

# The Central American Bulletin

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“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

—*Malachi 3:10.*

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Mid-Winter Number

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# CENTRAL AMERICAN MISSION

FOUNDED 1890  
BY THE LATE C. I. SCOFIELD, D.D.

HOME OFFICE:  
3611 Congress Avenue, Dallas, Texas  
Cable Address, "CAM"

*EVANGELICAL, EVANGELISTIC AND UNDENOMINATIONAL*  
THE PURPOSE: To preach the gospel to every creature in Central America  
Upheld through prayer—Supported by voluntary contributions

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The Mission was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas, on September 27th, 1901, and as such is authorized to hold property and receive legacies.

## FORM OF BEQUEST

I give and bequeath to the Central American Mission, incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas on September 27th, 1901, the sum of .....  
to be applied to the Mission purposes of said Society.

# CENTRAL AMERICAN BULLETIN

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## WHY DO WE PRAY?

DR. A. J. GORDON

"Why should we ask? Can the finite move the Infinite? Can the human will bend the Divine?" it is sometimes urged by those who question the propriety of prayer. We answer that the *relation of the human and the Divine is mutual*. God's willingness to give is exercised through our willingness to receive; and, in the order of divine providence, the Lord needs the action of our will just as much as we need the action of His will. In the old-fashioned watch there is the main-spring and the hair-spring. The hair-spring does not move the main-spring, but is moved by it. And yet the main-spring depends on the hair-spring to take off the power that was stored up in it. By tick after tick of this little spring, the motion that was coiled up in the great central spring is released, and communicated to the machinery. So we say our will does not move God's will: it is moved by it. At the same time, God's will is dependent on the submission and choice of our will, in order that He may bless us and give us the things which we need.

And this is what prayer is. It is the expression of our will, our desire, our consent, concerning the things which our Father in heaven is willing to give us. *That which is the outcome of mere self-will is not prayer, and has no assurance of an answer.* God wants to give us the things which are best for us; and in proportion as we want to receive these things, can He bless us and enrich us unto all bountifulness. Hence observe how rigidly He binds His gifts to our prayers. "If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit"—to whom? To them that need Him? To them that are mistakenly trying to get on without Him? No! "How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit *to them that ask Him?*" And there are other gifts beside the Spirit. And Jesus says, "How much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things"—to whom? To the poor and needy and suffering? Nay! "How much more shall your Father in heaven give good things *unto them that ask Him?*" Thus God conditions his gifts upon our seeking and requesting them. As the servant is bound only by the door-bell, not being called upon to stand on the steps and hail every passerby, saying, "My master is at home, and would be pleased to see you," but being expected to answer promptly every pull of the door-knob; so the Holy Spirit, the servant of God, is sent to wait upon those that call upon Him, and to give gifts to those that seek for them. But there is a limit to the things which we may ask of God. Let us not forget this, lest our prayers be "will-worship," instead of worship in spirit and in truth. Does not the Lord say, "*Ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you?*" But the beloved disciple who records the saying records another to be set over against it: "We know

that if we ask anything *according to His will, He heareth us.*" We are at liberty to ask any thing, and are promised that we shall receive it, if within the circle of God's sovereign love. And we have reason to praise Him that He has nowhere promised to step outside that circle. God can answer prayer; but, at the same time, He must govern the universe, and He must see to it that right is not wronged, that compassion is not abused, and that good is not made evil to any of His children. In the Jewish ritual, for the time of the latter rain, there was this singular petition: "*O Jehovah! hear not the prayer of those who are going on a journey.*" The reason of the petition was this: while all the land was waiting for the showers which should ripen the grain, some starting on a journey might crave fair weather for themselves, and so set their comfort against the general good; and the Lord was besought to heed not their prayers. If the request seems strange, its reasonableness is clear. "I am the Lord, I change not," says Jehovah; "therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." If by a prayer of mine I could move the sun farther off, so as to make it cooler for our earth, it might scorch and burn to ashes some other planet. If God could change His divine order to convenience me, He might thereby consume another; if He withhold His rain to give me a pleasure-journey, He might bring a fatal blight upon my neighbor's vineyard. Oh wise and blessed provision! "If we ask any thing *according to His will.*" All holy wills circle round the Divine as the planets in their orbits round the sun. If there is to be no collision and no discordance, each must yield implicitly to the central orb, and all must chime together into that celestial music, "*Thy will be done in heaven as it is done on earth.*"

(Reprinted from a leaflet published by the Northern Gospel Mission, Virginia, Minn.)

## Why I Believe In Foreign Missions

(Over Radio Station KRLD, Dallas [1040 kilocycles], under the direction of Rev. Wm. E. Hawkins Jr., a missionary hour is conducted each Sunday morning, 9 to 9:30 o'clock, known as the Hi-Way-By-Way Bible Class. A contest was had recently under the direction of this hour, in which a beautifully bound Scofield Bible was offered to the listener presenting the best paper on "Why I Believe in Foreign Missions;" and Rev. Karl D. Hummel, our Secretary, who is associated with Mr. Hawkins in the conduct of this radio ministry, agreed to publish the chosen paper in the January Bulletin. Eighty papers were submitted, and after a careful going over by the local committee composed of Rev. Manford Gutzke, Rev. Paul Bobb, and Prof. Everett Harrison, the paper submitted by Mrs. T. C. Ward, Pflugerville, Texas, was decided upon as the one giving the most Scrip-

tural and orderly presentation of the topic in hand. We are glad to publish it herewith.—Editors.)

**First,** I believe in foreign missions because Jesus was a foreign missionary. He left Heaven and all it contained, and came here to this sinful world on the greatest of all missions. That mission was the completing of God's plan of redemption for fallen man. This He did by giving His life on Calvary's cross.

**Second,** we find from the scriptures that all the world is under condemnation. Let us look at Psalms 14:1-3: "The fool has said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there

is none that doeth good, no, not one." In Romans 3:9, we find these words, "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; as it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." In Romans 5:12, the penalty for sin is given: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Therefore, if all the world is condemned to die, we conclude all need a Savior.

Third, God's Word presents only one Savior for all the human race. In First Timothy 2:5, we have these words: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." Acts 4:10 to 12 reads, "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him, doth this man stand before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." We can see from these Scriptures that all nations must know Christ if they are ever to be saved.

