

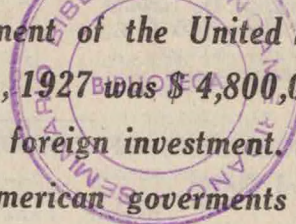
# The Latin American Evangelist

March 1928

Organ of the Latin America Evangelization Campaign

Vol. VII, No 3

An independent, interdenominational work on faith lines, which was 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.



*"The total investment of the United States in Latin America on June 1, 1927 was \$ 4,800,000,000, or 40% of all our total foreign investment. In 1919 we loaned to Latin American governments . . . . \$ 20,900,000. In 1926 we loaned them fifteen times that much,—that is \$ 317,708,200.*

*"In spite of our enormous investments and commerce with Latin America, North America is doing less for Latin America spiritually and culturally than for any other part of the world".*

Report of Committee on Cooperation, 1927

# 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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# The Latin American Evangelist

Vol. VII

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA. C. A.

No. 3

## EDITORIAL

### Men of Small Affairs

The "Committee on Cooperation in Latin America" is supposed to represent a number of boards having missionary interests in that continent. Their annual report for 1927, recently issued, contains some illuminating statistics. We do not find ourselves often in agreement with the conclusions of the Committee, but we do admire their zeal in collecting statistics. Rarely, however, do we peruse any of their literature without finding here and there a veiled thrust at those who are styled in this their latest bulletin as "men too busy with their own small affairs to give attention to big movements". This we resent on behalf of the large number comprising indeed the majority of missionaries in Latin America, who, loyal to their call from God to preach the Gospel of His Son, have no time for conventions and conferences and collecting of statistics. They are too busy piling up statistics that are registered in the Lamb's Book of Life, the only book whose pages will be opened in the great day when they shall meet their Lord to render an account of the stewardship committed to them. Apart, however, from this, they are becoming disillusioned about these "big movements" that are big only on paper but which have not as yet produced any tangible results.

Nehemiah was called a man of small affairs. "Why", said his enemies, "that little two by four work he's doing, even that which they build, if a fox go up he shall even break down their stone wall". Nehemiah's work was contemptible in the eyes of some people, but Nehemiah was a man under authority who could not be turned aside by either flattery or scorn from the work he was given to do. To their threats and to their ridicule

he turned a deaf ear, while to their invitations to attend a general conference he sent back his famous message, "I am doing a GREAT WORK, why should the work cease while I leave it and come down to you?"

Understanding the heart of the missionary situation in Latin America perhaps more intimately than the members of the Committee on Cooperation in their offices in New York can possibly do, we rejoice to see that the Nehemiah attitude is becoming more and more general amongst missionaries in these countries. They are conscious as never before that the real business to which they are committed is the preaching of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These "big movements" of educational and social trend so loudly championed for the last decade or two, have produced little definite result in the direction of the evangelization of Latin America. Missionaries who were enticed by fair promises that increased emphasis on a cooperative educational program would give surest results, are now realizing that these promises are not being fulfilled. "Where are the preachers of the Gospel", they ask, "who have come out of the schools that are carried on with such great expenditure of men and money?" If the schools are not giving preachers to the native churches, then surely they are failing in their primary object. Naturally everything depends on the object in view. If the missionary program is to be translated into terms of Panamericanism and the establishment in these countries of the American educational system, we have nothing to say about it except that, judging by results, even on that low plane progress is discouragingly slow.

But the missionary program is not

to be so understood, and the great majority of missionaries to Latin America refuse to have it so understood. Our commission is to preach the Gospel to every creature, and we refuse to listen to those who tell us that we should leave this "one thing" to go after "key men" and talk education to them. We believe in schools and we believe that they should be efficient in the best sense, but they should be primarily for the children of believers, and the evangelical soul-saving note should ever be uppermost. Out of this kind of schools will come the boys who later on will not be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, but who will give themselves to preach that Gospel to their fellow countrymen. We rejoice that there are such schools and that some enduring work has been and is being done by them.

If all the schools carried on at a tremendous expenditure of missionary money under the egis of missionary organizations in Latin America were of this kind, the Committee on Cooperation would not have to report as follows concerning the training of leaders for the evangelical churches:

"In urging a great emphasis on the preparation of a trained ministry as the first and indispensable need, Dr. W. E. Browning points out that in two of the Union Seminaries supported jointly, this year only one denomination had students and that in Chile the Methodists have made a gain of only five preachers in twenty years and the Presbyterians twelve, although six are on the retired list. In the River Plate district, the Methodists have gained four ministers in ten years and the Disciples of Christ have only three ordained men".

