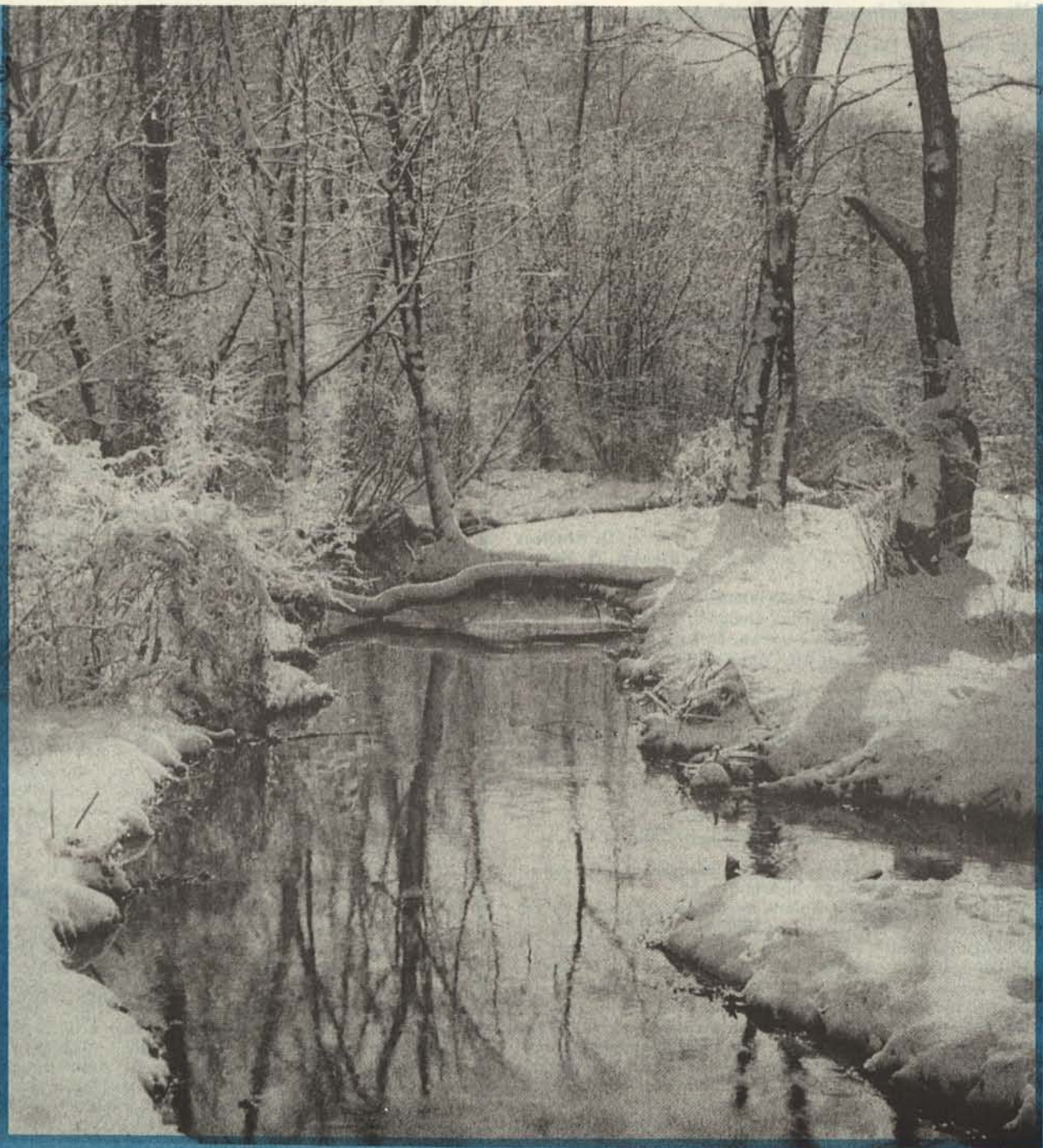


The Reformation Herald



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A. H. C.

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"The age in which we live calls for REFORMATORY action."
Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 488.



Official Organ of the
Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement

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Many wander in the mazes of philosophy, in search of reasons and evidence which they will never find, while they reject the evidence which God has been pleased to give. They refuse to walk in the light of the Sun of Righteousness, until the reason of its shining shall be explained. All who persist in this course will fail to come to a knowledge of the truth. God will never remove every occasion for doubt. He gives sufficient evidence on which to base faith, and if this is not accepted, the mind is left in darkness.

- Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 432.

The Touch of Faith

"If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole."
Matthew 9:21. It was a poor woman who spoke these words, - a woman who for twelve years had suffered from a disease that made her life a burden. She had spent all her means upon physicians and remedies, only to be pronounced incurable. But as she heard of the great Healer, her hopes revived.

In making His way through the multitudes, the Saviour came near to where the afflicted woman was standing. In vain she had tried again and again to get near Him, and now her opportunity had come. She could see no way of speaking to Him. She would not seek to hinder His slow advance. But she had heard that healing came from a touch of His garments, and fearful of losing her one chance for relief, she pressed forward, saying to herself, "If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole."

"Christ knew every thought of her mind, and He was making His way to where she stood. He realized her great need, and He was helping her to exercise faith.