Fourth, we see that God's love and Jesus' sacrifice embraced all people. In John 3:16 we have these wonderful words, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." 2 Peter 3:9 tells us, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." In Rev. 22:17, this wonderful invitation includes all mankind. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

My fifth reason for believing in foreign missions is because Jesus commanded His disciples to testify of Him to all nations. In Matthew 28:18-20, we have the great commission, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Then again, just before Jesus ascended unto the Father, He spoke these words to His disciples standing nearby: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

We see from the study of these Scriptures that all nations need salvation, that all must be saved alike, and that God loved and made provision for all. Now, to us who have had the blessed privilege of hearing the story of the Cross and have accepted Jesus as our personal Savior, He has entrusted the work of carrying the good news to those nations who do not know Him. (Mrs. T. C. Ward)

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#### ANOTHER MISSIONARY BROADCAST

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Speaking of radio broadcasts, our missionaries, Messrs. W. Cameron Townsend and Carl O. Malmstrom, who are both in Santa Ana, Cal., just now during part of their furlough time, have, for the past month conducted a daily foreign missions broadcast over Station KREG, Santa Ana, Cal., at 10 to 10:15, Pacific Coast time. They hope to continue this period indefinitely and we urge our friends on the Pacific Coast to "tune in."

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#### "IF YE ASK . . . I WILL DO"

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Friends will rejoice with us in answered prayer. While we have not re-

ceived all that we thought necessary during 1932 we know that our God has been faithful. He cannot be otherwise. Our hearts magnify the Lord for all that He has done and we face the new year with faith in Him. He will perfect that which He has begun in us.

On November 23rd Miss Lavanchie Barrows sailed from New Orleans for Guatemala and we have already had word of her safe arrival at San Antonio, her station. She immediately assumed her share of responsibility in the work and is rejoicing in His blessing and the privilege of again ministering in Central America.

Our Council member, Dr. W. I. Carroll, who has been very ill, is now greatly improved and it is evident that God's hand is upon him. Continued prayer, however, is requested that he may be fully restored to strength and thus resume his former effective ministry in the Word of God.

As we go to press word comes that permits for entering Guatemala have been issued for Mr. and Mrs. Malmstrom and Miss Irene Clifton. Praise God! The Malmstroms expect to sail on the 20th inst. from Los Angeles, while Miss Clifton's passage is booked for the 21st, from New York. Pray that God may give them a safe voyage.

#### WITH THE LORD

On December 24th, 1932, the beloved mother of our pioneer missionary, Mrs. W. W. McConnell, passed away at Omaha, Nebraska. She was known to many as "Grandma Morgan" and had reached the ripe age of four score and fifteen years. A fall which Mrs. Morgan suffered a short time ago brought on complications and ere many days she quietly slipped away from the body of suffering into His presence. Our sympathy and love go to the members of the family and friends who are sorrowing. We are sure that the God of all comfort will not fail to give that measure of peace and hope which alone can suffice at such times.

### WEDDING BELLS IN SAN MIGUEL

By a Spectator

Rain, rain, and yet more rain poured down on the tile roof of the L-shaped adobe house, continuous drizzles broken only by heavy downpours, turning the path that led to the town into a veritable mud bath.

Sunday noon the first guests arrived for the wedding of Mr. Oliver E. Ekstrom and Miss Bessie D. Cushnie. These were the native worker from Barillas and his wife, accompanied by two other earnest Christians. Monday the Indian believers and friends from Santa Eulalia and San Rafael came in, until by evening the house was full to overflowing. The Ladino women slept in the dining room, the Ladino men in the unfinished corridor upstairs, while the Indians—men, women

and children—crowded the corridors with their sleeping forms rolled up in blankets. Large rubber blankets were hung on the open side to keep the rain from blowing in upon them.

During the day, boards were placed on trestles in the corridor, forming two long tables where the whole company ate in relays. In the evening all crowded into the dining room for a meeting. They were interrupted by shouts from those working in the kitchen. The heavy downpours of rain had caused the river to overflow its banks, and the water was pouring through the garden into the kitchen. But the meeting continued, while a few absented themselves to turn the waters aside.



Mr. and Mrs. Oliver E. Ekstrom

Tuesday morning the deluge had calmed down again to a drizzle, and the guests helped in various ways to prepare for the wedding. Some decorated the corridors and the chapel in the town with festoons of vines, with paper hearts here and there among them, and pine branches against pillars, doors and windows. Pine needles on the floor and white flowers on the tables completed the festive preparations in the chapel.

About 3:30 we all sallied forth. After reaching the center of town the bride donned her wedding garments, and by the time she appeared again, beautiful as only a happy bride can be, it seemed as though the entire populace of San Miguel had gathered to see her. The rain had ceased and all passed to the town hall

where the civil ceremony was performed. The town authorities, unknown to us, had put pine needles on the floor, borrowed benches and chairs enough to fill the room, and had the marimba playing. The secretary and mayor had most courteously refrained from liquor and were correspondingly nervous. This was the first wedding that had taken place in San Miguel in twenty years, so it was an event of importance for all. From the town hall all the believers and many of the townspeople passed to the chapel, where a short service was held, the bridegroom placing the ring on his bride's finger as a visible symbol of the union just pronounced by the law. Mr. Cox also preached a gospel sermon.

The rain had commenced again before the service was ended, but rain and mud did not dampen the high spirits of the happy individuals who splashed their way back to the house through mud and rain. The bridal dress and veil which had been exchanged for another garb for the muddy walk, was now donned again, and all sat down to the wedding supper of hot tamales, black coffee, and French bread. Lamps and lanterns lighted the festive scene, and the dark faces and native dress of the Indian believers set off the radiant happiness of the bridegroom and his fair bride.

Another meeting, followed by the confusion of so many settling down for the night, and then quietness reigned. The following day all dispersed to their homes, but we believe that the first wedding in twenty years in San Miguel has been a real testimony to Christians and unbelievers alike.

### THE FRUIT AND BLESSING OF AFFLICTION

By Miss Genevieve Hipp

(Note: Though written some months ago we believe this message from Miss Hipp will prove a blessing to our readers and perhaps help some to see God's purpose and lessons in suffering.—Editor.)