We consider that the above is a tremendous indictment of the methods advocated by the Committee on Cooperation. Missionary work all over the continent is languishing because of the lack of trained native workers. The educational methods stressed by the Committee have not hitherto produced sufficient results to warrant the hope that some day the prob-

lem may be solved along those lines.

The fact of the matter is that the Committee on Cooperation has lost sight of the true content of the missionary program, and the inevitable has happened — their self-imposed leadership is passing away. The rank and file of missionaries, "men of small affairs", among whom we are proud to number ourselves, are occupying themselves with essential matters. They are convinced more firmly than ever that New Testament methods cannot be improved upon and that the future of the Evangelical Church in Latin America depends not on the diffusion of higher education, but on the proclamation of the "message of the Cross", the power of God and the wisdom of God. It was this message in the lips and lives of the early Christians which turned the world upside down; it was the 'dunamis' of this message which overthrew paganism; it was this message, and not a renaissance of learning, which changed the world's history. This is the message which is still the power of God unto Salvation for the cultured and for the ignorant alike. We cannot substitute anything else for it. If we seek true success, we shall only find it where Paul found it, in the message of the Cross, proclaimed not in the words of man's wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. If we desire that power and that demonstration of the Spirit we shall only find them in the Cross of Christ.

It is a matter for congratulation that a strong reaction has set in amongst the large body of missionaries in Latin America to the program of the Committee on Cooperation. The Committee is aware of this and complains rather dolefully of "the swing of the pendulum towards greater denominational concentration". But here also the Committee arrives at an erroneous conclusion. It does not perceive that it is not so much an accentuation of the denominational spirit (a perfectly legitimate and healthy symptom in itself) but a revolt from its own program which is operating on the

field. A few men have made a determined effort to swing the missionary movement in Latin America away from New Testament ideals and methods and on to liberal and social lines. These men have steadfastly ignored direct evangelistic work, or at the most have given it a cold welcome. They have little time or place for the missionaries who, animated by the blessed hope of the Lord's coming, are putting heart and soul into intensive evangelistic effort and who will not be drawn into anything that does not have for its immediate aim the salvation of souls.

The reading of this most recent report of the Committee on Cooper-

ation confirms us in the conviction that God is moving in Latin America. As a matter of fact, any outsider, reading this report, would wonder whether God had anything at all to do with the missionary enterprise in Latin America or whether He had been succeeded in His functions by the self-appointed Committee on Cooperation.

We rejoice, however, that it is not so. Rather do we believe that the reaction against the Committee's plans is but the indication of a return to New Testament ideals and to an intensification of the evangelistic note in all the fields of Latin America.

## A Cry from Macedonia



"Esteemed Señora:

"I have the happiness and the honor to direct myself to you, although I do not know you, but I trust this humble letter will be well received although it is without phrases and is full of blots; but you will do me the service to pardon all that. My desire, Señora, and that of the people who sign this letter, is that you should have the goodness to send a pastor to this town, because, although we are believers in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, we need every day the worship and the exposition of the Word of God such as a pastor or someone who knows more than we do might be able to give us. Here there is no one to illuminate the minds and to awaken the hearts that are sleeping in the despair of sin.

*These are the people who sent the letter to the Institute.*

"Señora, this morning the two young men, Hernan Bautista and Augustin García, left us, and we are all very sorrowful, because we had great joy in their company as day by day they taught us out of the Word of God. They instructed us much in the holy Gospel.

"Esteemed Señora, I desire that you would answer us according to the resolution you take in regard to this our supplication, to which all we subscribe our names as believers in the faith of Christ our Saviour.

"Receive the salutation of all the believers and the perfect affection of your servant," **Mario Acosta C.**

(Follow twenty-five names)

# The Evangelistic Campaign in Nicaragua

By Rev. S. M. ALFARO.

According to our promise in last month's issue we herewith offer some details concerning the campaign in Nicaragua, the country upon which the eyes of the world are at present focussed because of the Sandinista insurrection and the American "invasion" brought about by the invitation of the Conservative party with the connivance of the Roman Catholic clergy.

In response to the call of the evangelical churches of that country, Reverends H. Strachan, director of the Latin American Evangelization Campaign and Sergio M. Alfaro, professor in the Bible Institute, San Jose, Costa Rica, went forward to conduct the campaign. The trip was necessarily a short one for the Bible Institute opens its sessions at the beginning of March and it was the fifteenth of January before the evangelists could get away.