"As He was passing, she reached forward, and succeeded in barely touching the border of His garment. That moment she knew that she was healed. In that one touch was concentrated the faith of her life, and instantly her pain and feebleness disappeared. Instantly she felt the thrill as of an electric current passing through her being. There came over her a sensation of perfect health. . . .

"The grateful woman desired to express her thanks to the mighty Healer, who had done more for her in one touch than the physicians had done in twelve long years; but she dared not. With a grateful heart she tried to withdraw from the crowd. Suddenly Jesus stopped, and looking round He asked, 'Who touched Me?'

"Looking at Him in amazement, Peter answered, 'Master, the multitude throng Thee and press Thee, and sayest Thou, Who touched Me?'

"Somebody hath touched Me,' Jesus said; 'for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.' He could distinguish the touch of faith from the casual touch of the careless throng. Some one had touched Him with a deep purpose, and had received answer.

"Christ did not ask the question for His own information. He had a lesson for the people, for His disciples, and for the woman. He wished to inspire the afflicted with hope. He wished to show that it was faith which had brought the healing power. The woman's trust must not be passed by without comment. God must be glorified by her grateful confession. Christ desired her to understand that He approved her act of faith. He would not have her depart with a half blessing only. She was not to remain in ignorance of His knowledge of her suffering, or of His compassionate love and of His approval of her faith in His power to save to the uttermost all who come to Him.

"Looking toward the woman, Christ insisted on knowing who had touched Him. Finding concealment vain, she came forward trembling, and cast herself at His feet. With grateful tears she told Him, before all the people, why she had touched His garment, and how she had been immediately healed. She feared that her act in touching His garment had been one of presumption; but no word of censure came from Christ's lips. He spoke only words of approval. They came from a heart of love, filled with sympathy for human woe. 'Daughter,' He said gently, 'be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.' How cheering were these words to her. Now no fear that she had given offense embittered her joy.

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A Personal Letter to You



Ellen G. White

Dear Brother and Sister,

Another year of your life closes. . . . How can you look back upon it? Have you made advancement in the divine life? Have you increased in spirituality? Have you crucified self, with the affections and lusts? Have you an increased interest in the study of God's word? Have you gained decided victories over your own feelings and waywardness? Oh, what has been the record of your life for the year which has now passed into eternity, never to be recalled?

Many profess to be on the Lord's side, but they are not; the weight of all their actions is on Satan's side. By what means shall we determine whose side we are on? Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Upon whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are on the Lord's side, our thoughts are with him, and our sweetest thoughts are of him. We have no friendship with the world; we have consecrated all that we have and are to him. We long to bear his image, breathe his Spirit, do his will, and please him in all things.

You should pursue so decided a course that none need to be mistaken in you. You cannot exert an influence upon the world without decision. Your resolutions may be good and sincere, but they will prove a failure unless you make God your strength, and move forward with a firm determination of purpose.

You cannot serve God and mammon. You are either wholly on the Lord's side or on the side of the enemy. "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

It is not natural for you to love spiritual things, but you can acquire that love by exercising your mind, the strength of your being, in that direction. The power of doing is what you need. True education is the power of using our faculties so as to achieve beneficial results. Why is it that religion occupies so little of our attention, while the world has the strength of brain, bone, and muscle? It is because the whole force of our being is bent in that direction. We have trained ourselves to engage with earnestness and power in worldly business, until it is easy for the mind to take that turn. This is why Christians find a religious life so hard and a worldly life so easy. The faculties have been trained to exert their force in that direction. In religious life there has been an assent to the truths of God's word, but not a practical illustration of them in the life.

There is no need of being spiritual dwarfs, if the mind is continually exercised in spiritual things. But merely praying

for this, and about this, will not meet the necessities of the case. You must habituate the mind to concentration upon spiritual things. Exercise will bring strength. Many professed Christians are in a fair way to lose both worlds. To be half a Christian and half a worldly man, makes you about one-hundredth part a Christian, and all the rest worldly.

Be not deceived. God is not mocked. Nothing but holiness will prepare you for Heaven. It is sincere, experimental piety alone that can give you a pure, elevated character, and enable you to enter into the presence of God, who dwelleth in light unapproachable. The heavenly character must be acquired on earth, or it can never be acquired at all. Then begin at once. Flatter not yourself that a time will come when you can make an earnest effort easier than now. Every day increases your distance from God. Prepare for eternity with such zeal as you have not yet manifested. Educate your mind to love the Bible, to love the prayer-meeting, to love the hour of meditation, and above all, the hour when the soul communes with God. Become heavenly-minded if you would unite with the heavenly choir in the mansions above.

As you enter upon a new year, let it be with an earnest resolve to have your course onward and upward. Let your life be more elevated and exalted than it has hitherto been. Make it your aim not to seek your own interest and pleasure, but to advance the cause of your Redeemer. Remain not in a position where you ever need help yourself, and where others have to guard you to keep you in the narrow way. Aim to honor God in everything, always and everywhere. Carry your religion into everything. Be thorough in whatever you undertake.

A new year of your life now commences. A new page is turned in the book of the recording angel. What will be the record upon its pages? Shall it be blotted with neglect of God, with unfulfilled duties? God forbid. Let a record be stamped there which you will not be ashamed to have revealed to the gaze of men and angels.

Yours in Christ,

Ellen G. White.

Here Are They!

"That Keep the Commandments of God, and the Faith of Jesus."