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God,

to them who are the called according to His purpose."

Many times we are called upon to believe this fact by bare faith because it does not please God to let us see how

things are going to work together or are working together for good. But sometimes He allows us to see the working out of this great and glorious spiritual fact. And that has been my experience during and since my recent illness.

It was not easy to understand why I should be laid aside, first with dengue fever and then with typhoid, so soon after my return to the field. Could it be that I had made a mistake in coming back when I did? I wondered. Nevertheless, by His grace I was speedily enabled to put the whole matter into His hands and rest it there, and then before long I began to see many, many reasons why He was being pleased to permit all the suffering and testing. I should like to mention a few of these reasons, that you may join with me in praising Him.

It is only in times of supreme need and testing that we learn how to trust Him and lean upon Him as we really should. And then it is that we really experience the greatness of His power to us-ward, that power which is always at our disposal, but which we are slow to appropriate, except in times of crisis. So I am glad for the testing which has resulted in my faith being increased and strengthened. Every need was met by Him, sometimes, as it were, by the working of a miracle.

Another reason for permitting this illness has been, I am sure, that I and others might be led to pray for the salvation of my doctor's soul. This young man, Doctor Gonzalo Funes, was a colleague of don Humberto-Santamaria in former years, and has heard the gospel from him as well as from others. I would say that he is convinced, but not converted. The Holy Spirit is working in his life, I doubt not. He has been greatly impressed to see the Lord's working in and for me. Mine is the first case, he said, which has ever come to his knowledge, where the temperature was reduced to normal so early in the course of the illness. Here typhoid fever runs at least twenty or twenty-one days' (that is, the fever itself. The illness of course lasts

longer), but my fever left between the eleventh and twelfth days. When the doctor said he could not understand it, I told him of the hundreds of believers here and in other places who had been praying definitely for me, that I might recover speedily, and for him, that God might give him wisdom in all the necessary decisions to be made in my treatment. "Well," he said, "God has heard and answered prayer. There is no other explanation." He is asking us now why we do not found a Christian hospital, saying that he would use all his influence to help in its establishment, and also that he would give his services after it was established. Do pray for his salvation.

I praise the Lord, too, for the increased opportunity of praying, which my illness has afforded. There were many, many days, even after the fever was gone, when I must lie in bed and with nothing to do, for reading was forbidden. Then it was that I realized how the Lord was giving me the time to pray in detail and at leisure for the many hundreds of petitions which had been laid upon my heart, both for the Lord's workers and for His work throughout the world.

And, last but not least, my illness has been worth while because it has shown me what real Christian love is and does. Some of the poorest believers brought me little money gifts which I am sure they could ill afford. Others brought gifts of fruit and vegetables, and those who could bring nothing gave of their strength and time in other ways, for example, helping with the laundry work, of which there was not a little. I was greatly touched by their sacrificial giving.

And what shall I say of those who cared for me, and of the loving sympathy and solicitude of each member of our missionary family. I am sure I could have had no better care in my own home in the States. May the Lord abundantly recompense each one.



## CHRISTMAS WITH THE INDIANS

By A. E. Bishop

Comalapa is a typical Indian town. As to population the Indians greatly predominate. The greater part of the 10,000 population do not speak or understand the Spanish language. The town is located about fifty miles north of Guatemala City and has an elevation of nearly 7,000 feet, 3,000 mozos or peons live there, many of them owning small huts and lots of their own. But all mozos have an employer and all are more or less in debt to him, and by law are compelled to work out their debt. They never get rid of it, as they continually ask the employer for further loans. Just now wages are very low. While there I was told that the coffee plantations pay six pesos for each job of work, and that it usually takes the mozo three days to complete the job. Thus he receives ten cents for his three days job. Besides the money consideration, he does, however, receive some food in the way of corn and beans.

The streets of Comalapa are narrow, many of them lanes of twelve or fifteen feet in width, while some of them are but winding paths. Most of the huts and lots are enclosed with ancient mud walls.

I spent three happy days, December 23rd, 24th and 25th, with the Lord's own precious saints, members of His body in this town, opening the Scriptures of Truth to them for their comfort and edification. It was a real Christmas joy to see them grow in grace and knowledge of divine things.

The chapel is in the home of one of the principal believers. It is a large, large room on the street, with one door of entrance from the outside, and one from the yard inside. There is one window with wooden shutters and no glass, opposite the pulpit. This is always open during meetings, so that the unconverted can stop, see the preacher, and hear the message.

The Bible studies led from death in-

herited from the first Adam, and its awful results, to our salvation and fulness of life and power in the second man, the last Adam. Not more than five or six of the whole congregation could understand enough Spanish to get the light from my teaching; but one of the five, apt at interpreting, growing by leaps and bounds from one study to another, with a face lit up by the Holy Spirit, was used to bring the light home to their hearts. At the close of the studies another elder arose, and with tears pled with his fellow saints to take to heart the teaching, to walk in the Holy Spirit, to walk in love one toward another, and to seek the salvation of the lost.

This Indian congregation is now self-governed and self supported. But instead of manifesting an independent spirit, they plead for counsel and teaching from the missionaries.

Now I must tell you about the guest room where I studied, ate and slept. It is a thatched roofed hut of one room, one door, and no window. It is in a lot by itself, apart from the other habitations. The lot is about twenty by forty feet, and in it I had two horses, a pig, and forty chickens, as companions. In one corner, in front of my door was the chicken roost, and in the other a pile of refuse and sweepings. The ground is of hard, yellow clay, on an incline, and does not easily become muddy. Repeatedly they swept it, doing their best to keep clean the portion nearest my door.

As Joseph's portion to Benjamin was "five times as much as any of" those to his husky brothers, so they fed me: a bowl of soup, a pile of tortillas, a big plate of sweet bread, two eggs, a big helping of meat, rice and vegetables, two cups of coffee made of burnt coffee ground fine as powder, and a cup of hot goat's milk. As I desire to live to serve God and His saints, my Indian brothers

and others, I did not make a glutton of myself. While the women who served me could not speak a word of Spanish, their countenances told out their great joy in serving those who bring the Word of

Life to them.

