

The Latin American Evangelist

December 1924 Organ of the Latin America Evangelization Campaign Vol. IV, No. 3

A campaign of aggressive evangelism and soul-winning in which the missionaries of thirty denominations are co-operating to reach the millions of Spanish-speaking peoples of Central and South America, using tent and theatre buildings in strategic centers and sending out teams of trained native workers into outlying districts.

THE CHURCH'S ONE COMMISSION

"I believe that that day is drawing very near. Oh, that in the last remnant of time before we hear the shout of our descending Lord and rise to meet Him in the air, we might come back with holiness of heart to the simplicity of our mission, the evangelisation of the world! Dear friends, let us leave the government of the world till the King comes; let us leave the civilising of the world to be the incidental effect of the presence there of the Gospel of Christ, and let us give our time, our strength, our money, our days to the mission distinctly committed to the Church, namely, to make Christ known to every creature".

Dr. C. I. SCOFIELD.

THE LATIN AMERICA EVANGELIZATION CAMPAIGN

INCORPORATED, 1921

OBJECT

This is an independent, interdenominational work on faith lines, which has been founded under the guidance of God, to reach the unevangelized millions of Latin America by a forward movement of aggressive evangelism, carried out in co-operation with the missionaries of all denominations working on the field.

DOCTRINAL BASIS

The Directors and Executive Council of the Latin America Evangelization Campaign adhere to the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, as originally given; the Virgin Birth and Deity of Christ; His bodily Resurrection; the doctrine of Salvation through the Blood of Christ, whose vicarious sacrifice is the only remedy for man's lost condition; the doctrine of the eternal salvation of the regenerate and the eternal condemnation of the unregenerate; the scriptural doctrine of a life of victory over sin through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God, and the imminency of the pre-millennial coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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All contributions for the work should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. E. A. Steele, at 219 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. clearly marked for "The Latin America Evangelization Campaign" so as to avoid confusion with other funds for which Mr. Steele is also treasurer.

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The Latin American Evangelist

Vol. IV {

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, C. A.

{ No. 3

Spirituality or Sentimentality

The trouble with a great deal of what passes for religion nowadays is that it is too sentimental, too emotional. While it is a fact that true religion goes deep down into the wellsprings of life and moves to the depths the emotions as nothing else can, yet the proof that it is true religion is seen in the effects produced. That is just what James meant when he challenged the early believers to show him their faith by their works.

So far from being elemental in his teaching, as some would have us believe, James went down to bedrock fundamentals under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; and so far is his epistle from being directed only to Jewish believers (and therefore, by inference, out of date) its message is vitally necessary to-day. Perhaps we do not know the power of the effectual fervent prayer simply because we do not possess the "wisdom that is from above". Indeed that chapter three may contain the secret of our much praying and little receiving in many directions. Oh, yes, we need to study and pray and live the Epistle of James to-day, for the Holy Spirit gave it to us for that purpose.

Have we not here the secret of the dry rot that is consuming the blessing the Lord pours out in our great annual conventions. So many people plan a yearly riot of feasting in some summer conference or other; They go and have a great time, great speakers great singing, great missionary talks etc. They sing with fervor "My Jesus I love thee" and "Anywhere with Jesus"; and they make high resolves that it shall be so in their lives. But back home again, the old currents sweep stronger than ever down the stream of their lives; little by little

they fall into the old way of living—a good deal spiritual and a little bit worldly, at first, and then a little bit spiritual and a good deal worldly.

Later that wonderful conference becomes a painfully sweet memory, painful because the high resolves of these gracious days of the Spirit's pleading have all come to nought—utterly sincere for the time being were those resolves, but the fact that nothing tangible came of them proves conclusively that they were nothing more after all than "inexcusable sentimentality".

There is one tremendous dictum of our Lord that is usually relegated to the religion of theological discussion and is never, or very rarely, applied to the practical aspect of the every day life of the every day Christian. We refer to the text, "The servant that knew his Lord's will and **did it not** shall be beaten with many stripes". That text, you say, has nothing to do with the Christian, "there is now no condemnation for them that are in Christ Jesus". That is all very true but will that word of the Lord have no force in the day when we shall all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the things we have done in the body? The Lord did not "beat" Peter with stripes on that sad day in Pilate's judgment hall but His look broke Peter's heart. Which of us would wish to have that look turned upon us in the great crowning day? Which of us wants to see His disappointment and hear Him say "inasmuch as ye did it not to the least of these, ye did it not to me!"