We disembarked in San Juan del Sur having taken a deck passage from Puntarenas as being the only kind available on the ship. We were met by the Rev. Scott, superintendent of the Baptist work in Nicaragua accompanied by brother Perez, pastor of the church at Rivas which city we set out to reach by automobile. However we finally had to walk for hours as the car broke down and we reached Rivas at 7 p. m. only to begin our meeting at seven thirty. The following day we left for Granada en route for Managua. Here also we arrived late and missed our train to the capital. The missionaries of the Central American Mission were our hosts and we preached that night also at a little meeting of the young people's society.

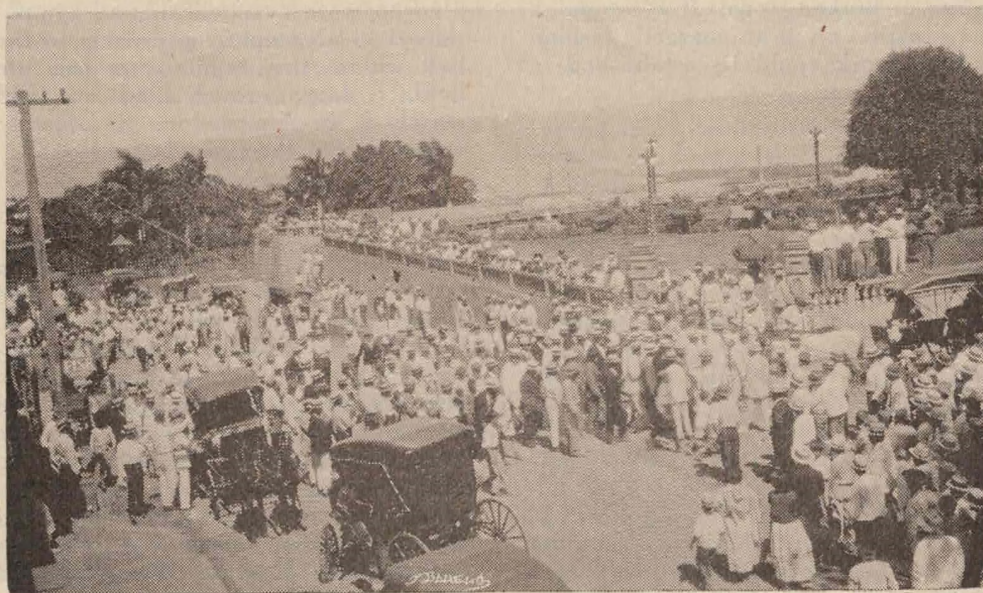
Next day we entrained for Managua and were met at the station by the missionaries located in the capital and also by our own students who graduated last December from the Institute and are now employed by the two missions from whence they had come. It being now Saturday, plans were

made to begin the Campaign in the capital. On the Sunday the evangelists preached three times each, alternating between the two churches in the city. At these services the announcement was made that the series of meetings would begin on the following night in what is known as "La Reforma", a great half open salon which serves as assembly hall to the Baptist Boy's School and situated on the outskirts of the city.

The first theme announced by means of nine thousand handbills was "The Real Traitor of Nicaragua". Under the enthusiastic direction of Rev. Arturo Parajon, helped by Porfirio Aguirre, Heriberto Vasquez and Jeronimo Campos and a large band of willing workers from both churches, these handbills were carried into every corner of the city. Owing to the political effervescence which at present characterizes Managua, and undoubtedly drawn by the suggestive title, a crowd of more than one thousand listened for over an hour and a half to the message. The speaker showed that the real tyrant was vice and especially the vice of alcohol which was destroying the people and the audience applauded the home truths that were presented to them.

The beginning was a splendid one. Next night a different theme brought an even larger crowd and all the seating accommodation of the cooperating churches brought to the salon for the purpose, as well as 200 extra chairs, was taxed to the utmost. Night after night the writer, using suggestive titles for his themes, such as "Nicaragua, will you break your chains?" "Nicaragua, to the fight", etc., etc., preached the gospel to crowded audiences.

Naturally the enemy got stirred up and on the fourth night the preacher was arrested on a charge of bolshevism. A high police official came to the house of Mr. Scott and on the writer presenting himself, arrested



*Park Dario on the shores of Lake Managua*

him in the most arbitrary fashion without stating the crime of which he was accused. Mr. Strachan accompanied me in the police automobile to the prison in the outskirts of the city. On our arrival there the commandante said "You are under arrest here". They gave me a cot bed on which to pass the night.

This was a plot got up between the authorities and the priests to interrupt the successful progress of the Campaign. Mr. Strachan went back to carry on the meeting while Brothers Scott and Wyse went to interview the authorities so as to have me put at liberty. This they finally achieved through the good offices of the American Minister and on the ground of my American citizenship. It was then about 9 o'clock at night but nevertheless the crowd remained listening with the best of attention to the message brother Strachan was giving them. When we appeared in the salon the ovation was tremendous.