O, the wonders, the mighty things the gospel of grace has wrought in the lives of these Indian saints! To God be everlasting praise and glory!

**"Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord . . . Their works do follow them."**

(Somewhat coincidental has been the receipt of several accounts of the passing away of believers in the different fields, and as each one contains such evidence of the grace of God in manifestation, we have desired to publish them all and are grouping them together in the following way.)

"Recently we have seen God's wonderful mercy and grace manifested in the salvation of don Jose, an old man converted shortly before his death. This man had known the gospel for many years, and we almost despaired of his repentance. He was very self-righteous and did not see his need. Just about two weeks before he died, don Jose asked for a meeting in his house and gave his public testimony from his bed. The house was a humble one of clay and lath walls and dirt floor. But He who was born in a manger did not find it too humble. One song that don Jose asked for was, 'Some Day the Silver Chord Will Break,' with its refrain of 'Saved by Grace.' The family bore witness of the change God wrought in the last days of that life on earth. To us the case is a new exemplification of the fact that 'with God all things are possible.'" (Lloyd V. Olson)

"When we came here about eight years ago, Silveria was a little girl of nine years, living with her father and step-mother. Even then she was devoted to God's house and its services, and often came with a baby brother strapped to her back. When still small, with the help of her father she learned to read, and she spoke and understood the Spanish language, as well as her own tongue, the Cakchiquel dialect.

"With great interest I have watched all these years her growth in stature, with always a constant love and interest for the things of God. Several years ago

she gave public testimony of her faith in Christ Jesus, and about two years ago when a number of candidates followed their pastor to the river to be baptized, Silveria went too, having previously hidden her clothes so that her father who was opposed, might not know. She was heard to remark at the time, 'Even though my father beats me, I am going to be baptized.' Ever since then she has given a beautiful testimony.

"One year ago last August, she was married to one of our young Indian Christian men, and since her marriage has been even more faithful to God. I know of no other who has had more love for God's Word or more reverence for His house. A week ago last Sunday, she came as always, to Sunday School. The following Saturday night she gave birth to a baby girl and passed away almost immediately to be with the Lord. I need not say what a shock it was on Sunday morning when an Indian brother came in and said, 'Silveria has gone to be with her Lord.' Almost at once the Indian believers began to gather at the home to comfort those who had been left behind, by a word of prayer or by the Scripture.

"On Monday at 11 A. M. the body was brought to the chapel in a plain coffin painted black and covered with wreaths. The coffin was placed on the table in front of the pulpit. After some hymns and prayer in Cakchiquel by husband gave a message in Spanish from 1 Cor. 15, and our Indian brother, Vicente, spoke in Cakchiquel from the same passage. After another hymn I spoke on the life of Silveria. Never were so many Indian women seen in our chapel. The chapel,

doors, corridor, and even the street outside were crowded with women.

"Silveria's life surely spoke for Christ. But I feel that she did more by her death than by her life. Her custom was to sell salt in the market. The unsaved women who attended her funeral remarked about her life as being so quiet and peaceful and always the same."

(Mrs. H. A. Becker)

"A very heavy sorrow overtook us recently in the death of one of our most faithful and most beloved Christian women, dona Elisa Barrios. She had been in poor health for several years, but had not given up her work. She arose on October 25th, early, as usual, to take a cold bath before breakfast. With the first application of the icy water, she gave one groan and was gone. The whole town of San Pedro seemed moved by the news and the expressions of sorrow from believers and unbelievers alike were a testimony to her noble life. The two services we held drew many to hear, who do not attend the regular meetings.

"This dear sister lived a sacrificial life, earning her living by sewing, yet being always ready to lead a meeting or make a call. In our first two years here she was our constant companion in house-to-house-visiting,—an unpaid Bible woman. Then she served nearly five years in the La Aurora school in Huehuetenango, winning the respect and love of pupils, teachers and townfolk. Last March she returned to San Pedro to be with her mother who is broken in health. When the Lord called her to her rest she was sewing by the day, attending the services regularly, taking her turn at leading the women's meeting, and teaching the tiny tots in our new San Pedro Sunday School. We thought her services were indispensable, but the Lord thought otherwise."

(Anna Van Hook)

"Anita was a victim of tuberculosis and had been suffering from that disease for a long time. But about six months ago she became very much worse. One

of our young women in the church, Rosita Blanco, who has had some training in the hospital of the Strachan Mission here in the capital, heard of Anita's illness and asked that the Lord would open up the way for her to take care of her, so that in that way she would have an opportunity to lead her to the Lord. Anita and Rosita had been childhood friends years ago, but Anita's family had moved to another section of the city and the two had grown apart. For this reason Rosita did not feel free to offer her services. Finally the Lord very wonderfully opened the way for her and she went to Anita's house and stayed with her until the end.

"Every opportunity that she had she spoke to her about the Lord and explained the gospel to her. All the while she was reporting in the prayer meetings and the women's Wednesday night class, and asking the prayers of all for the conversion of the girl. Little by little Anita became convinced of the truth and really accepted the Lord as her Savior. There was a very decided change in her and her family said she was very different from what she had been before. She began praying for the conversion of her family. I had the privilege of going to see her many, many times. When I first knew her she was not expected to live from one minute to the next. But she got a little better and lasted a couple of months more.

"She loved to have us read the Scriptures to her and pray with and for her. She was very nervous from such a long illness, and when she would be tired and upset from her suffering, she always wanted the person who happened to be with her to pray that the Lord would give her patience and relieve her pain. The Lord graciously answered her prayers and each time her faith would be strengthened that much more.

"Rosita stayed with her day and night except when she would come to the meetings. At the last, Anita knew that her family wanted to have the last rites of the Catholic Church administered, and so she insisted that Rosita stay right by her bed, so as to keep them from it. Many

times she asked the Lord to take her to Himself, and finally He answered that prayer too.

"Her whole testimony and conversion were most precious. The family, although at first not at all interested in the gospel, now seem to be more interested, especially the mother. When Anita was so

sick, her mother would call on the Virgin to help, but Anita always would say, 'Don't pray to the Virgin, Mother; pray directly to the Lord Jesus.' We are asking the Lord to bring the rest of the family to a knowledge of Himself as He did Anita. Won't you join us?"