By D. Nicolici
A General Conference Report

To those who unhesitatingly have summoned all their efforts and resources to keep the torch of truth alight, the comforting words of Paul say, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward." *Hebrews 10:35*.

Weak would be the faith and hopeless the situation of those who are not invigorated by these words of promise. Not only confronted by principalities and powers, but also by the increasing spiritual wickedness, the great apostle handed down to those running the race for an incorruptible crown, these words of thought and action. His pleadings with God's people to retain their confidence comes to us with greater force, when so near to the consummation of all things.

With the hope of accomplishing their given task, the first Christian church continued to preach Jesus in spite of the concentrated efforts of their enemies. The power activating those early reformers was again manifested in men and women of later centuries who sacrificed their leisure for a "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." *II Corinthians 4:17*. History overflows with tangible evidences of what these men and women have done, as a result of the hope which their forefathers kindled. Realizing that the world would soon be enveloped in spiritual darkness, imperiling their posterity,

they zealously labored to lay a foundation which would prove a bulwark against the infatuations of the enemy.

The need of additional guidance from God for the faithful few, who survived the many heresies introduced into the nominal churches, was greatly felt. Men had become so lawless and indifferent to the claims of heaven that other agencies needed to be incorporated in the work of saving man, and once again prove before men and angels that the gospel "is the power of God unto salvation." *Romans 1:16*. Then men and women under the direct control of angels began the work to prepare a people to be the sole depositaries of the truth. Beset by obstacles, these heroes of the gospel overcame "by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." *Revelation 12:11*. Sustained by divine power, these laborers rapidly brought to the attention of professed Christians the demand of God. The imminent return of Jesus was their great entering wedge. As they gained a foothold in the hearts of the people, and as these hearts yielded to the guiding Spirit of God, the witnesses could not but present their claims that "the hour of His judgment is come." "Worship Him," they contended, "that made heaven, and earth, and the sea and the fountains of waters." *Rev. 14:6*. Thousands responded to the invitation of the gospel, for when human power combines with the inexhaustible resources of heaven, the results shall be beyond expectation.

Think not that the builders of this foundation advanced without any opposition, for persecution and privation

Although hindered by the tropical conditions of Peru and constantly endangered by malaria fever, the workers have succeeded in establishing the work of Reformation. Elder Laicovschi (with dark glasses) is in charge of this conference. To his left is Elder Linares, his co-worker.

Pictured is a portion of the believers gathered at Lima, where a mission centre is established.



and myriads of other things have ever been used by the deceiver to lessen the progress of the cause of God. Being few in number without any preparatory training, their path seemed beset with never-ending hindrances. Prejudice and traitors were common. Extremists and accusers were plentiful, yet inspite of these difficulties, they "are more than conquerors." *Rom. 8:37*. The gospel held sway, and the family ties, church relationships and sundry other arrangements constructed by the opposers were overcome. Though loath to separate from the churches and friends they loved, they decided that to obey God was the whole duty of man. The hope of Jesus' soon coming caused many to lose their former church membership, but all this they counted as nought for the excellency of the gospel. Hitherto the truth had made them free, and while this was so, they took the hand of God, confident of the future.

Such faith, such men and women with such hearts must again be found to carry the message of Jesus' soon advent to the hungry thousands. We look back with deep regret that these consecrated laborers have passed from the scene of action. Since their death, great material and spiritual changes have taken place. Those succeeding the pioneers have under one pretext or another new-modeled the cause, allowing the influence of the world to mold their methods and change their ways. The movement itself, which was to represent God to this world, has conformed to the world. The faithful counsels which stirred the souls to repentance, and the warnings which unmistakably pointed out their errors have well nigh been set aside. Through the humble instrument, E. G. White, God revealed the mysteries of the of the future and the secret of success to the people. For those claiming to be repairers of the breach caused by the transgression of God's law, the prophetic pen has recorded the following:

"The world must not be introduced into the church, and married to the church, forming a bond of unity." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 265.

"To lower the standard in order to secure popularity and an increase of numbers, and then to make this increase a

cause of rejoicing, shows great blindness. If numbers were an evidence of success, Satan might claim the pre-eminence; for in this world his followers are largely in the majority." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 143.

"Let a church become proud and boastful, not depending on God, not exalting His power, and that church will surely be left by the Lord, to be brought down to the ground. Let a people glory in wealth, intellect, knowledge, or in anything but Christ, and they will soon be brought to confusion." *Ibid.*, vol. 8, p. 127.

Today we are faced with realities! That condition which the inspired writings pointed out as disastrous, if entertained, has been fulfilled by the very ones who claim to represent God. Such a state is alarming, and its results are fearful. Today the faith delivered to the saints must be unfurled with that same enthusiasm which our forefathers manifested. Having in view the conditions existing among the professed people, the questioning voice is heard, — where are the remnant, which maintain the standard of old? And amid the numerous claims that serve to divert the attention of the seekers for truth, the voice of John the revelator is heard, "Here are they. . ." *Rev. 14:12*, depicting a remnant who not merely profess, but actually exemplify by their lives, that they are keepers of the commandments of God.

The notable facts that qualify this remnant as the true people of God are:

1. They are called "the remnant," *Rev. 12:17*, which implies that they are the few who remained faithful in a great test. They are distinguished as the remnant because of their diligent and strict observance of "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." *Jude 3*.