The effect of the whole thing was to greatly advertise the meetings which continued with increasing interest and enthusiasm every night for two weeks. The results were a good harvest of

souls converted to the Lord as well as the repentance and restoration of many backsliders who with renewed zeal came back to the arms of their Heavenly Father.

#### **Granada:**

This is the Mecca of Roman Catholicism in Nicaragua. Not being able to rent a theater the meetings were held in the evangelical hall of the Central American Mission. The usual services number some thirty people including children, but the first night we had 150, the second about 200, and the third, according to the missionaries, the audience numbered not less than three hundred. When the call for decisions was given a group of intelligent people responded, testifying their desire to follow Christ. The address that night was on "Burning our boats" and these valient soldiers decided to leave all and unite themselves to Jesus.

The short stay in Granada was perhaps the most profitable of all the campaign. In the place where last year the missionaries were bombed with dynamite in their own house, to-day

the old prejudice against the evangelists in broken down. If a campaign were carried on in an energetic fashion a great work could be established in Granada.

### Masaya

Here we were received by the splendid and spiritual Baptist missionary, Miss Eleanor Blackmore, and our boys of the Bible Institute, Bernardo Vasquez and Aurelio Gutiérrez. The audience overflowed, there not being room to hold the people. We spent there four blessed days. The Sacristan (?) of the Catholic church, with a group of others, tried to interrupt the meetings, but Mr. Scott, taller than any New York policeman, laid a hand on the Sacristan's shoulder and put him outside, thus avoiding a row.

It was here that a gentleman laid on the pulpit his card, which bore the name of a general in the army and underneath the written word, "Grateful". In Masaya several persons responded to the call to follow Christ.

### Diriamba

The active pastor of the Baptist work in this city rented the local theatre for the meetings. Even then there was no room for the people, and a great number stood throughout the services. The cultured people of Diriamba were well represented in the meetings, listening with deepest attention to the messages. Now and then a stone would fall on the roof, but the Nicaragua National Guard, which had voluntarily offered to keep order inside and outside the theatre, kept the situation in hand, intimidating the rowdies who were instigated by the priest, a man who is completely out of sympathy with the best elements of the people of Diriamba. This priest had a handbill made out calling upon the people not to attend the evangelistic services. This they answered by coming in increasing numbers.

Here many people made profession of faith, and when on the last night

in the theatre Brother Lopez invited all who were evangelicals and sympathizers to accompany preachers to the hall where the regular services are held, a large crowd filed out and marched in procession, completely crowding out the place.

### Matatepe

Here it was not possible to rent a theatre, so it was decided to hold some meetings in the public plaza. Our former student, Heriberto Vasquez, full of zeal and enthusiasm, procured some gasoline lamps. We had scarcely commenced the service, when stones began to be thrown, but fortunately none reached me as I preached to the people. However, the mother of one of the young men who has entered the Institute this year was wounded in the head and had to be carried away for treatment. In spite of her wound, the valient lady soon came back to the battle front and stood with us throughout the meeting. On the following night the stone throwing continued until one of the American Marines caught one of the offenders and took him off to the lockup. That put an end to it.

This brought an end to a campaign crowded with incidents and with blessing to the churches and to the outsiders. There was a harvest of souls and many deeprooted prejudices were uprooted.

We would like to mark our appreciation of the splendid cooperation of all the missionaries of the Baptist and Central American Mission. One and all, they gave themselves to the task so that the campaign might be a success, and to each one we extend our hearty thanks.

### Mr. T. F. Dixon of the Central American Mission Writes

A little over a month ago news reached Nicaragua that the Venezuelan campaign, which the Latin American Evangelistic Campaign was to have held this year, had been postponed. Immediately a joint invitation was



extended to Mr. Strachan by the Baptist and Central American Missions in Nicaragua that he should come to Nicaragua. Within two weeks he was on the way accompanied by Sr. Sergio Alfaro, Professor of homiletics in the Bible Institute of Costa Rica.

The past two weeks have been spent in a campaign in the capital city, Managua. After being refused the use of the theaters the meetings were finally held in the assembly of the Baptist School. The benches were brought from both churches, and more chairs rented until we had seating capacity for about a thousand. Several thousand handbills were printed and systematically scattered throughout the city every day of the campaign; also notices being put in the newspapers, announcing a series of sociological and moral conferences with striking topics. Practically every night saw more than a thousand persons listen to the eloquent oratory of Sr. Alfaro. A large proportion of these enthusiastic audiences was composed of people unaccustomed to attending our church meetings, and virtually untouched by the Gospel. With intense enthusiasm the meetings were interrupted by hearty applause.

