder,
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We of the Siquirres church had for some time been working, praying, and hoping for a real spiritual awakening to take place in our midst; but everything seemed to remain the same for a long time. Then, rather suddenly, we heard signs which greatly encouraged our hearts, for it seemed that our prayers were about to be answered; for the plans were being laid for the holding of an evangelistic effort in our midst.

Pastor R. T. Rankin wouldn't allow the grass to grow under his feet as he hurried about getting things lined up for the campaign. Soon the printed announcements were in hand, and these were quickly scattered around, informing the people of Siquirres that in Theatre Hall, the largest in town, a series of evangelistic services would soon be held, with Pastor Rankin as the leader, and Elder and Mrs. R. T. Minesinger, and Brother D. P. Abbott assisting.

When all arrangements were completed, the campaign was launched. The attendance was very good, and the effort was divinely blessed from the start. As musical features we had special numbers by Elder and Mrs. Minesinger, by our own choir, and for a time we had the help of some members of the Anglican and Methodist churches. All of this

assistance we greatly appreciated, for it added interest to the meetings, and helped to build up the attendance. Particular mention should be made of the assistance of Mr. F. S. Hine, the choir master of the Methodist church, who ably assisted us all the way through the campaign.

Pastor Rankin was indeed mightily used by the Holy Spirit, and he preached the Word with power each night, and also made reference to various texts and pictures that were thrown upon the screen. For seven weeks the meetings continued with increasing interest on the part of the public, and at the end of this time the meetings were transferred to the church building, where the Bible school was organized for those particularly interested in the great truths revealed in the Word of God. A goodly number of earnest inquirers attended these meetings, and again the interest ran high.

Eventually the date for baptism was announced, and of course this created an all-around excitement among the members of the class, and in the homes they represented. Of course the enemy was busy with the usual opposition; but nothing could daunt the pastor's courage and faith; and he quietly proceeded with his plans, taking care that all who were to participate in the baptismal service were thoroughly indoctrinated, and understood quite fully just what should be involved in the step they were about to take.

Sabbath, April 20, 1946, was a day long to be remembered. It was a real red-letter day for the Siquirres church, and for the seven other churches represented in the services of that occasion. And what a concourse of people attended that gathering! Our small building could accommodate only about one-third of the enormous congregation that had assembled.

After the sermon, and the final examination of the candidates for baptism, the congregation moved slowly to the river side where there was already a large gathering of people who had come to witness the baptism of those who had taken their stand for the truth. Presently the services began, and it was not long until all thirty-one of the new believers had been baptized. Nine of these were from other churches in the district.

There are yet others to follow the thirty-nine, as the fruitage of our evangelistic campaign in Siquirres. We thank God for the help that Pastor Rankin has brought to us in thus building up the churches, and especially in the strength-

ening of the Siquirres church. And we thank Him for the joy that comes into our hearts as we see these new members taking their places, and doing their part in the finishing of the work that God has entrusted to us. We pray that God will continue to bless Brother Rankin, as he continues his evangelistic work among the churches.



Showers of Blessings in Panama

By J. L. BROWN

Panama is a country where showers of rain are plentiful, and therefore the countryside is ever green and beautiful. The Lord has also sent showers of rich blessing upon His people; and the pouring out of His Spirit in that country has caused our work to grow and prosper. Our people seem anxious to be out doing soul-winning service; and the layman's movement is bringing many souls to a knowledge of the truth. Two laymen borrowed the Conference tent and set it up in an open lot. The Lord blessed their efforts, and the tent was crowded every night. The first baptism as a result of this work added twenty-one persons to the church. The next baptism will add another score of members to our constituency in that field. Our churches in Panama are kept full, and they are alive with visitors seeking the truth.

Two evangelistic efforts were recently held by Elder S. E. Farrell, one on either side of the Isthmus. Each of these meetings brought in more than seventy-five new members.

Elder R. R. Mattison also held an effort in Panama City, for Spanish-speaking people; and this work resulted in a number of new members being added to the Spanish church; and new courage was brought to the hearts of all.

Elder W. E. Baxter was able to contact the proper governmental authorities, and as a result, a beautifully located lot has been donated to our conference on which we hope to build a representative church for the city of Cristobal. This will be a real blessing to our work in Colon-Cristobal.

Again, other contacts were made, and the material contained in fifty-three temporary government buildings, large and small, has been given to our work in payment for the work of dismantling them. This material will be used for our training school in Panama, and for church buildings. All we need now is to secure the means with which to dis-

mantle, transport, and rebuild what the Lord has so graciously placed in our hands.