(Mrs. A. H. Stradling)

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### NEWS FROM COSTA RICA

#### San Jose

The word from Costa Rica is most encouraging and Mr. Stradling reports an increase of Sunday School attendance in the capital this past year over that of the year before, in spite of much unfavorable weather. He is also encouraged by an increasing attendance at an early morning prayer meeting which has recently been started.

The following extract from Mrs. Stradling's letter of December 13th gives further word of encouragement:

"Several (in San Jose) have recently made profession of faith, and some others have been baptized. The workers in other towns also are having their efforts blessed. We went out to the Sunday School at Cartago last Sunday and found fifty-three present. If you knew what a fanatical town Cartago is, you would realize what such an attendance means. In Turrialba the work is growing. About a year and a half ago they put up a new chapel, as the other one had been outgrown; and now even the new one will have to be enlarged. Piedades, the Bible Woman, writes from Puntarenas that they are having fine services there.

"All this will let you know that your prayers for the work in Costa Rica are being answered, and we believe the Lord has still greater blessings in store for us, if we just believe and expect them from Him."

Just as we go to press a letter from

Mr. Stradling, dated December 31st, brings still more interesting news:

"We had 204 in the Sunday School last Sunday, our high water mark for the year. On Christmas Eve we had an attendance of 250 to 275. The program went off nicely, but the best part of all was that two gave profession of faith in Christ, and up to the present moment, both give every sign of having been born again. One of the two went home and burned her image. . . . There is a spirit of prayer upon the people, and I believe we shall see a real revival."

### NEWS FROM GUATEMALA

#### Huehuetenango

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Toms are back in Huehuetenango after their visit to the American Hospital in Guatemala City and report Mr. Toms' health improved, though Mrs. Toms is not feeling quite well and both of them still desire our prayers.

Miss Doernbach is busy with her nursing work, both in visitation and with the people who come to her home for help, and reports that she greatly enjoys it all.

#### San Miguel A, Dep't Huehuetenango

Rev. N. B. Cox returned to San Miguel on December 9th after a month of teaching in the Robinson Bible Institute at Panajachel and reported finding things in good shape at his station under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Ekstrom.

Mrs. Cox had remained in Huehuetenango with the children, to be sure of the permanency of little Catherine's seemingly improved condition before returning to San Miguel.

Mr. Oliver Ekstrom reports increased attendance and interest in the meetings in San Miguel. He also mentions an epidemic of typhus, because of which multitudes of Indians were dying, and without Christ.

#### San Marcos

Miss Anna Van Hook and the believers in her field are looking forward to the coming of Mr. J. G. Cassel to be with them for January 16th-18th inclusive, for a local Bible Institute. The time has been arranged as well as possible to suit the workers and translators of both our own Mission and the Presbyterian work in that section and there is great anticipation as they plan and look forward to this time of study together.

#### Patzicia

We rejoice with Dr. and Mrs. Becker because of the latter's improved health, as indicated in Dr. Becker's letter of November 4th. We also quote other interesting items from the same letter:

"Among the newly interested ones whom it is our privilege to teach are a young sacristan and his wife. This young Indian gave public testimony sometime ago, but was restrained from any active part for some months, through persecution. But when another Indian who is one of the principal Indians of this town, gave public testimony, this young Indian and a number of other Indian men took on new courage to come out from among the rest and join the army of the Lord.

"The work in the outside places has gone ahead with the blessing of the Lord. However, when our assistant, Gregorio, came in the last time, he said that in several places he had been threatened with death by enemies. In one place a man threatened him with his big knife, so he begged that we would not again send him out alone. Please pray that the

guarding power of God may be round about our assistants."

Dr. Becker reports also great blessing in giving out the message at the great idol feast of Itzapa in the last days of November. For two days, one after another of the Indian helpers stood in front of the little tent with the literature table at the door, and presented to the changing crowd the truths of salvation. "Twelve or fourteen helpers assisted in this way, working from early morning until after eleven at night. After each had spoken, there was a pause long enough to sing a hymn played by the Indian girl at the little organ."

Dr. Becker continues, "We sometimes had rather strong competition as to which could make the most noise, ourselves or the players of marimbas, the bell ringers in the temple nearby, the drummers, or the sellers of different things. But above all, the voices of our Indian preachers went out to the ears of many who passed by or stood in front of the table. We were rejoiced to see that a large part of the Indians listened with attention. One from here was drunk and quite abusive, but was used by our Indian preacher as a 'horrible example' of what liquor does for people.

"We gave out a large amount of literature. . . . Our servant told us today that she had seen some Maxeno Indians studying some of the Scripture portions in Cakchiquel, in the plaza."

#### Guatemala City

Ronald Marcus Bundy arrived at the American Hospital in Guatemala City, November 30th, 1932. Both Ronald and his mother were doing quite well and have probably returned by this time to the home of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Bundy, at Panajachel.

Miss Ella Bennett, who recently reached Guatemala, is greatly enjoying her work of visitation in the homes and in her letter of December 17th reports two women as having accepted the Lord the previous week, and another almost persuaded.

Miss A. Fern Houser returned to Guatemala on the same boat with Miss Bennett and is at the Garden of Roses, where she has found plenty of work waiting to be done. She asks prayer that she may be given much wisdom for the privileges and opportunities that are hers. Regarding her boat trip, we quote from her interesting letter of November 24th:

"A little Columbian woman was so glad to find someone who could speak Spanish. She was interested in the gospel message. She had been reared by Roman Catholic nuns, so knew all the twists and turns of that faith and liked to tell us traditions and stories by the hour. She became very fond of us and was the last figure on shipboard to disappear from view as we landed at Port San Jose. May God use the truth presented to her to awaken her soul!

"The Guatemalan shore is green and beautiful at this time of the year. The low coast line is covered with dense tropical jungle growth. In the background we saw the great volcano 'Agua,' all dark and sombre, its summit piercing into the heavens still aglow with the last rays of the setting sun! Beautiful land of entrancing tropics! The hot sun, the balmy breeze from the great ocean! Copious plant life in multitudinous forms carpets every roadside and festoons every rocky ravine! The lazy, careless malarial people slouch about noiselessly on their bare feet and chatter quietly in groups as they patiently wait for this or that errand! But there is another land of the tropics, that of the all-powerful earthquakes, the boiling volcanic lava, the mighty, rushing mountain torrents carrying great boulders and mammoth trees in their mad rush to the sea! There is also the sparkling-eyed, pleasure-loving adept at love-making, the piercing-eyed, hot-tempered revolutionary enthusiast, the practical, energetic business man, and the careful, watchful mother and homekeeper! Such are the Latins of the tropics."