On the final Sunday, meetings were held in both churches, both being well filled with people eager to listen for the last time to the conferences.

The campaign seeks to secure a central place unassociated with the churches where people might be afraid to enter; then by advertising the meetings well by hand bills and newspapers, with current and catching topics to disarm the people of their prejudices and fear. The meetings are preceded by a rousing song service in which Mr. Strachan teaches short choruses, which are quickly learned and fruitful in raising the interest and enthusiasm.

From Managua the campaign extends itself to the principal surrounding towns. At present we are just closing a campaign in Granada that has been well attended, and where the people are voicing their appreciation and approval of the conferences.

We would seek prayer for those whose prejudices and fears of our meetings and chapels have been broken. Please pray that we may be able to bring many to a saving knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. Pray that men, women and children may be brought by the Holy Spirit to accept the Lord Jesus. "But to as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God".

## Statistics of the Right Kind

By Miss E. M. Blackmore.

Nicaragua has been privileged to have a second visit of the Latin American Evangelistic Campaign with Rev. H. Strachan and Mr. S. Alfaro as leaders.

Because of the disturbed political condition of the Republic prudence may have thought the time ill chosen but faith judged it an opportunity to call the attention of the multitudes from changing circumstances to eternal principles, from the passing hour to the enduring substance.

Mr. Strachan is doing the ideal thing

in using the best talent of the Spanish Evangelical Churches to reach their own kith and kin. The Latin American delights in oratory and when the rich language of Cervantes is used to express the useachable riches of Christ and the love that passeth knowledge, it gathers and holds the crowd giving them visions of grace and glory.

No longer can the Gospel be considered an exotic plant in Spanish America. It is the root and fibre of thousands born under tropical skies and is entering into the thought and

social life of some of the best leaders in these nations.

Four figures would have to be used to express the numbers that attended the campaign in the capital city, while in the smaller towns the audience was as great proportionately.

The general public gladly assist at the Conferences and appreciate the effort to better the moral and spiritual condition of the people.

In Managua when interest was at its height, intrigue had Mr. Alfaro arrested just at the hour of meeting.

The indignation of the people was intense and it took tact and prayer to restrain feeling and prevent them going en masse to demand his release. Perhaps that is what the enemy sought as a pretext to shut down the meetings? but Calvary is Victory, and spiritual weapons overcame carnal devices. The tension was relieved when the prisoner was released and amid the recurrent cheers of the people took his place on the platform and preached with exceptional power.

Rome made her feeble protest in every town. In Masaya the sacristan came to shout and create a disturbance. In Rivas the local police were influenced to use their position to drive away the crowd. The Diriamba priest circulated handbills against the Protestant propaganda, while stones were

the arm used in Masetepe, but from their own ranks is coming the warning of Gamaliel "Let them alone, lest haply we be found to fight against God".

Spiritual values refuse to be measured by statistics. The disciples in frail baskets picked up the fragments of the feast but who can tell what quantity was consumed by the multitude? Our best estimate of results is not those who went into the Enquiry Room but the continued presence of the crowd satisfying their spiritual hunger, renewing strength, reviving hope, and receiving light and that inward change operated by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the shed Blood. Let us count His promise fulfilled and give Glory to His most Holy Name.

This Evangelistic Campaign has given our returned students a splendid start off in their ministerial life and augurs for them great success in the churches.

Mr. Strachan leaves us tomorrow accompanied by two new students for whom we solicit your prayers.

This work of Mr. and Mrs. Strachan is unique, meeting a great need in Latin America and ought to be intensified until every Republic has its students at the Bible Institute and simultaneous Evangelistic Campaigns are carried on all over Spanish speaking America.

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### WANTED: AN OFFICE SECRETARY

The administration and editorial work in San Jose is growing with the growth of the work in general. We need urgently a competent office secretary who has had a general training in secretarial and office work. But while the office would be her special work and its requirements would demand first place, we would want our new secretary to be first a missionary and all the time a missionary. To that end she should be able to acquire the Spanish language so as to take part with us all in the evangelistic work, women's meetings, house to house visitation, etc., or any other form of service open to us.

We shall be glad to hear from anyone who may feel that this is a call from the Lord to real missionary service and who would be willing to come and share His work with us in San Jose.

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This issue of the EVANGELIST is very late in going to the press owing to pressure of work due to opening of school session as well as to the editor's indisposition. We ask our readers' forbearance and hope to do better in future.