Beloved the only way to prove that we really love Him is to do something definite for "the least of these". Anything less is offensive lip worship.

Campaign in Porto Rico

At this time of writing the Evangelistic Campaign in Porto Rico will have begun. After leaving Santo Domingo, where, owing to local circumstances, the Campaign had to be shortened from twelve to ten weeks, Mr. Strachan spent two weeks in San Jose, leaving October 30th for Porto Rico.

Porto Rico is a magnificent example of what can be made of those countries under disinterested and beneficent rule. It is not possible to appreciate conditions in Porto Rico in their true value unless one arrives there for the first time from any of the other Latin American Countries. Four months of travel in Central America and Venezuela give an excellent standpoint from which to judge conditions in Porto Rico. Roads, railways, schools, churches, hospitals, are here in most beautiful tropical surroundings. Law, order and progress are everywhere in evidence.

Side by side with all the progress however, sin also abounds and, though the evangelical cause is strong, the masses are still unreached by the Gospel. The present campaign is an attempt by new methods to reach these masses of the people. It has been amply proved that if once the people

can be got to give a hearing to the Gospel, they recognise its essential truth and authority, and they assent to its claims. This does not mean that they are converted, but it does mean that they get their opportunity, and, praise God, it has meant hitherto that out of the multitudes that have heard many individual souls have come into the assurance of pardon, peace, and life eternal.

Our great longing for this campaign is that it may result in a number of lives consecrated definitely to the work of evangelism in Latin America. We praise God for the large vision He has given to the leaders there, and for the splendid force of Porto Rican preachers they have trained for the ministry of the Gospel. We covet from their ranks men in sufficient numbers to evangelize the backward republics of South and Central America. We want our prayer helpers to plead continually with God that He may lay His hand upon some of them, as He did upon Saul of Tarsus, giving them a vision of the crucified, ascended Christ that will completely change their whole conception of life and its privileges and responsibilities; and that He will then send them forth filled with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the glorious message of the Cross.

Subjects for Praise and Prayer

Praise

For answered prayer for the Dominican campaign; for souls saved during that time; for traveling mercies for Mr. Strachan and his helpers; for all God's goodness to the work in Costa Rica where His continued sustaining grace is being daily experienced, as well as for the more pronounced tokens of His favor of which account is given elsewhere. We praise Him for Miss Kirk's safe arrival on the field.

Prayer

For the missionaries, believers,

and recent converts in Santo Domingo; for the Campaign in Porto Rico as indicated on page 4; for the means to finish paying for the lot and to erect the Men's Dormitory, see pp. 6 and 7; for the students' vacation evangelistic work, p. 8.

Very definite concentrated prayer is asked that God would send us the right workers for the Men's School—missionaries with the necessary training as well as some experience, and knowledge of Spanish. Also that guidance may be given in the selection of new candidates for training and their needs supplied.

Five Excellent Reasons

San Francisco de Macoris was the first Protestant church in the interior of Santo Domingo. The Free Methodist mission in the Dominican republic dates from the year 1908 and good progress has been made. God has blessed the labours of the missionaries and churches have been established in several points through the Republic.

By Rev. Wesley O. Smith.

The results of the week's campaign in San Francisco de Macoris were in every way satisfactory. Some of the outstanding features were the following:

1. Large numbers of people who never attend our services were reached by the "Conference". There is probably as little prejudice against the Gospel in Macoris as in any place in the Republic, especially among the educated people. However many of the people who are openly friendly do not regularly attend services. The services in the theater attracted not only these people but also many people who are quite hostile.

2. It is fortunate that Mr. Strachan is of British citizenship. Because of the recent occupation of this country by Marines the people do not love the United States and the priests make every effort to use this feeling to their own advantage. Inasmuch as Mr. Strachan uses the same methods, shows the same spirit, and aims for the same results as the American missionaries, it helps to put a stop to the claim that "patriotism" demands hostility to evangelical Christianity.

3. The "Conference for men only" is a very useful and commendable method of work. It would be more than justified on the merits of the subject alone, for the ravages of the social evil in this country are only matched by the ignorance of the average youth as to any better mode of life, but these talks also serve in remarkable fashion to bring out the crowd. A talk for men only is a decided novelty. It also proves to be a fine entering wedge. The men must give their approbation to the standard of morals presented in the first talk of the series. They then stand pledged

to speak favorably of the rest of the series.

4. The accompaniment of native Latin-American evangelists is a wise policy. An important part of the typical audience in this country has a keen appreciation for a fluency in the use of Spanish which the foreigner never fully acquires. The presentation in the native intonation shows that the Gospel need not be a foreign message.