2. They are called "reformers," for they "are not destroyers." They "must advance, not retreat. They must be decided, firm, resolute, unflinching." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 151.

3. They "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." *Rev. 14:12*.

4. They will endure persecution even unto death, because of their allegiance to God's commandments. *Rev. 13:15*.

(continued on page 8)

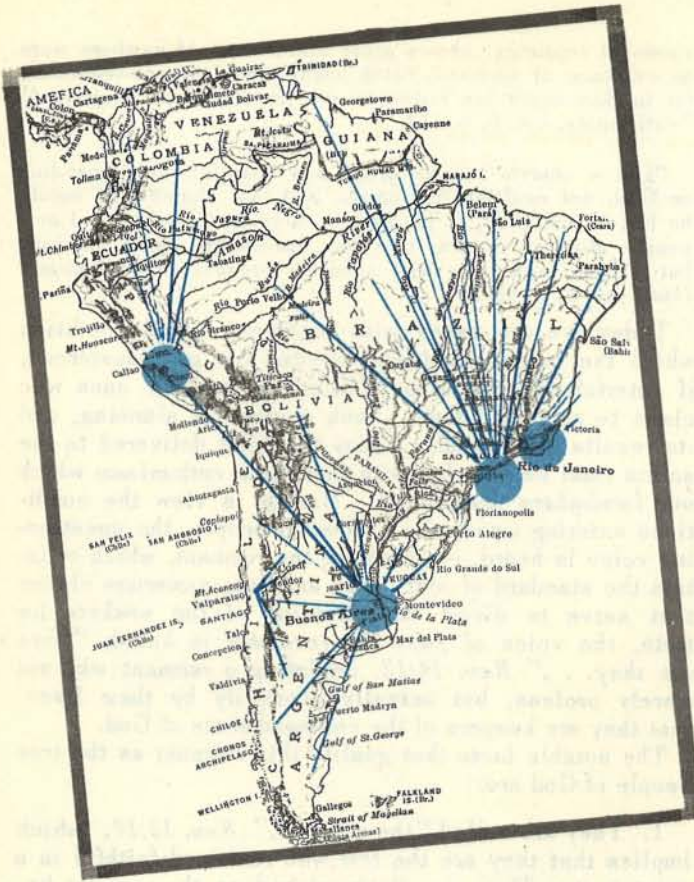


The centre of the work in Argentina is located at San Nicolas, two hundred and 250 miles from Buenos Aires, the capital.

The believers there gathered at this union conference held recently. The experiences related and the Bible instruction given proved a source of encouragement.

Elder Laicovschi (with dark glasses in center) is president of this union, Elder Palazzolo (third to the left of center) is vice-president, and Br. Panaitescu (second to the right of center) is treasurer and editor.

The Message of



this country, there have been memorials erected to the glory of God as a witness of this saving message of Reformation.

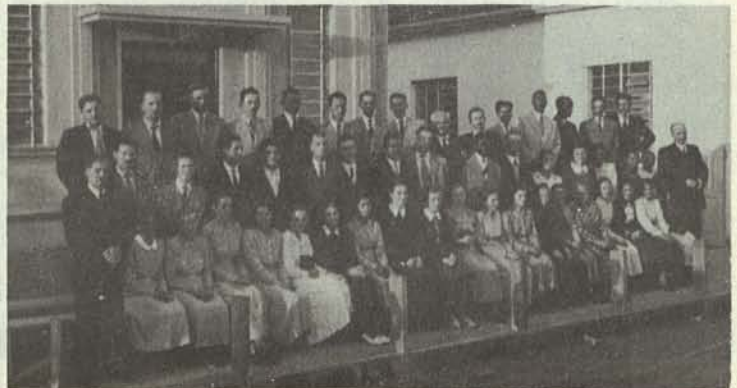
But Brazil was only a part of the great southern continent. Other people with other ways had to be gathered in the fold of the Gospel. The call of Macedonia, "Come over and help us," was answered as Brother Laicovschi devoted his labors to the spiritual needs of the surrounding countries. Persevering in his work under adverse conditions, he turned the hearts of many Spanish-speaking people to the Lord. In Argentina, Peru, Chile and other states where religious freedom is threatened, this message has obtained a foothold, and today by the grace of God, throughout this vast country, there are faithful workers witnessing for the triumphs of the cross. That God will multiply them and give the necessary strength to these leading brethren and the believers to further the gospel plan is our earnest prayer.

This message of Reformation heralding Christ's second advent in South America was first begun in Brazil in the year 1924. The persecution of believers in the various European countries led to the spreading of the Reform truths to this continent. Brethren A. Lavrik and E. Laicovschi pioneered the work in this strange land. Unacquainted with the language and ways of the people, these faithful soldiers worked unreservedly for the Master. There were souls to be sought, literature to be printed, and a centre for missionary purposes to be established. All these things have been achieved by the grace of God in spite of the great trials. In laboring with the Portuguese people, the efforts of Brother Lavrik have been crowned with success as the number of converts increased rapidly. The headquarters of the Brazilian Union was established at Sao Paulo, and throughout