The Boy Scout troop which guarded the "Spirit of St. Louis" while Lindbergh was in Costa Rica. Scout master Fiske (Methodist missionary) is shaking hands with Lindbergh while Harry Strachan Jr. who had the privilege of shaking hands with him four times, is standing by the troop flag. Homer Alfaro is also in the group.

## Lindbergh enthusiastically welcomed in Costa Rica

Nothing has ever stirred the people of Costa Rica like Lindbergh's visit. When he came to them sailing over the mountains out of a blue sky and dropped down amongst them with the ease of a bird, the multitude broke all bounds in a frantic rush of welcome. His brief visit was a whirl of festivities given in his honour. The following beautiful message of President Jimenez fitly expresses the feeling of Costa Ricans for the unspoiled conquerer of the air.

"The people of Costa Rica feel deep pleasure at having the opportunity to unite their homage to the tributes of sympathy and admiration Colonel Lindbergh has received in Europe and America. The sound of our plaudits may not be heard very far—we are few in number—but none will have been more cordial. When, unfortunately, so many things separate the nations, it is comforting that the peoples of different hemispheres,

of different latitudes, races and tongues, and of different ways of thinking and feeling should unite in one common outburst of sentiment and of exaltation over the glorious achievement of Lindbergh. Everything captivates in him—his intrepidity, his youth, his presence of mind, his endurance, his skill and unerring instinct to find his way in the air, his courage in going his way alone which has earned for him the title of "The Solitary Eagle", the simplicity of his words and gestures, his olympic disdain of money and refusal to commercialize his glory. He was made by the Supreme Force for prodigious flights, and he performs them with the ease and majesty with which the Condor crosses the Andes.

"But there is something more in his prowess which captivates our hearts. War, cruel war, gave birth to the airplane, and whenever we see one, we naturally associate two ideas,—

airplanes and victims sacrificed on the altar of human hate. But Lindbergh has purified the airplane and consecrated it anew. His flights bring peace, not war. His flights are comparable to those of the Biblical dove

of peace, which carries the olive leaf in its beak, from land to land. To the beautiful words, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men", he adds "peace also in the heights of heaven".

**Ricardo Jiménez.**

## As Others See Us

**An appreciation of the Bible Institute, which appeared in the "Puerto Rico Evangelico" of February 18th and which was written by Señor Bartolome Cotto Reyes.**

Passing through the capital of Costa Rica, I was present at the graduation exercises of the Bible Institute and found them both interesting and instructive. There I met the Reverend S. M. Alfaro and his indefatigable wife, Doña Laura, who are cooperating in a work that signifies a great hope for all the continent. These, our fellow-countrymen and friends, are active missionaries and are an honor to the ministry and to the evangelical people of Porto Rico. They work day and night and need our prayers as also do their fellow-missionaries in Costa Rica.

Many things impressed me, but I shall only briefly state some that especially called my attention. The spiritual atmosphere of the Institute, the spiritual activities of all the staff, the passion for evangelization which characterizes all—directors, teachers, and students alike—and the outward signs of the inward Christian life visible amongst them make one wish to pitch his tabernacle there and declare himself a permanent resident of San Jose.

Already "El Mensajero", splendidly edited by Reverend Alfaro, has reproduced some impressions of mine, and so I shall only write of the graduation exercises. The program was carefully prepared by the faculty. A group of ten students who had completed the three year's course were to be graduated. These represented the republics of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Costa Rica, the first named hav-

ing the largest number. After having visited these countries with the express purpose of studying the situation, it was a profound satisfaction to see this group of young men and women graduate from the Institute, well prepared and full of zeal for the salvation of souls.

All the graduates and some of the first year students took part in the program. In addition to the usual discourses pronounced on such occasions, the students spoke on other themes carefully prepared and well delivered. It was easy to see that these young men were ready for the ministry of the Word and also that their preparation was a truly sound one. We listened to three sermons during the week, preached by Reverends H. Strachan, S. M. Alfaro, and W. L. Thompson, messages full of spiritual and wise lessons for the graduates and for the general public. Indeed on that occasion the public of San Jose were given the opportunity to hear the Gospel preached in all its splendour. For the missionaries present, each sermon was a veritable inspiration.

The people of San Jose know how to appreciate the efforts of those missionaries who have left all to come with Jesus into Central America to establish an institution which is destined to give to the continent preachers well-trained for the battle against ignorance and fanaticism.