At the Panama Academy we badly needed a lighting system that was to have cost \$1,800.00 but the funds were not available. With the help of the Lord Elder Baxter was able to secure this entire system as a gift to our school. This again, is a great blessing to our work in Panama.

We ask an interest in your prayers that God may continue to open doors and shower His rich blessing upon the work in the Panama Conference.

Colombia-Venezuela Union Mission

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Showers Upon the Thirsty Ground

By R. D. FLEITAS, Secretary, Publishing
Department, Colombia-Venezuela Union Mission

At this writing, ten months of 1946 have already passed by, but have left showers of blessing upon our publishing work here in the Colombia-Venezuela Union. We praise God for these rich blessings, for we are most happy to see the work in this field march on victoriously. The harvest is truly ripening, my beloved brethren. Our only lack is harvesters to gather in the golden grain! Let me tell you just a little about our work here in Colombia-Venezuela.

The rain was slowly falling as I drew near the home that was next on my way. An old woman answered my knock, and invited me to come in and be seated. Immediately this poor woman began to pour out to me her troubles. She began to cry as she told of the death of her husband only a few months ago, and of her present poverty. "What does God want?" asked this poor soul.

Here was a wonderful opportunity for the missionary colporteur, and I tried to make the most of it. In the Word of God I pointed out the message of hope and courage. She was deeply impressed, and asked many questions which I tried to answer,—always from the Bible. Then I showed her the book I had with me, and she said: "I want that book." So I took her order with a happy heart; and when I delivered it I found that she was still interested in spiritual things. I left that home with

joy in my heart, praying that when Jesus comes, this dear woman will be saved through the great sacrifice of Jesus, and by the humble efforts of a missionary colporteur.

Early in 1946 one of our ministers was called to baptize a group of believers who had been won to the truth by one of our colporteurs. At the annual institute this same colporteur said: "I would like to be accompanied by an ordained minister so that he could baptize the interested ones that I have been able to win by the help of the Lord."

The harvest is ripe for the literature ministers! All of us in the colporteur ranks admit this; and we long for the day to come when we shall see in this union a well-trained army of one hundred colporteur-evangelists. There are even greater showers of blessing in store for us than we have thus far experienced.

Some days ago I returned from a trip through the Atlantic Colombia Mission. I went there for the purpose of visiting some groups of people in the mountains of Bolivar, where good prospects await us. The symbolical cord of the fisherman was thrown out, and the congregation was told: "Those who have listened to the voice of the Nazarene who invites you to serve, please come to the front!" Six young men and women grasped the cord, as a sign of their absolute decision to go into the vineyard of the Lord and engage in colporteur work.

We thank God for the many evidences we see of His leading power in this field. We thank Him for the pre-

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INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION MESSENGER

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GLENN CALKINS - - - - - Associate Editor
EFFIE A. JAMES - - - - - Associate Editor

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cious recruits who have recently joined our army of Christian colporteurs in the Colombia-Venezuela Union. Pray for the work in this field, that the showers of blessing already received may bring forth an abundant harvest of souls for the kingdom of heaven.

Mexican Union Mission

Superintendent E. N. LUGENBEAL
 Sec.-Treasurer & Auditor...KENNETH EMMERSON
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 Monterrey, N. L., Mexico



Elder E. N. Lugenbeal

A Word of Introduction

When Elder and Mrs. E. N. Lugenbeal accepted the call of the Mexican Union and the Inter-American Division, and the appointment of the General Conference Committee to service in Mexico, they brought with them a wealth of experience and training from other parts of the world field where they have labored for many years. Elder W. E. Murray asked Brother Lugenbeal to write out for us something about his experience in other lands, and tell us a little about his work in the Orient.

With characteristic reticence, where personal matters are concerned, Elder Lugenbeal finally responded to the Editor's request, as follows: "Dear Brother Murray: I am not so strong on this 'pedigree business,' but here it is:

- "1927-1928 — Evangelistic work and teaching, Indiana Conference
- 1929-1930 — Bible Teaching, Philippine Junior College
- 1931-1938 — Director (Supt.) Northern Luzon Mission, P. I.
- 1939-1941 — Director (Supt.) East Visayan Mission, P. I.
- 1942-1945 — President Austral Union Conference, South America
- 1946 — President Mexican Union Mission."

Then Brother Lugenbeal launched into a subject that lies very close to his heart, — Evangelism, — and gave us the following interesting and inspirational article, which is greatly appreciated.