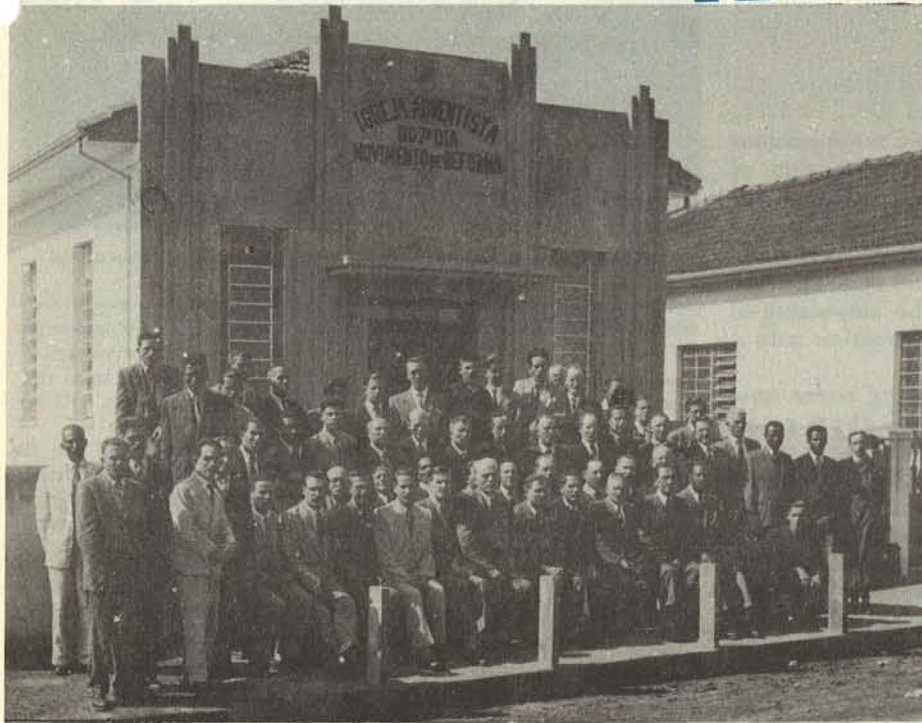
Ministers and workers attending a 7 day Bible Instruction Course at Brazilian Union Headquarters.



Above: Elders Nicolici (left) and Lavrik baptizing 44 new converts. Below: Believers accepted in membership at Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1951.



Reformation in South America



In the picture at the left are delegates attending the conference session at Sao Paulo. Filled with the spirit of soul-saving, most of these delegates who are workers and col-porteurs have dedicated their energies to the spreading of this great message of Reformation. Much progress has been made, especially during the last few years. All attending were richly blessed, and returned with renewed courage to their fields of labor.

The church and the building to the right were dedicated at this occasion. Also in Sao Paulo, by the grace of God, treatment rooms and a home for the poor and needy have been established. May the Lord further these endeavors for His glory.

Conference time was a happy time for the believers in Brazil, as several hundred encamped for the conference. The services were instruc-

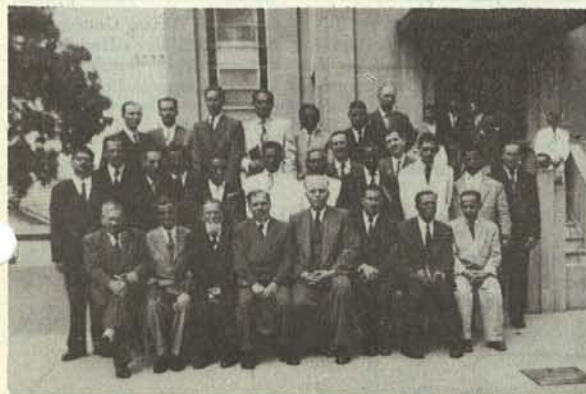
tive, and all enjoyed a season of feasting upon the Word of God. The faith of the visitors who attended the meetings was strengthened in this message as they witnessed baptisms, fellowshipment of members and general reports of the advancement of the work. The hall, partly seen at the extreme right, has only recently been erected for the purpose of extending the publishing facilities of this Conference.

So great have been the demands for literature that new and faster machinery has been purchased. In one year's activity, 64,457 bound books and 41,722 pamphlets were sold, amounting to 60,000 dollars.



Missionary workers attending the Bible Course prior the holding of the annual conference at Rio de Janeiro.

Members attending annual conference at Rio de Janeiro. This was the first conference to be held in the newly established centre.



5. As a result of rightly keeping the true Sabbath, they shall receive the seal of the "living God." Rev. 7: 2, 3.

6. They will have and be obedient to "the testimony of Jesus," Rev. 12:17, which testimony is the "spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10.

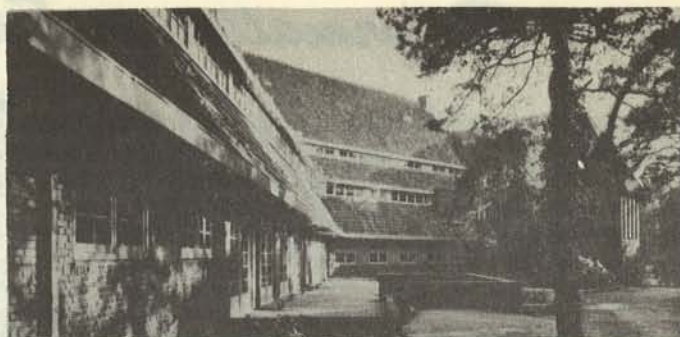
In representing God to this world, they shall be preaching the everlasting gospel as outlined in Rev. 14:6-12, directing the attention to Jesus, the world's sin-pardoning Redeemer, and the rejected and forgotten message of Christ's righteousness instead of our own. These Reformers believe the message they preach is a true and literal fulfillment of the message outlined in Rev. 18:1; that as a result of the work done under this message, the Lord will acknowledge this remnant by the outpouring of His Spirit to herald this message of Reformation with a "loud cry."