A glimpse of Garden of Roses fruitage

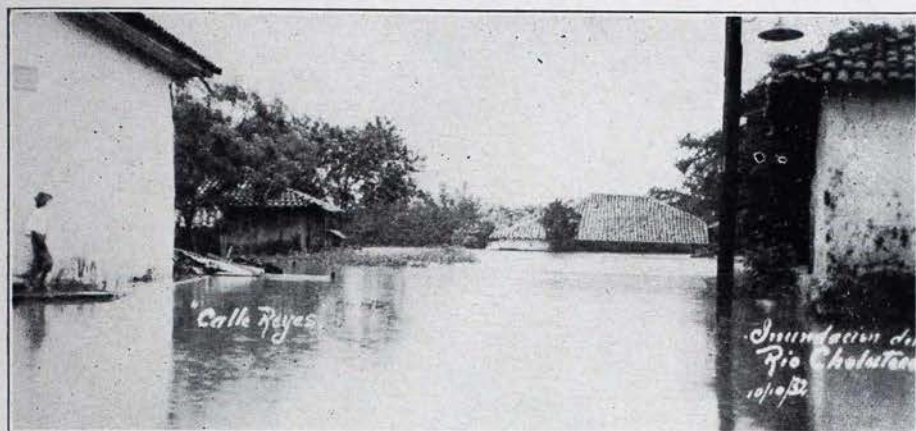
is seen in a letter of December 11th from Miss Eleanor Gerlt, from which we copy:

"Last Sunday we took one of our larger girls home to her sister, very sick with malaria, and it did us good to hear from her fever-burning lips, 'Do not take me to my home; they are not Christians and do not know how to pray.' Last year she accepted the Lord, after being rebellious for a long time. She wanted to die a Catholic, as did her parents. She has no one excepting two sisters. May God use her in her sickness, for her sisters' salvation."

Mr. Bishop writes in his letter of November 26th, of "a great awakening in our work" over near the Salvador border. Forty-nine have been saved in two recent visits made to that section by don Arturo Borja of Tecpan. "In all, during the past few months, 150 have been saved in Pinuelas and vicinity. . . . Pinuelas is but one-half mile from the Salvador border. A portion of the converts are over the line in Salvador." In his letter of December 17th, Mr. Bishop writes further, "Last week I was in Escuintla. Truly the Lord met with us. . . . Never at any time or place have I witnessed more of unity or of the power of God in manifestation. . . . The chapel was filled to overflowing, and so were our hearts."

Miss Mary Bishop has resumed her jail work since returning to the field after furlough, and writes, "The jail meetings are fine. About forty or fifty women sit on benches and listen attentively. A number claim to be saved. Some of the ones who were there when I went to the States were still there when I came back. Others had gotten out and were back again. They seemed glad to see me." She also speaks of the good attendance at all the meetings out at the Guarda Chapel, and reports three conversions for the Sunday evening previous to her letter of October 31st.

We are happy indeed over a recently opened door for the gospel in the large fanatical town of Palencia. This is one of a group of towns of like character sur-



Flood Scene in Choluteca, Hond. Note that the water is almost to the roof of the building in the background. An account of this disaster was published in the November 15th Bulletin.

rounding Guatemala City, and one after another they are yielding their doors to the entrance of the gospel. Rev. A. J. Anderson writes that it "is now being visited by two students each Sunday." He says further, "The opening was obtained through Paul Townsend, who had some mechanical work to do for a prominent man there, and he used the opportunity to get an opening for the gospel. This place has been almost impossible in the past, the workers being stoned out of town. The priest there has ruled the minds of the people with a rod of iron. However, since the visits of the students much interest is being shown, and many are receiving and reading the New Testament."

## NEWS FROM HONDURAS

### Revolution Again

#### Comayaguela

The few letters we have had from Honduras all indicate revolutionary interruptions in various ways, particularly as to the trips for evangelizing. Mr. Munsell says, under date of December 13th, "Conditions are not favorable to travel now on account of the many bands of armed men scattered throughout the country." Under date of the 22nd he indicated that trouble still continued, but

there were some evidences of an early cessation of hostilities. He mentioned added life in the gospel work in the capital, from where he wrote, and spoke of two professions of conversion.

#### Santa Rosa

Western Honduras seems to have suffered more keenly from disturbance of war than the other portion where our workers are located, and our hearts have gone out to Miss Nelson and Mr. and Mrs. Hunt and their helpers as we read the following letter of December 22nd lately at hand from Mr. Hunt:

"I want to take this opportunity to let you know that we are all safe and sound after another dreadful attempt to overthrow the government of Honduras. The Liberals were not willing to conform to the heavy defeat of their candidates in the recent elections, and one of the Indian Ferrera's former leaders rose in revolt, with the military commanders of many places, including the one in our own town.

A reign of terror ensued, in which many peaceful citizens were thrown into jail and threatened if they did not turn over to the insurgents what they demanded in large sums of money to finance their plot against the government. The leader of the Indian troops finally arrived with 1,000 or more well equipped warriors, and

occupied the town for several days. He was of a somewhat milder disposition than our drunken 'comandante' and he made the former set the prisoners free after they had paid in what they could. Otherwise they would have perhaps been slain, as the 'comandante' was determined to clean the country of the opposing political party. Some of these prisoners had never been in jail before, and it was a nerve-racking ordeal. One was a member of Miss Nelson's congregation in Dulce Nombre and another was a German merchant of Santa Rosa. All were thrown into jail without any notice, in order to extract sums of money for the insurrection, with the possibility of death if they did not comply. We passed twenty-three days at the mercy of these fellows, when almost everyone stayed inside, for fear of what might happen next. The weather was oppressive also, with extraordinary cold rains and drizzles. The Indian general, with his troops, finally moved on toward the capital, but he was defeated decisively en route. The winning party have finally obtained control, and seem to be prepared to keep peace in the country, though the Liberals die hard and are giving trouble here and there. No one can really predict the outcome, or how long we may be unable to travel anywhere with confidence.