Evangelism in Old Mexico

By E. N. LUGENBEAL, Superintendent Mexican Union Mission

The work of God in Mexico has always been characterized by a vigorous lay evangelism. Humble, God-fearing laymen have, through the years, pressed forward in soul winning, defying dangers, suffering, and physical harm in all of the isolated points of this great country. To their valiant efforts may be attributed in a large measure the formation of the six hundred Sabbath schools with nine thousand baptized believers, and nineteen thousand Sabbath school members, which comprize the advent family in Mexico.

Recently, however, the conviction deepened that the time had come for a more definite advance in the large cities. These populous centers can be reached only by a vigorous program of public evangelism. To stimulate this movement early in this year there was conducted a series of evangelistic meetings throughout the Mexican Union under the direction of Pastor W. E. Murray, who at that time was the superintendent of the Mexican Union, and Pastor V. A. Sauza, our Mexican Union evangelist. Other workers, a very thin line indeed, were rallied to launch the attack against these mighty bulwarks of superstition and unbelief. Many evangelistic meetings are now in full swing, and reports are most encouraging.

Pastor Sauza is leading out in Mexico City, that metropolis of two million souls, which has at present only one organized church. Concerning the progress of his effort, Brother Sauza writes:

"We started our meetings on Sunday, June 23. The first night the attendance was greater than we could accommodate. The offering was sixty-eight pesos, besides a special donation of forty pesos. Since then our offerings have averaged twenty-five pesos for each meeting. In reality we are conducting three meetings; one here in the church, another in the penitentiary for the Federal District, and another small one in Mixcoac.

"We are happy, not only because we have been able in five weeks to obtain the seven hundred pesos that we expected to raise in fourteen weeks, but for other positive results. One hundred and fifty have been enrolled in the Voice of Prophecy Bible course, and we have secured the addresses of three hundred forty-eight of our listeners who desire literature. We expect to use at least twenty thousand tracts in our meetings. We have twenty-six persons preparing for the first baptism. Twenty-four of

these now have their own Bibles and Sabbath School Quarterlies, and are studying the message regularly.

"However, everything is not exactly marching 'con viento en popa,' (with wind in the sails) as the mariners say, because we have not been free from attacks by our enemies. The day following our first meeting a commission of Catholic ladies set out to visit the homes of all who had attended our meeting in order to secure their names and addresses. They continued this visiting for several days. Those living in the blocks nearest the church, and who had not attended our meeting, were told that the bishop had absolutely prohibited their coming to our services. Now the Separatists (an independent off-shoot) distribute tracts to the people as they leave the meeting, and declare that the Adventists are wrong in their teachings.

"I wish to assure you, Pastor Lugenbeal, that our courage is good. We believe that the prospects in this great city are better than ever before. We are praying that soon other chapels will be built in different sections of the city."

Such is the spirit of evangelism in Old Mexico. It encourages us also to know that this same spirit has touched the laymen. On a recent Sabbath visit to the Tacubaya church in Mexico City I saw the following report of the work of a single lay worker's activities for the past quarter:

| | 1st Month | 2nd. Month | 3rd. Month | Total |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------|
| Bible Studies Given | 34 | 27 | 34 | 95 |
| Missionary Visits | 37 | 40 | 31 | 108 |
| Persons Taken to Meetings | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Persons Given Needed Help | 30 | 15 | 10 | 55 |
| Medical Treatments Given | 15 | 1 | .. | 16 |
| Hours of Christian Help Work | 14 | 12 | 13 | 39 |
| Articles of Clothing Given Away | 25 | 4 | 5 | 34 |
| Tracts and Papers Given Away | 395 | 145 | 210 | 750 |

We are praying that we may not fall short of what God expects of us here in this field, in this the day of opportunity in Mexico.



"Money has great value, because it can do great good. In the hands of God's children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, and clothing for the naked. It is a defense for the oppressed, and a means of help to the sick. But money is of no more value than sand, only as it is put to use in providing for the necessities of life, in blessing others, and advancing the cause of Christ." — *Christ's Object Lessons.*



People, Places, Projects

BY EFFIE A. JAMES

★ Recent changes in the personnel of the British West Indies Union include the following:

Brother W. A. Osborne, formerly of the Caribbean Training College, has joined the staff of West Indian Training College. Brother Osborne is in charge of the Commercial Department of the college.

Elder W. A. Holgate has been called to the East Jamaica Mission to serve as Sabbath school, Home Missionary, and Educational secretary of that field. He is well prepared for this responsibility, having spent a number of years at the West Indian Training College.

Elder and Mrs. Stanley Bull, formerly of New Hope College, have been called to Mandeville, to fill the post left vacant by the transfer of Brother Holgate.