This Reform Movement made its beginning under most trying circumstances. Its existence was a direct result of the apostasy of God's professed people. Their ardent and persevering efforts to comply with the testimonies of God's word made them peculiar to and despised by their former associates. Yet in spite of these obstacles, the truth which they upheld and defended penetrated into many lands. They introduce no new or strange teaching, but rather defend the original teachings as established by the Spirit of Prophecy and the pioneers of this Advent Movement. Repeatedly they have passed the test of standing "in defense of truth and righteousness, when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when the champions are few," *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 136, and their source of comfort being, "all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." *III Tim.* 3:12.

To those who are aware of the backslidings of God's professed people, this message of Reformation has appeared as portrayed by Isaiah, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth." *Isaiah* 52:7.

This message brings to the different ones, living in our grand and awful time, the deciding question of "To whom shall I render obedience?" To those who slight the convincing messages, being content to drift along, hoping for some better opportunity to come, the following instruction is given:

"There is no work in our world so great, so sacred, and so glorious, no work that God honors so much, as this gospel



Auditorium in Zeist, Holland, where the May 1951 Session of the General Conference was held.

work. The message presented at this time is the last message of mercy for a fallen world. Those who have the privilege of hearing this message, and who persist in refusing to heed the warning, cast away their last hope of salvation. There will be no second probation.

"The word of truth, 'It is written,' is the gospel we are to preach. No flaming sword is placed before this tree of life. All who will may partake of it. There is no power that can prohibit any soul from taking of its fruit. All may eat, and live forever." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 19.

To us who have a knowledge of this saving truth, and who have felt the power which this message exerts, comes the counsel from the prophetic writings,

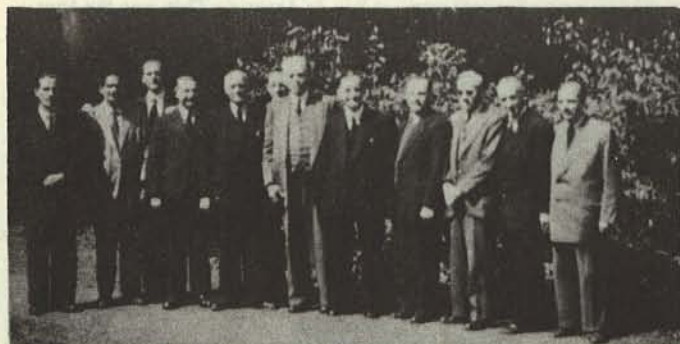
"Time is very short, and all that is to be done must be done quickly. The angels are holding the four winds, and Satan is taking advantage of everyone who is not fully established in the truth. Every soul is to be tested. Every defect in the character, unless it is overcome by the help of God's Spirit, will become a sure means of destruction. I feel as never before the necessity for our people to be energized by the spirit of the truth, for Satan's devices will ensnare every soul who has not made God his strength. The Lord has much work to be done; and if we do what He has appointed for us to do, He will work with our efforts." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 573.



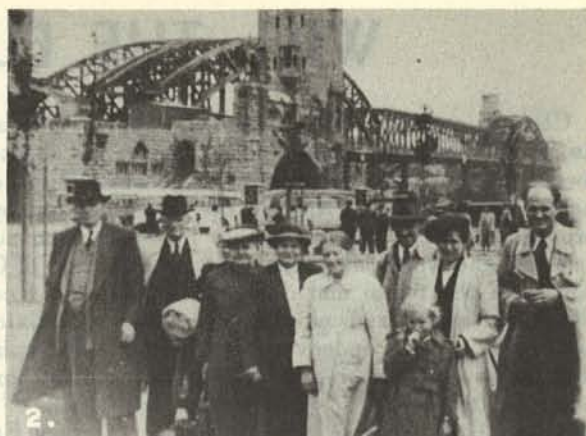
Happy reunion with brethren in the Yugoslavian Union Conference after 14 years. Left to right: Brethren A. Lavrik, Brazilian Union President; A. Stritih, Yugoslavian Union Committee Member; D. Nicolici, General Conference President; P. Lausevic, Yugoslavian Union President; T. Voncina, Yugoslavian Union Secretary; S. Eggarter, Austrian Union President.

The path of sincerity and integrity is not a path free from obstruction, but in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer. There is no one living who has any power that he has not received from God, and the source whence it comes is open to the weakest human being.

— The Desire of Ages, p. 667.



Delegates representing Brazil, Australia, Germany, Peru, North America, Austria and Argentina at the General Conference held in Zeist, Holland.