The music and singing was a special feature of these meetings. Many people already know that the Bible Institute is one of the places where there is good singing and where nearly all the students and teachers play some instrument. Don Sergio Alfaro, who so much loves to sing, is there in his element. They live singing and pray-

ing. Mrs. Thompson plays the piano with masterly touch and following in her steps are Miss Piper and Grace Strachan. The Institute has the great advantage of Miss Piper's welltrained voice. She is an excellent singer, and as teacher of singing her labor is a most successful one.

The writer had the privilege of preaching the last sermon, and a great number of people had again come together to hear the message.

This was the second class graduated by the Institute, and I ask the prayers of all those who read these lines that this center of Christian education, sustained as it is by the prayers of God's people, may continue to send to all the countries of the continent ambassadors of the King, who shall be a credit to the institution, living for and preaching the Message of the Cross.—Translated.

## Another Notable Message from the President of Costa Rica

**I shall do all in my power to make Costa Rica a second Switzerland—a Switzerland for its size, for its mountains, for its culture, and for its liberty; but I shall never help to convert Costa Rica into a second principality of Monaco, never, never”.**

“On Saturday night when in the Central Park the Church feast, organized for the collection of funds by the Venerable Council of the Metropolitan Cathedral with the help of all the local priests, was about to begin, it was seen that the gaming tables were set up and that as usual the people thronged to them. From the President's house order were transmitted by telephone that these tables should be immediately taken away. The Chief of Police at once put into effect the law which prohibits gambling and with a piquet of gendarmes saw to it that the President's orders were respected.

“Next day, Sunday, the great day of the feast, a commission of ladies

went to the Governor of the province, who informed them that the order was absolute and that the law should be carried out. Other commissions went to the President's house, begging him to withdraw the order, but he was immovable in his determination that the law should be respected.

“Naturally, the fact that gambling was not allowed meant a big slump in the church's gains and took away all animation from the feast. The law may be severe, but we are in accord with the determination of the President and hope that it may be enforced in all future church feasts throughout the republic”.

“La Nueva Prensa”, March 13, 1928.

## The Church of Rome Calls Evil Good and Good Evil

The scandal of the “feasts” of the Roman Catholic Church in Costa Rica has become intolerable in a civilized country. Drinking, gambling, and bloodshed, not to speak of other evils, mark these so-called religious feasts by means of which these self-styled “ministers of God” degrade and despoil the people for filthy lucre.

Well would it be for all Latin Amer-

ican countries to have executives like Ricardo Jimenez, whose pronouncement on the subject shows the courage and uprightness of the man as well as the patriot. But it was not until the public outcry against these “immoralities” of the priests of Rome that this energetic action was taken. Two weeks previously a religious feast in the town of Coronado was so scandalous

that "La Prensa" published the following spirited article, side by side with which we place by way of contrast the account given in the priests' own organ, "El Correo Nacional", of the same fiesta:

"La Prensa", February 27:

"The feast which the priest of Coronado organized yesterday has caused us a bad impression. We were witnesses of the way liquor was sold clandestinely and of how even women were drinking. This is a symptom of the moral degeneration of the people. The gaming tables reaped a harvest. If Jesus Christ should see such immoralities, He would once more take the whip and cast out of the temple merchandisers who do not regard the means in their desire to gather money for churches which are never finished.

We beseech the Minister of the Interior to be more prudent in future about giving permission for these feasts, which are nothing more nor less than the exploitation of the ignorance of our people".

Now hear the clerical organ about the fiesta of Coronado:

"The feast of Coronado a complete success!—Last Sunday's feast in Coronado was the culminating note of the day as well as the expression of the religious sentiment of this laborious town. From 9 a. m. there was great animation and the booths constructed in the plaza were crowded with people from all parts.

"The amount of money received is very great and goes to swell the fund for the church....."

### IMPORTANT

Owing to the unexpected necessity of personally attending to important business in connection with the work, Mr. Strachan is making a brief visit to the States and Canada this spring and will have arrived ere this number of the "Evangelist" reaches your hands. Hence, he would like to take advantage of the opportunity of meeting all those friends who by their earnest prayers and practical help have become co-laborers in the task of evangelizing the unreached masses of Latin America as also of preparing native workers for this labour of transcendental importance.

He would suggest, therefore, that all home helpers, whether individuals, prayer groups, Sunday School classes, Christian Endeavor Societies, etc., or Churches, endeavor to arrange for the holding of one day's meetings in their respective cities. Owing to the very important forward movement on the field and impending campaigns, his visit must of necessity be a brief one—April to June, inclusive. For this reason, all those desirous of having him visit their respective cities should write IMMEDIATELY, c/o Mr. E. A. Steele, 124 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As his itinerary will have to be arranged with a view to taking the various States in an ordered rotation in order to economize time and money, friends are kindly requested to leave the fixing of dates with him, in order that this plan may be successfully carried out. In each case where meetings are requested, an advance note giving the date will be sent with sufficient time to allow of announcement being made from the local pulpits on the previous Sunday as also in the press. Friends, of course, will understand that owing to the special circumstance of the case, the majority of these meetings will be special meetings, and hence may not occur on the ordinary days of service. This, however, will be found, as in the past, to be an advantage rather than otherwise, affording the opportunity to a wider circle of friends to hear Mr. Strachan's thrilling stories of missionary achievement.