5. The excellent spiritual tone of the meetings is the best of all. All of the believers were greatly strengthened and encouraged. One old man who had never before heard the Gospel preached with such ability declared that Mr. Strachan certainly had ascended into the heavens and brought back his exalted messages. Unconsciously the old man had the truth. Prayer was ever brought to the front as the source of power.

The writer believes that Mr. Strachan is really called of God to his particular work. At first thought the stranger might think that such a campaign was started because of incompatibility or a desire to be head of something or other. The truth of the matter is that Mr. Strachan is acting upon a vision which is the result of years of work in complete harmony with others. An occasional visit from the "outside world" is a very necessary thing to the mission churches of this country. The missionaries, pastors and believers are encouraged, the irreligious are once more aroused from the indifference which curses Catholic lands, the prejudice of the fanatical Catholics is more or less diminished, and the invariable result is an increase in the number of Evangelicals. Thus the support of the Latin American Evangelization Campaign is also the support of the missionary work carried on by the different church boards.

Institute News: Another New Building

By Mrs. H. STRACHAN.

Oct. 18th.

"I am writing to say that I believe you ought to go ahead and plan for larger things. I am heartily in favor of developing the Institute so that you can train not only young women but men also. What Central and South America needs is the Gospel of Christ, and the best way to give it is through well-trained, born-again natives.

I am writing to say you can count on me for \$ 500.00 towards the erection of a Men's dormitory..."

Oct. 23rd.

"Since my last letter in which I told you of our intention of contributing \$ 500.00 towards the erection of the men's dormitory for the Bible Institute, my dear parents have said that they too, would like to put \$ 500.00 into the building. I know this will rejoice your heart..."

I hope in building this dormitory you will make it large enough to accomodate a large number of students. I do believe the Lord is going to use the Institute in greatly increasing measure for the training of evangelists for all Central and South America."

Last month we were able to announce the gift that provided for the support of our students for nine months; this month the Lord has given us the above marvellous tokens of His gracious provision for the extension of the work. This is nothing else but answer to prayer. Nay more, it largely is answer to the prayer of those dear saints of His to whom He has confided none of this world's goods. In loving response to their faith He opens His hand in generous gifts.

There is a small story in connection with the receipt of the first of the above quoted letters that we have promised to tell. As our readers know, ever since the coming of the men from Nicaragua we have been the facing the need for providing a house for them and for others that are waiting to come also. We have been much in prayer and had hoped to have something definite to put before our prayer helpers when Mr. Strachan was home last month. But time passed and the Lord did not tell us what He would do. We were feeling that we needed to have some leading from Him, some indication of what the first step ought to be, and on the very morning the above letter came, at our five-thirty a. m. prayer meeting Miss Elder asked definitely that God would give us some certain sign that day of what His will for us in the matter was. It seemed to me too much to ask—so small was my faith. But the Lord in

His own gracious way responded and at seven-thirty that very morning the second of the two letters given above was handed in amongst a large bunch of other mail. We held a thanksgiving service after one of the classes that morning for the students all have been sharing with us the prayer burden of this. What a lesson of answered prayer it was for them!

Having thus had God's seal on the project we have been going into the question of securing a lot and after much investigation and bargaining, but above all, constant prayer, we seem led to settle upon a piece of ground at the south end of the block below us. It is not quite as large as our present property but will give ample room for the growth of the men's department. Prices have gone up considerably since we bought before, and we are paying rather more for this lot than we paid for the Institute. Only to-day our offer of three thousand dollars, with two or three month's grace in which to complete the payments, was accepted.

We are taking this step entirely in faith trusting the Lord to meet us in it by sending in quickly the balance needed to pay for the ground. As He put it into the hearts of these servants of His to give this money before there was any definite plan, so He can now put it into the hearts of four others to follow their example in sending like amounts. May we not pray for this,

or rather that in His own way He will soon send the money?

It was just one year ago this month that we negotiated the purchase of the ground on which the Institute has been built. We were asking God to do a big thing then and He did it in a bigger way than we had dared to expect. It seems to us now that in some ways we are facing even a more difficult under-

taking. Then we asked that the building might be ready in May. Now greatly daring we are asking that there may be rooms ready in March not only for the men we have

with us at present, but also for those who are entering next year. And we have these two promises of five hundred dollars each, with about one hundred and fifty dollars cash in hand to start with.