"Miss Nelson has sent word that she is alright, although things were much worse out there where there was absolutely no authority for so long. She did not undress for rest at night for three weeks time. The store and home of don Modesto\* were attacked one night, and the doors battered to pieces with shots which penetrated their sleeping quarters and only the Lord spared them from injury or death. Many communists have taken advantage of the disorder to plunder and destroy lives and property. A relative of don Santos'\* wife was shot and killed after being robbed, and the family subjected to insults and mistreatment by a communist acting for the 'comandante' of our town. He is still at large, although they are trying to capture

him. The government of Salvador is aiding in his capture, as he is supposed to have escaped from there.

"We have heard that much mail was ransacked and destroyed during the first day and night of fighting in San Pedro Sula. It may be that some of our mail which has not come to hand has been lost in the disorder of the uprising."

\*Don Modesto and don Santos are heads of two of the oldest and finest Christian families of Dulce Nombre.

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## NEWS FROM SALVADOR

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### San Salvador

Mr. Bender's letter of December 2nd, records the joy of the church in the capital over the purchase of the lot for their new chapel and the anticipation of beginning the building program. The believers are offering to give their time, both men and women, and so the women are going to cook and the men will do the building work. They are planning an auditorium that will accommodate 1,000 or more.

Don Joaquin Vela, evangelist of the Strachan work in Costa Rica, recently spent three days in San Salvador again, and showers of blessing attended his meetings, twenty-four having accepted Christ, beside five others having been saved the Sunday night before his coming.

Mr. Bender is praising God for greatly improved health.

Miss Hipp writes of a chorus of thirty children's voices being used very effectively in the meetings around the capital, and of the blessing they have proved in several instances. Miss Hipp also presents the two following special prayer needs:

A young convert in the penitentiary, who formerly was studying for the priesthood and is in the penitentiary for passing himself off as a priest before being ordained. He has been the object of continuous persecution since he accepted Christ.

Support for a worker for Santa Tecla





Children's Chorus in San Salvador

and La Libertad. The worker is available, but no support for him.

#### Juayua

Mr. MacNaught's field will be remembered as the one which was so tragically demoralized by the communistic revolution almost a year ago now. We are happy to read in his last letter that the work in Juayua "is almost back to what it was before the revolution," though "the situation in Nahuizalco is still very unsettled."

#### Santa Tecla

The missionaries at Santa Tecla are desirous of adding to their responsibilities the regular visiting of the town of Zaragoza, but are not sure their strength will hold out for that in addition to Santa Tecla and La Libertad. Let us remember them in prayer.

#### Cojutepeque

Miss Honold writes that she and Miss Sheldon are much encouraged with their Christian Endeavor group and the responsiveness which they manifest in the things of God. She says in part, "They enjoy reading and studying the Word and commenting upon the verses they study. They lead in prayer and they have much to tell of their experiences in per-

sonal work. They are few in number and new in experience, but we rejoice in them and pray much for their progress."

She also records this further interesting incident:

"Doña Lola Martinez, who is always ready to comfort God's children, recently had quite an experience. A woman accused her of having sold her a broken chair, mentioning it after she had used the chair for five days. She had doña Lola arrested and taken to some detention home, a very Catholic place. Doña Lola, knowing how to worship the living God, did not do some of the things the others did, refusing to cross herself before eating and to bow down to idols. They gave her no bed, but before lying down on the floor she knelt and committed herself to the Lord, asking Him for opportunities to witness, as she felt the Lord permitted her to enter this place to give the gospel. She slept well, and early the following morning they were to attend mass. She did not want to go, but finally entered the chapel because she feared someone would accuse her of taking something from the ward if she stayed alone. She took a back seat and combed her hair. Some of the women watched her and later told her she was irreverent. She asked them how much of the message they understood, and they

had to admit they did not receive any benefit from the Latin service. She spent most of the morning doing personal work with the women who crowded about her, some no doubt with interest, while others only came to scoff. About noon an officer came with her release. She came home praising God for His goodness, and repeating the verse she had given to others, Rev. 2:10."

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### NEWS FROM NICARAGUA

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A few months ago the U. S. marines supervised another election in Nicaragua, and the Liberal party was again victorious. Now that things seem to be more quiet politically, according to the daily press the last of the marines have been withdrawn from Nicaragua. When they were withdrawn a few years ago, trouble immediately ensued and the whole country was thrown into revolution, the Sandino difficulty having its birth at that time. What may result now, only time will tell. Prayer is needed that peace may prevail. The Liberal government is friendly to evangelical work and with continual peace the progress of the gospel should be rapid.

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Word comes of the serious illness of **Miss Mabel E'thon**. We had hoped that the visit to Costa Rica had relieved her of the malaria, but she was taken seriously ill again after her return, and much prayer is asked for her recovery.

**Mr. Aberle** reports five recent baptisms in his field, making a total of nineteen for the year, up to the middle of December, with others to follow before the end of the year. Much illness was militating against the attendance at the services all through his field, but they were looking forward to better attendance during the Christmas services. The following paragraphs from Mr. Aberle's General

Letter written about Christmas time, bring much cause for thanksgiving:

"Several of our formerly paid pastors, when told there was no promise of more funds, chose to continue in their ministry, giving part time to secular work, thus trusting the Lord to supply their needs; and He has graciously provided. This attitude has been an example and inspiration to the other believers. The 'Fishers of Men' have done valiant voluntary service also. Through their cottage meetings, many souls have been saved and brought into the Sunday School. They have held monthly jail meetings where there have been confessions of faith at nearly every service. In fact, the workers in all parts of the field have reported conversions. In Managua, in one week of special services, fourteen professed to accept Christ, and in another week ten more.