Elder J. N. Williams, district pastor of East Jamaica for some time, has recently been appointed as the president of the British Honduras Mission and has already taken up his new responsibilities in that field.

During the furlough of Elder D. V. Pond and family, the union president is caring for Elder Pond's work in East Jamaica.

An extensive remodeling program is under way at the West Indian Training College. Better arranged accommodations have been provided for the wood-work department and for the college press. The former press building is being used as a bright and commodious cafeteria and kitchen. The girls' home is also receiving a "face lifting." Brother Pierson says, and space will be provided for twenty-five more young ladies when the general improvement plan is completed.

Elder E. E. Parchment has done most excellent work as the director of the church building program in the British West Indies Union. A large number of churches have been dedicated already, as mentioned elsewhere; and it is planned that 1947 shall see further advance along this line of effort, the goal having been set for the dedication of twenty-five more church buildings during the coming year.

★ Elder and Mrs. C. L. Torrey, who spent several years in the Inter-American Division, and who are now serving in Glendale, California, send their Christian greetings to the workers and believers in this Division. In a recent letter, Brother Torrey writes:

"It is a joy to know that our people here in the homeland are wholeheartedly behind our foreign mission program. They are willingly giving of their means that the work in all the world may be finished, so that Jesus may soon come. These dear people are always happy to hear the story of our work in mission fields, and they are longing for the message to reach every part of the earth, so that every honest soul may be saved in the kingdom of God.

★ Recent visitors at the Division office include Miss Elsie Ziprick, who has connected with the Andrews Sanitarium and Hospital, in Jamaica; Elder W. H. Anderson, pioneer of mission work in Africa, who is spending some time among the churches of our field; the C. G. Gordons, and the C. F. Montgomerys, on their way for short furloughs in North America; and Elder W. L. Barclay, en route to his new field of labor in the British West Indies Union.

★ We have also been glad to meet and to greet the Benjamin Maxson family as they "passed our doorway" en route to their new field of labor. Brother Maxson is to join the editorial staff of the Pacific Press Branch in Cristobal, Canal Zone.

★ We were saddened when word reached the Division office, informing us of the death of Mrs. A. G. Roth, the wife of Elder Andre Roth, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on January 5. This followed a severe paralytic stroke that Sister Roth had suffered, and from which she did not rally.

Once more we are reminded that we are in the land of the enemy, that life is very uncertain, and that we know not "what a day may bring forth." Brother and Sister Roth had returned to Haiti only a few weeks prior to this sad event, to engage once more in the work of mission advance that has been so dear to their hearts.

We extend Christian sympathy to all those who mourn, commending them to the Great Comforter who alone can heal the wounds of human grief, and give courage for the pathway that lies ahead. How precious, in times like these, is the Blessed Hope!

★ A letter from Elder S. L. Folkenberg, of Puerto Rico, written under date of January 28, gives the following information:

This last year our colporteurs delivered over \$71,000.00 worth of literature; and if the first month of the New Year is any indication, and if we can get the books that are needed, I am sure they will reach the goal of \$90,000.00 for 1947.

Our baptisms were 428 for the year just closed. Thank God, this is a gain of fifty-one over the record of the previous year. The prospects for 1947 are very bright. The lay movement has become a very real movement, and with the evangelistic efforts we hope to see in full swing before long, we feel that we shall reach at least the five hundred mark for baptisms in 1947.

Church Calendar of Coming Events

March 1 Home Missionary Day
 March 8 Elementary Schools Offering
 March 29 13th Sabbath Offering
 (Overflow to South American Division)
 April 5 Christian Home Day
 April 19 Missionary Volunteer Day
 April 19-26 Missionary Volunteer
 Week of Prayer
 May 3 Medical Missionary Day

"You will be interested to learn that here in the Pacific Union, our people are very liberal, for about one-third of the funds that go to the mission fields of earth come from this union.

"As I sit here this afternoon writing this letter, in my mind's eye I can see the brethren of the Inter-American Division hard at work. What a joy it has been to me to work with you brethren in that field! I remember sitting on the various committees in the respective unions, studying the problems and sharing the joys of that field. I shall long remember the pleasure that was mine as I associated with you brethren during the four years I sojourned in the Inter-American Division. I shall pray earnestly that our loving heavenly Father will bless every one of you and keep you safe from harm, and bless your efforts to the winning of many precious souls."

★ Recent visitors at the Division office include many friends from near and far, for Miami is another of the "crossroads" between North and South America, and we are always happy to welcome the workers of this and other division fields as they pass to and fro.