I am afraid to say how much it will take to build the house for prices have soared since the earthquake, but at least fifteen thousand dollars, and probably nearer twenty thousand, besides the price of the ground. We plan plenty of room but a simple con-

struction. We shall make the foundations strong enough to carry a second story and then if the Lord sends the money, as the number of men increases we can go on adding dormitories. To begin with we would build dormitories for at least thirty men, some class rooms, dining room, kitchen, etc., and an apartment for the Director and his family.

Before this building was finished I was very tired and said one day "well, whatever the Lord may have for me to do after this, I certainly hope it won't be to build another house". Yet it

HOW OFTEN?

"And must I keep giving
Again and again?"
"Oh, no," said the Angel;
His glance pierced me through.
"Just give till the Master
Stops giving to you."

was just what He was going to do for, in answer to the prayers of years, He meant at last to give Central America a Men's Bible Institute. And now He wants us to stand with Him to carry it through. There will be many more men and women in training next year and soon we believe all the republics of Central and Northern South America will be represented. What an overflowing joy it will be to send back groups of trained consecrated workers to these needy fields!

Evangelizing Costa Rica

A very important part of our students' work consists in evangelizing the surrounding towns. By a happy arrangement with the workers of the Central American Mission we have undertaken the evangelization of three centers which are within easy reach of the city. One of these, Heredia, is in point of population, the second largest city in the republic. It is surely a strong hold of Romanism and our men find that the doors which seem open to them one day are quite closed the next time they go, the priest in the meantime warning the people against

them. However they go bravely on sowing the seed and the harvest is surely coming. Even now there are some who receive them, and in the street they can always get a little group around them to hear the word.

In Santo Domingo the Lord has been pleased to give more encouraging results. Last Sunday the three men who went there were able to hold as many as three different meetings in the open air, at one of which they counted over seventy people standing by.

This steady work is telling on the

places visited and when the time is ripe we hope to have tent services in all these towns, at which time we believe some reaping will be done.

It has been decided that our group of students shall occupy the summer vacation—January and February—in evangelistic work in some of the more remote places. Rev. R. R. Gregory, of the American Bible Society, has generously promised to supply them with Bibles and Testaments for this work free of cost.

Perhaps the richest section of all Costa Rican territory is the province of Guanacaste, that large peninsula on the Pacific coast. In that province there are districts where even the priest rarely goes. It is an open door in a very real sense for the Gospel. There are scattered believers to be found in some parts, results of work done many years since by the pioneer

missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. W. Mc Connell. We hope, God willing, to send a band of men into Guanacaste for a month or six weeks during the vacation. We have a burden for the evangelization of Costa Rica. The workers here are very few and we feel that God has called the Bible Institute to take a very active part in the evangelization of the country. We feel the time is short and these far away places will never be reached except by some such effort as that we are hoping to put into execution this summer. At the same time the experience will be magnificent for the students from the point of view of practical work. We ask our readers to be with them daily in prayer, covering them body, soul and spirit from the attacks of Satan; and praying that the seed sown may fall into good ground and bring forth a harvest unto life eternal.



MAP OF COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is perhaps the most beautiful of all the Central American republics, and her people yield to none in their genuine courtesy and kindness of heart. With good ports both on the Caribbean and Pacific, with abundant natural resources of all descriptions, and with a great variety of temperature, Costa Rica ought to be one of the most prosperous of Latin American countries. As the people of Costa Rica are more given to philosophy than fighting, her government has been unusually stable, and there is every reason to predict for her a path of peaceful progress and prosperity.

The Campaign in La Vega

Satan, like other modernists, hates the preaching of the Blood of Christ

By H. Strachan.

On arrival at La Vega I was met at the station by Mr. Johnson, Supt. of the Free Methodists who had come down from Santiago, and by Mr. Peterkin of the Plymouth Brethren, who had formerly been in the Argentine.

The tent was duly raised, and our first meeting for men only attracted a considerable crowd who entirely filled the tent. The other evenings of the week, we had really splendid meetings with the tent crowded each evening, and an interest that kept growing all the time. It was very notable the manner in which the female part of the audience kept increasing. Here, as in other parts, the priests have a tremendous power over the women, for which reason it is extremely difficult to get them to come to the meetings. In La Vega however we were getting some of the best ladies in the town, and the number grew each evening until we had almost an equal number of men and women, which was regarded as a great triumph.

As my companions had left me the week before, and the others were not to arrive until the following week, I was obliged to take all the meetings myself. The Lord however gave special grace, and we certainly had very powerful and blessed meetings, so much so that quite a number of the better class people sent requests for me to continue longer. This however was impossible, as the Free Methodists had decided to hold their semi-annual Convention in Moca this week, and we had promised to be with them for the occasion, and run the Campaign at the same time.