"Surely the Lord has answered prayer for the Chontales side of Lake Nicaragua, through the untiring labors of don Jose Zavala, with our motor boat, 'Admiral Peary.' In spite of excessive rains, swarms of mosquitos, and much sickness, several successful trips have been made. He has visited thirteen important centers, besides many smaller settlements and farms, holding preaching or devotional services almost every day. Much gospel literature has been distributed and much interest manifested, with some opposition. Twenty-three have professed conversion, and one couple has recently married, preparatory to baptism. Don Jose sold twelve Bibles and twelve Testaments and could have sold more, had the people been able to purchase. This first year's work is but a beginning of the big task before us of evangelizing 85,000 souls scattered over this vast territory. Will you not pray for funds to continue this effective ministry in this most needy district. We are convinced that the best way to work this section is by boat."

# Weekly Prayer Calendar

## SUNDAY—GUATEMALA

A. E. Fishon, Box 74	Guatemala City	*W. C. Townsend	San Antonio, A. C.
Miss Mary A. Bishop, Box 74	Guatemala City	*Mrs. W. C. Townsend	San Antonio, A. C.
*Miss Jannette Talbot, Box 25	Guatemala City	*Miss Grace Barrows	San Antonio, A. C.
Miss Ethel Paulson, Box 25	Guatemala City	*Miss Lavanchie Barrows	San Antonio, A. C.
*Archer E. Anderson, Box 154	Guatemala City	*Miss Signe M. Norrlin	San Antonio, A. C.
*Mrs. Archer E. Anderson, Box 154	Guatemala City	*Miss Annie M. Esdon	San Antonio, A. C.
A. J. Anderson, Box 154	Guatemala City	Miss Alice Mayott	Chimaltenango
Mrs. A. J. Anderson, Box 154	Guatemala City	*Miss Irene Clifton	Chimaltenango
Miss B. E. Zimmerman, Box 154	Guatemala City		
Miss A. Fern Houser, Box 154	Guatemala City		
Miss Ella Bennett, Box 92	Guatemala City		
Miss Eleanor Gerlt, Box 154	Guatemala City		
Miss Elise Otto, Box 154	Guatemala City		
J. G. Cassel, Box 74	Guatemala City		

Pray for the native pastors, evangelists and Bible women.  
The Garden of Roses Home and School.  
The Central American Bible Institute.  
The San Antonio Home and School

## MONDAY—GUATEMALA

F. G. Toms	Huehuetenango	Mrs. O. E. Ekstrom, San Miguel A.	
Mrs. F. G. Toms	Huehuetenango		Dep't Huehuetenango
*A. B. Treichler	Huehuetenango	Miss Anna M. Van Hook	San Marcos
*Mrs. A. B. Treichler	Huehuetenango	*Miss Bessie N. Van Hook	San Marcos
Miss Frieda Doernbach	Huehuetenango	Dr. H. A. Becker	Patzicia
Newberry B. Cox, San Miguel A.		Mrs. H. A. Becker	Patzicia
	Dep't Huehuetenango	*Carl O. Malmstrom	Panajachel
Mrs. Newberry B. Cox, San Miguel A.		*Mrs. Carl O. Malmstrom	Panajachel
	Dept. Huehuetenango	Frank D. Bundy	Panajachel
O. E. Ekstrom, San Miguel A.		Mrs. Frank D. Bundy	Panajachel
	Dep't Huehuetenango		

Pray for the Robinson Bible Institute.  
La Aurora School.

## TUESDAY—HONDURAS

M. J. Hunt	Santa Rosa de Copan	*Miss Anne E. Thomas	Siguatopeque
Mrs. M. J. Hunt	Santa Rosa de Copan	Miss Mary V. Phillips	Siguatopeque
Miss Laura Nelson	Dulce Nombre de Copan	Miss Anna P. Stehr	Siguatopeque
Lloyd V. Olson	Comayaguela, Tegucigalpa	Miss Mabel Balder	Choluteca
Mrs. Lloyd V. Olson	Comayaguela, Tegucigalpa		
H. R. Peaslee	Comayaguela, Tegucigalpa		
Mrs. H. R. Peaslee	Comayaguela, Tegucigalpa		
Miss Anna Rodgers	Comayaguela, Tegucigalpa		
Ward Munsell	Comayaguela, Tegucigalpa		

Pray for Missionaries to enter open doors.  
For mules and other equipment for work in the Department of Copan and in Choluteca and Comayaguela.

## WEDNESDAY—SALVADOR

R. H. Bender, Box 394	San Salvador	A. Roy MacNaught	Juayua
Miss Genevieve Hipp, Box 394	San Salvador	Mrs. A. Roy MacNaught	Juayua
†Mrs. Gertrude Bell	Santa Tecla		
†Miss Irma Williams	Santa Tecla		
Miss Louise Honold	Cojutepeque		
Miss Hope Sheldon	Cojutepeque		

Funds for a Chapel at San Salvador.  
The distribution of the printed message; Bibles, portions and tracts.

## THURSDAY—NICARAGUA

W. F. Aberle, Box 36	Managua	Pray for the conversion of souls in fanatical Granada.
Miss Mabel I. Elthon, Box 20	Granada	Workers to enter wide-open doors.
Miss Lillie E. K. Kuebler, Box 20	Granada	Funds for properties in Granada and Managua.

## FRIDAY—COSTA RICA

Albert H. Stradling, Box 289	San Jose	Pray for an additional missionary couple for Costa Rica.
Mrs. Albert H. Stradling, Box 289	San Jose	
*Miss Barbara Ward, Box 289	San Jose	
*Miss Mary G. Feister, Box 289	San Jose	Funds to complete the purchase of the chapel in Puntarenas.
*Mrs. W. W. McConnell	Grecia	

## SATURDAY—THE

Pray for the Council, that it may be guided in its work.  
Mr. and Mrs. Karl D. Hummel.  
Miss Mildred Spain.  
The Mission Office and Home.  
The deputation work being done by the missionaries on furlough.  
Funds for the support of missionaries and native workers.

## WORK AT HOME

The Central American Bulletin.  
A mighty revival spirit in the Mission.  
All who contribute of their prayers, service and gifts.  
\*On furlough—future location indefinite:  
Mrs. J. T. Putler  
Miss Rex Sharne  
R. Lynn Van Sickle  
Mrs. R. Lynn Van Sickle

\*On Furlough—may be addressed care of the Mission Headquarters, Dallas, Texas.

†Mail Address, Box 9, Antigua, Guatemala.

†Mail Address, Box 394, San Salvador, Salvador.