May we not also urge very earnestly on all sympathizers of the work a special concentration of prayer on this brief depuration trip to the end that God's will in it may be accomplished.

## El Mensajero

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The publication of our bi-monthly Spanish paper is becoming quite an important item in our general program of evangelization. We have been issuing four thousand copies, but shall be obliged to make it five thousand henceforth. Here in Costa Rica, "El Mensajero" is meeting with increasing acceptance. Its fearless presentation of evangelical doctrine, its bold stand against priestly calumny and intimidation, is making it a vital factor in the evangelical movement throughout the country. The best proof of this is to be seen in the increasing campaign of defamation indulged in by the priests.

But not only in Costa Rica is "El Mensajero" making a place for itself. At the request of missionaries and others we are sending about two thousand copies into other Latin American republics. In Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Jamaica, Dutch West Indies, etc., there is a growing demand for its ministry as the following four letters received by the same mail will testify:

From Puerto Rico:

"For several months I have been receiving with true punctuality the periodical which you so ably edit, and it has been my desire to write you a few lines in which to express my gratitude to you for sending me the paper and at the same time to send you expression of my humble congratulations for the splendid work you are doing. The periodical is magnificent and adapted to the conditions."

From Bolivia:

"I enclose \$ 10.00 to pay for "El Mensajero" for six months, as we like the paper, especially for our liberal readers and interested folk. This money is being paid by our Sunday School to help. We desire to thank you for the 25 copies which we have been receiving until recently".

From Panama:

"The periodicals (El Mensajero) are being received with more than usual enthusiasm. They meet with outstretched hands and eager faces. I need 150 copies to meet the demands. Those which I may not be able to distribute in person, I send by mail. The personal distribution is, of course, the most effective, as a few cheerful words give spice to the reading of the paper".

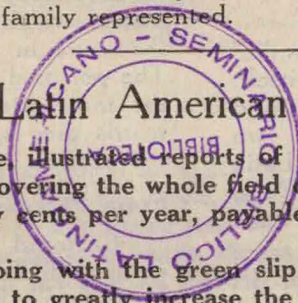
From Paraguay:

"Enclosed please find a Canadian dollar bill for a subscription to "El Mensajero". It came all the way from Canada in a letter, and so we shall use it for this purpose. May the Lord's richest blessing crown your every effort for the evangelization of Latin America".

The above is but a very small sample of the many appreciative messages that have come from missionaries and general readers of "El Mensajero". We thank God for its constantly increasing sphere of influence and ask our readers prayers that its editor, Señor Alfaro, may be blessed and guided and used of God for the confirmation as well as for the defense of the Gospel.

## Requests for Prayer

1. For the evangelistic campaign in Nicaragua.
2. For the other evangelistic campaigns that are being arranged.
3. That God would speedily raise up two or three consecrated Latin Americans, specially gifted for campaign work.
4. For the work in Atenas, especially for the little group of believers.
5. For the work in Heredia and for the believers.
6. For our two weekly evangelistic services in San Jose.
7. That God may guide in all the arrangements for carrying through the extension program in Costa Rica, providing all that lacks for the completion of each one of the items of that program.
8. That God may raise up "Fathers and Mothers" for the new students who will undertake their support and stand behind them in prayer.
9. For the new school year beginning March 5th and for all the activities of the Bible Institute.
10. For the L. A. E. C. family, missionaries on the field, Home Council, and for each member, scattered as they are in all countries of the world—also for every separate family represented.



### "The Latin American Evangelist"

Carries up-to-date, illustrated reports of the work of the Campaign as well as general news covering the whole field of Latin America.

Subscription, fifty cents per year, payable to Mr. E. A. Steele, 124 N. 15th St. Phila., Pa.

What are you doing with the green slip we sent you in last month's issue? We much need to greatly increase the number of subscribers to the magazine.

## A Suggestion

"Here is a thought that has come to me. I wish that you might suggest frequently in the "Evangelist" that Christian friends make provision in their wills for the L. A. E. C. I have done this in my will, and believe that many others would do so if the matter were suggested to them."

### *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*