I feel certain that Satan—as prince of the power of the air, has at any rate some power over the elements, for one night when I was especially emphasizing the matter of the Blood of Jesus Christ which cleanseth from

all sin' a terrific downpour of rain fell upon the tent, making it impossible for my voice to be heard. I was obliged to come to standstill, after making myself almost hoarse. I thereupon called upon two young ladies who had come down from Santiago to sing for us, to sing a duet, which they did, when the force of the tempest ceased considerably. I immediately started again at the point where I had left off, but the first words had barely passed my lips, when once more the terrific fury of the rain upon the tent obliged me to desist. Again I called upon my singers, and once more the identical experience was repeated. I held on to the Lord in prayer however, determined that at all costs the message of the Blood should go through. And the Lord gave us the victory, for it went through, although it was about two hours before we were enabled to conclude our meeting. And thus once again the Scripture was fulfilled, so that "they overcame by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony".

The last day of our stay another terrific downpour occurred, which flooded the tent in parts, but fortunately a sawmill was near at hand, and altho' it was Sunday, yet we felt the work to be one of necessity, and so had several bags of sawdust brought over, which made it possible for us to hold the closing meeting. Other functions in the town announced for the same evening, such as the cine, a band concert and a special dance, had all to be given up. We however were enabled to hold our meeting, with a crowd of over 200 really interested people, who had braved the inclement weather and the muddy streets to be present.

Many other people, on the following day, stated that they would gladly

have come had they known a meeting would have been held, but they thought such impossible and so remained at home. A few manifested their desire to accept and follow Christ at this closing meeting, and there can be no question but that a very real and definite impact has been made upon the town.

Miss Whiffen, missionary of the Free Methodist Church in La Vega, writes:

The people of La Vega in the Dominican Republic have been hearing the Gospel presented in a new way. On September 8th, the big tent was put up on a lot near the center of the town and Rev. Harry Strachan began a week's evangelistic campaign. The helpers whom he had expected failed to arrive and he was obliged to conduct the series of "conferencias" alone. We felt that this must be the Lord's plan and realized the need of much prayer in order that our brother's strength and voice should not fail under the strain put upon them.

From the first night, the tent was well filled with interested listeners composed principally of the thinking men of the town and the comparatively few women who dared brave the displeasure of the priests.

Of course, the priests as usual showed their hostility by preaching furiously against us at the Sunday morning masses. They say that one of them was so affected that he wept in the pulpit about the large number of the "faithful" who had allowed themselves to be deceived, as he expressed it, into attending our meetings.

The "prince of the power of the air" did his best to interfere with the work and we had frequent heavy rains during the week. The Satanic influence was especially noticeable one night when again and again as Mr. Strachan tried to speak of the Blood of Christ the rain came down in such torrents that it was impossible for the audience to hear. However, prayer prevailed and the speaker was able to give the message.

The last night because of the rain, the theater was closed, a dance was postponed and the band concert in the park could not take place but the tent was well filled with eager listeners.

The results of the meetings have been in part, new inspiration for the missionaries, renewed courage and faith among the "evangelicos", new converts to the faith of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and in many hearts desires for a better and cleaner life.



Missionaries of the Scandinavian Alliance, Maracaibo, Venezuela, singing the Gospel to the lepers of whom there are many in that country, as in many other Latin American countries also.

The Right Kind of "Union" Movement

The list of subscribers to the "Evangelist" represents a body of Christian people vitally interested in the Lord's work in Latin America, whose prayers are a wonderful contribution to the evangelization of the continent. The "Evangelist" is deeply grateful to God for the privilege of uniting them in this precious ministry and of keeping them informed for intelligent intercession. All the indications are that this volume of prayer and supplication is wearing down the forces of the enemy and preparing for a great movement of the Holy Spirit throughout all the countries of Latin America. It is a matter for profound gratitude to God that not only does this prayer fellowship include members of the Church of Christ in all denominations but that the activities and objective of the evangelistic Campaign embrace the whole of the Lord's work on the field irrespective of denominational differences. It is, in fact, a "union" movement of the highest spiritual type, the union after Christ's own heart that has only one object and that the evangelization of the lost.

We believe that we are on the eve of a great forward movement. This will take the form of a spiritual revival amongst the evangelicals of Latin America with the necessary corollary of an intensified interest in the aggressive evangelization of the unreached masses. The evangelization of the continent is well within reach. The call is to go forward, to lengthen our cords and strengthen the stakes. On these parallel lines will run the great convoys carrying news of free Salvation to the millions who have never heard. The main business of the "Evangelist" is to "strengthen the stakes" at home, so that on the field the cords may be safely lengthened. "Advance" is the order, but we must do it wisely as well as boldly. The growth of our constituency at home will largely determine the growth of the effort on the field.

Therefore the interesting of other Christians in the Evangelist and in the work it represents is of the most positive usefulness to the cause of Christ in Latin America.

Another Missionary on the Field

We have had the great pleasure this month of welcoming Miss Harriet Kirk of Three Hills, Alberta, Canada to the Bible Institute. After some uncertainty the Lord finally opened her way to come to the field, supplying all her need for passage and outfit. Miss Kirk will help us in the office and in the general work while she is learning the language and we anticipate for her a sphere of great usefulness in days to come. Her coming to us is another link with the Bible School of Three Hills which has so generously contributed to the building fund of the San Jose Bible Institute. God is now giving them a building suitable for their work and we greatly rejoice with them in it. They might have built their own place first but that is not the spirit which animates Principal Maxwell and the band of faithful men and women of large heart and vision, who stand with him for Bible teaching in Western Canada.



For the work of Christ He was nigh unto Death

In July of 1921, accompanied by one of the members of my congregation I set out for a little place called Buena Vista about 9 miles from Diriamba, where we have a little mission with a small group of believers which came into existence through the fires of tribulation and persecution.

We spent the day visiting amongst the believers and those interested in the Gospel and at 6 p. m. we began our evening service with about 30 people present. That night the Lord gave us the overflowing joy of seeing a woman who was a sinner—drunkard, gambler, and evil liver—weeping at the feet of Jesus until she found peace for her soul.

The meeting was over about 8.30 and after prayer with the brethren we prepared to start for home. Some of them were uneasy about the unusual silence which reigned and fearing that it betokened trouble for us, for or five of the men decided to accompany us to the outskirts of the town. We mounted our animals while the others walked with us for some distance when, judging that all danger was past, I asked our friends to go back and we proceeded alone.

We had not gone forward more than 500 yards or so, when we encountered two men, apparently drunk, who made a show of arresting our progress. However we put spurs to our horses and passed on ahead but only to encounter at a bend of the road farther on that some six men with rifles and machetes were waiting for us. They immediately surrounded us and without further ado began to maltreat us with shouting and curses. My companion, Señor Jimenez, received a blow from the butt of a gun which knocked him off his horse. They threw us from side to side and rained blows upon us with their guns and machetes, threatening to shoot us if we dared to show any resistance, a thing that was entirely impossible for us. They taunted us with horrible blasphemies, telling us to call now upon our God and see



Rev. Francisco Lopez Espinosa
the writer of this article

whether He would protect us. They became more furious all the time but in their fury they frustrated their own purpose for often the rifle of one would save us from the blow of the machete of another. It was in this way that God preserved our lives so that although badly bruised and exhausted, the only wounds we sustained were that my forearm was opened by a slash from a machete and my companion's right hand was disabled in the same way. Blood was flowing profusely from us and seeing this our assailants concluded that they had done enough, and with shouts of "viva" and "let us see if they will come back here again", they left us at last. We had great difficulty in mounting our horses because of the condition of our hands and arms but at last, wounded and bruised and almost fainting, our clothes torn to rags, we reached home at 12 o'clock that night and one

hour later a doctor was dressing our wounds.

The authorities, being Catholics, took no step to bring the criminal to justice but on the second day after the divine justice fell upon the ringleaders who

in a drunken row were badly beaten up with machetes, one of them having his head cut open. But what has brought great joy to our hearts is that one of our assailants is now interested in the Gospel and attending our meetings.

Of whom the World was not Worthy

While in Nicaragua recently Mr. Strachan took this picture of three stalwarts in the faith whose undaunted testimony for Christ has meant that they too bear in their bodies the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brother Manuel Arajon has oft times been in "perils from his countrymen" and the sisters who stood with him before the camera, stood just as fearlessly at his side on one occasion when a band of blood-thirsty Romanists burst into the little meeting where a simple Gospel service was being carried on. Besides machetes and guns, a pail full of live coals and burning sticks had been brought to consummate the nefarious intention of destroying the evangelicals root and branch. In the midst of cries of "Viva la Virgen" and the shrieks of the infuriated mob, blows were rained on the defenceless ones who had dared to meet together to worship God in a way otherwise than that prescribed by Rome. They had no other defence but God and He miraculously saved them. Together they stood and sang a hymn to the utter amazement of their aggressors. Presently the officers of the law appeared and their lives were saved although their bodies were marked by many a bruise and blood flowed freely.

On another occasion this brother and his little flock were attacked more or less in the same way. This time in the midst of the confusion the lights were put out and the believers one by one slipped out, one brother seriously wounded. The simple furniture of the room was broken up and in the darkness the assailants rained blows upon each other in the belief their victims were still in the room. The last to escape was Brother Arajon who got out when the side wall of the room



collapsed, receiving as he went a blow of a stone which caused the blood to flow. It was at this moment that a man of influence in the place came to his defence and saved his life helping him to escape in the darkness. Thus God once more protected His own and gave them at the same time the glorious privilege of suffering on behalf of Christ.

It is perfectly true to say that these and all other similar acts of aggression against evangelical believers, are directly or indirectly instigated by the priests of Rome who hates with Satanic hatred the preaching of free salvation through the vicarious work of Christ, only sacrifice and only mediator between God and man.

Muscular Christianity of Another Kind

By Robert Elphick Valenzuela.

From Masaya we went on to Niquinohomo a picturesque town half hidden by the most profuse vegetation and giant trees where the birds make a continual banquet without ever a care for the morrow.

In this place the work which was begun about a year ago has prospered under the care of Brother Emilio Ortega. The preaching hall is on one corner of the Central Plaza, facing which is also the Catholic church.

The day before our arrival the priest had been warning the people against the protestants and their meetings. This priest has been infamous in his persecutions of the evangelicals. He had Brother Aragon taken prisoner for distributing tracts. But he is also violent in his treatment of his own people. During Holy Week he whipped a woman barbarously for getting married by the civil service instead of by the church. The case was brought before the courts but nothing was done about it. Another time he whipped an old woman at the very door of the church for daring to ask that he complete the series of "Gregorian" masses for the dead, for which she had paid in advance.

From the first meeting stones were rained on the roof and a group of men stationed near by to molest us so that it was impossible to concentrate attention on the meeting. Some of the brethren went out to put a stop to the stone throwing and then a certain amount of order was restored. But later we had to appeal to the police and the comandante went about uttering threats with the result that we had quieter meetings which began to grow larger each day.

*But the worst was yet in store for us. On the last Sunday there was a

great fiesta in the church, lights and bombs which went off with terrific noise. This was all to drown our voices and make impossible our meeting. The stone throwing was again indulged in making our situation a precarious one. Nevertheless the people thronged around the door and windows although it was impossible to do more than keep up the singing in the hope that the enemy would get tired or run short of ammunition.

It began to look as if our last meeting would be an utter fracaso when a bomb was thrown at the door with the deliberate intention that it should burst amongst the people gathered in the meeting. Fortunately the aim was bad and the deafening noise was the worst we felt of it. Not so however, a man standing in the plaza who was struck on the head and badly hurt.

The police then put in an appearance and things began to quiet down, although it was very evident that they were there with considerable reluctance. And now our patience was rewarded for the very men who were sending off the bombs, when the supply was exhausted, came round to listen to the preaching. Finally we had a great crowd of people around and in the plaza, and we were able to preach the word with the vehemency of those who are in the midst of the combat, and with confidence in Him who said "In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world".

The Lord blessed the word preached and answered the prayers of the brethren for many of those who had witnessed the attacks of our adversaries now professed their intention of putting themselves in the ranks with the soldiers of Christ Jesus. Glory to God.

Campaign Day of Prayer

We are observing the Third Thursday of each month as the Campaign Day of united prayer. This month it falls on December 18th.

Not in Ephesus but Nicaragua

"This our craft is in danger of being set at nought"

The following sounds imposing and would have our hearty approbation did we not know that the source from which it comes is polluted to the last degree. With what silent rage many men will have read the handbill from which these paragraphs are translated, and which was scattered broadcast in Leon during the evangelistic campaign in June last! Too well do the men of Latin America know what the purity and innocence of girls are worth to the satyrs of the confessional.

"These pseudo-apostles, paid by the protestant god of North America have come to pervert the religious faith of our people, nor do they lack support. The newspapers (for business of course) in great advertisements announce their sermons which offend and calumniate our religion: musicians, like clowns, go through the streets inviting people to the meetings: coaches carry great posters for the same purpose: the theatre "Iris" opens its doors to them: crowds of the most remiss in their religious duties are not lacking around the protestant platform.

We are becoming decadent and are losing character. We lack the strong, virile faith of our fathers who, persuaded they were in the truth, resisted the heretical invasion. These symptoms of decadence ought to alarm and move us to the task of social regeneration.

Should anyone doubt that social corruption brings with it religious indifference, it is only necessary to open the eyes and see these evil habits: betting, drunkenness, concubinage, thft, and other vices which are weakening the nerve of the social character. Woman, who amongst us, used to be a pattern of modesty and purity, has lost out notably through immoral dress fashions, diversions imported from abroad, and mixed bathing. Religious decadence is the necessary consequence of this decadence of social customs.

Our salvation is in the churches where the clergy ought to exercise a

salutary influence teaching the people their duty: in the schools where the purest morality ought to be inoculated in infant souls: and above all in the girls' schools the effort must be made to form again the woman of other times who because of her beautiful virtues was the enchantment of the home and the fragrance of society".....

A price list of the wares of Rome

To show the brazen effrontery of the whole thing we give a few items from the "Ecclesiastical Tariff" drawn up by the bishops of Nicaragua, fixing the prices of the various church offices for the year 1918'. By the way it is an interesting coincidence that the ecclesiastical synod of San Jose has just completed the revision of the church tariff in Costa Rica. Announcing this fact the "Diario de Costa Rica" says that naturally the details are not for general publication but that prices all round have been raised owing to the low rate of exchange and the high cost of living!!!

A brief perusal of the above mentioned "Tariff" from Nicaragua would open the eyes of the most fervent protestant admirer of the "sister church". It is styled "ARANCEL ECCLESIASTICO DE LA ARQUIDIOCESIS DE MANAGUA y de la DIOCESIS de LEON y GRANADA". Where we got it is our secret, for, as the Costa Rican paper naively admits, these papers are not for general publication.

Almost everything in this tariff is classified as belonging to first, second, and third class, or category. From the cradle to the grave the church fixes the price of its service to its devotees. A child can be baptized with more or less pomp as its parents can afford. The burial service is carried out in the same way—so much for every ring of the church bell. But the thing that shocks all decent feeling is the cynical unblushing way sin is overlooked at a

price. For example, in the schedule regulating marriage there is the usual distinction of classes. This is followed by the rates for dispensations of affinity in various degrees. When it is remembered that the Council of Trent, by whose decrees the Church of Rome is bound, regulated in the most rigid manner the forbidden degrees of relationship, even going the length of excluding affinities by marriage, it will be evident what a farce is this sale of license to do the thing forbidden by the laws of the church. Of course the church of Rome is great enough to make and unmake laws, but it strikes us that here in Costa Rica it must be a paying business this sale of dispensations to marry within the forbidden degrees of relationship, for it is notorious that the families here are terribly intermarried so that everybody is everybody else's cousin more or less removed. Worse still there are many women married to their own uncles, brothers of their father, one such case

being within the circle of our acquaintance.

But when we come farther down in this precious price list we find something still more shocking and more repugnant to morality. We find the scale of charges for dispensations for crime (of what sort not stipulated); for lack of public morality; and for "concubinage, public and notorious, in two degrees!"

This hideous traffic in sin is the secret of the condition of all the countries of the world that are dominated by the Romish system, the fruits of which are invariably illiteracy, immorality, and illegitimacy. In Latin America the percentage of illegitimate children is from forty to eighty per cent of the population according to the country. Such a state of things is not to be wondered at when unnatural restrictions are placed upon the marriage tie, and all for the purpose of removing them again at a price.

More Subscriptions

They keep coming in and we have every reason to feel satisfied—but we are not! We aim to make the "Evangelist" entirely self-supporting and we are not far off the goal. Let us all keep at it and we shall soon get there. Renewals and new subscriptions to Mr. E. A. STEELE, 219, N. BROAD ST. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Wanted: an Addressograph

We very badly need an addressograph for our rapidly increasing office work in San Jose. It may be that somebody amongst our friends has one that he could either let us have as a gift, or would sell us secondhand. If so please write Mr. C. E. Mason, 437, Chestnut St. Philadelphia. Pa. It will be a wonderful help.

Form of Bequest to the Latin America Evangelization Campaign

(Incorporated under laws of the State of New Jersey, 1921)

I give and bequeath to the Latin America Evangelization Campaign the sum of dollars for the purposes of said Society, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer, or other proper officer for the time being of said Society, shall be a sufficient discharge for said Legacy.