1. Bible workers and members who were able to gather during Elder Lavrik's visit (second row from front, seventh from the right) to Yugoslavia. Seated to Elder Lavrik's right is Elder P. Lausevic, union president, and to his left is Elder T. Voncina, union secretary. 2. Believers enroute to conference at Klagenfurt, Austria. They are accompanied by Elders Nicolici (left), Hartmann and Eggarter (in back row), union presidents of Germany and Austria. 3. Happy days were spent by believers in fellowship and study of God's Word, as they assembled on the grounds of Hebron Missionary College in Australia. 4. In spite of restrictions and persecution, these youth have gathered at a young people's meeting in southern Bulgaria. 5. Pictured herein are medical and missionary workers and ministers of the Australasian Union Conference. At the extreme right of the third row from front is Elder C. T. Stewart, union president. 6. At the foothills of Mt. Tirol, Austria, is located the centre of the work of Reformation. This group, like many others in this country, are keeping the torch of Reformation aflame. 7. The truth of Reformation is penetrating to the northern parts of Argentina, South America. This faithful colporteur has dedicated his energies to spread the message of the fourth angel to his native people.

THE TOUCH OF FAITH

(continued from page 2).

"To the curious crowd pressing about Jesus there was imparted no vital power. But the suffering woman who touched Him in faith received healing. So in spiritual things does the casual contact differ from the touch of faith. To believe in Christ merely as the Saviour of the world can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere assent to the truth of the gospel. True faith is that which receives Christ as a personal Saviour." *Ministry of Healing*, pp. 60-62.

Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with

God. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which, through the grace of Christ, the soul becomes a conquering power.

"Circumstances may separate friends; the restless waters of the wide sea may roll between us and them. But no circumstances, no distance, can separate us from the Saviour. Wherever we may be, He is at our right hand to support, maintain, uphold, and cheer. . . ." *Ministry of Healing*, pp. 62, 72.

WILL THE ELECT BE DECEIVED?

Christ's regard for His church is minutely portrayed to us by the apostle John. In his fourteenth chapter, the sweet and comforting words of Jesus say, "Let not your heart be troubled." Amidst the numerous annoyances brought upon the Jewish people by the Roman political leaders, the words of Jesus were as the balm of Gilead. Aware of the trials and difficulties that would confront the little organized church after His crucifixion and ascension, Jesus endeavored to lift up their spirits by that wonderful promise of His return, "Let not your heart be troubled." He reasoned with them, "ye believe in God, believe also in me." "In my Father's house are many mansions," Jesus continued His words of assurance to firmly establish their confiding trust in Him, "if it were not so, I would have told you." Words are inadequate to express the unfathomable love that exemplified in these words of cheer. Jesus gently but surely sowed these promises in the heart of His disciples. He was confident that upon his departure, as they pondered upon the meaningful words, the aid of the Holy Spirit would guide them "into all truth." See John 16: 13-14. Truly the Holy Spirit was to be a Comforter, and today as each believing child is being severely tried and tested, as every device of the evil one is put into

operation to crush even that which yet remaineth, would to God that we remember Christ's own promise, "Let not your heart be troubled. . . I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever."

"And greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father." By this Christ did not mean that the disciples' work would be of a more exalted character than His, but that it would have greater extent. He did not refer merely to miracle working, but to all that would take place under the working of the Holy Spirit. . .

"The Saviour's promise to His disciples is a promise to His church to the end of time. God did not design that His wonderful plan to redeem men should achieve only insignificant results. All who will go to work, trusting not in what they themselves can do, but in what God can do for and through them, will certainly realize the fulfillment of His promise. 'Greater works than these shall he do,' He declares; 'because I go unto My Father.'" *Desire of Ages*, pp. 664, 667.

The echoes of these glorious words of promise spoken by Jesus were heard in Paul's day. As he and the believers of the Christian church encountered the bitter opposition from former brethren and antagonized scorners of the truth, his spirits were revived and his courage strengthened as he proclaimed that all who sought for refuge were "to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul." Heb. 6: 17-18.

Mingled with these assuring promises of Jesus' return, were words of caution and sorrow. In replying to the question of His beloved disciples, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matt. 24:3. Jesus said, "Take heed that no man deceive you," and He emphasized the fact that in the troublous times to follow, many were going to be deceived. The most ruthless means and hitherto untried methods would be used



Left: Believers gathered for annual conference held at Sacramento, California.

Below: Making their covenant by baptism at the California conference.

Right Below: A group of believers in Czechoslovakia.



Bottom left: A conference held at Uebach, Germany. Portion of believers assembled to share their blessings with one another.

Bottom right: The message of Reformation has penetrated into dark Africa, and the hearts of old and young have responded to the call of Reformation. The prospects in this vast continent are great and the needs are many, but the faithful believers are upholding the banner of the gospel.



by those controlled by the evil one. This trial would be so intensive that "insomuch," said Christ, "if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." *Matt. 24:24*.

Imagine the future which must be met. The words of Christ, "Let no man deceive you," carry greater weight today than in His day. Jesus said, Let no man deceive you, whether through vain philosophy or much speaking. You cannot afford to lose the hope which I have set before you all these years I have spent with you. Go about the work that I have called you for, with a determination to know nothing but the saving power of the gospel. Teach, call men to repentance, baptize, heal the sick and raise the dead, but let no man deceive you, for "he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

The people of God today are being faced with a great crisis, and the words of Christ are applicable to every one who claims to be His follower. Multitudes today are debating the question within themselves, "Shall I be a Christian or not?" Eager to know and see what the gospel is able to do for them, they look to the professors of Christ. To these professors the words of Jesus seem to have no effect. Their actions only testify to the fact that they are not what they profess. The gospel is held in contempt, and hundreds turn away disappointed. Many have become so hardened to the appeals of the gospel after seeing the examples of professors of Christ, that they turn to the Scriptures to justify their position by claiming that even the elect would be deceived. The world today abounds in skeptics and agnostics, and had the professors of the truth become sanctified by the gospel, it would silence the boastings of many scoffers. Yet in spite of those who are lessening the power of the gospel by their lives, we have the assurance that the "elect" will not be deceived. For a better understanding of this point, we refer to the passage in *Matt. 24:24*, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

OUR EXAMPLE

"But the people of God will not be misled. The teachings of this false christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures. His blessing is pronounced upon the worshippers of the beast and his image, the very class upon whom the Bible declares that God's unmingled wrath shall be poured out. . . .

"Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures, and who have received the love of the truth, will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all, the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation, the genuine Christian will be revealed. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses?

Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible, and the Bible only? Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life, and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief." *Great Controversy*, p. 625.

"All who do not earnestly search the Scriptures, and submit every desire and purpose of life to that unerring test, all who do not seek God in prayer for a knowledge of his will, will surely wander from the right path, and fall under the deception of Satan." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 192.

"The Revised Version renders the latter part of this verse (*Matt. 24:24*), 'so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.' The wording in Mark 13:22, especially in the Revised Version, is very similar to that in *Matt. 24:24*.

These texts teach, surely, that although great efforts will be made to deceive the elect as well as the rest of mankind, the elect will not be deceived. The noted Biblical scholar J. A. Bengel, commenting on the words, 'if it were possible,' etc., says: 'This cause denotes the utmost endeavour, yet in vain.' (Italics ours). Adam Clarke and Albert Barnes give a similar explanation. The latter says: 'Our Saviour says that if this were possible (that the elect should be deceived), it would be done then. But it was not possible.'

"In apostolic times many false Christs and false prophets arose and endeavoured to 'deceive' or 'lead astray' many, but Christ's true followers were not deceived. He had warned them, and, believing His words, they were saved from the delusions of the enemy. Christ Himself declared: 'Behold, I have told you beforehand.' *Matt. 24:25*. R.V. This was to be their safeguard, and so it proved to all who believed and obeyed.

"And so it will be with the 'elect' in the last days — God's people will not be deceived or led astray. Even if false prophets or Antichrist, or Satan himself, shall work great signs and wonders and so frame delusions as to deceive brethren and friends, yet God's 'elect' will not be deceived. Christ's promise that the Holy Spirit shall guide His people into all the truth (*John 16:13*) will be abundantly fulfilled. God's Word will prove a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path, and the knowledge of its blessed truths will keep them from all the wiles of the enemy.

"Writing on this matter as it presented itself in apostolic times, the Apostle John declared: 'They (the false prophets) are of the world: therefore speak they as of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he who is not of God heareth us not. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.' 1 *John 4:5, 6*, R.V. See also verses 14." — *Selected*.

So it will be with God's people in the last days. No, the very "elect" will not be deceived.

"Satan is well aware that the weakest soul who abides in Christ is more than a match for the hosts of darkness, and that, should he reveal himself openly, he would be met and resisted. Therefore he seeks to draw away the soldiers of the cross from their strong fortification, while he lies in ambush with his forces, ready to destroy all who venture upon his ground. Only in humble reliance upon God, and obedience to all His commandments, can we be secure." — *The Great Controversy*, p. 530.



At left are believers gathered at Klagenfurt, Austria, for a conference. These believers, together with others unable to attend, have done much in furthering the message of Reformation.

At right are pictured believers welcoming home Elder Nicolici, after his missionary visit to the foreign fields.



Things You Should Know!



General Mark W. Clark, Nominated by President Truman as Ambassador to the Vatican.

*** AMBASSADOR TO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.** — Among the non-Roman churches in the United States, there exists opposition to any linking with the Pope. They declare it an infringement of the principles of separation of church and state. Yet here and there among some of the church leaders are weak ones who cannot see the danger of such a move. With the aid of some of the daily newspapers that air the views of university presidents, journalists and editors, these church leaders, together with many thinking people in the United States, concluded that the nomination after all is not a bad one and that it is not a direct linking with a particular church, but representing United States in the Vatican City. The argument offered in favor of the president's nomination is that the appointment is not made to the church but to a state. It is brought as evidence that Vatican City is a state of only 108.7 acres in size, and it has a population of 1,000. Therefore General Clark will be an Ambassador to the State of Vatican City, which according to the above data has sovereignty, population, territory and a Government.

However this nomination to the Vatican is of greater importance and cannot be passed off by the above argument. A roving reporter writing from Rome recently gave the following facts:

"Advocates who argue that the appointment is not to a religious leader but to the ruler of the scrap of real e-

state called Vatican City do not get much support here. The mission is either to the Pope as the head of a world-wide church or it is nothing, it is pointed out; to pretend anything else is to make the appointment useless or reduce it to absurdity. All other countries sending representatives to the Vatican accredit them to the Holy See, and if the United States decides to send one at all it will follow the regular formula." *New York Times*, Dec. 24, 1951.

The reporter further states that out of the forty-six countries represented in the Vatican at least thirty-six are active. On Christmas Eve, the whole diplomatic corps attended a midnight mass, celebrated by the Pope in a private chapel. Says the reporter, "It is a strange and truly colorful congregation — the Ambassadors, Black, White, Yellow and Brown wear full dress and yards of decorations, and the women long black gowns with lace mantillas."

Let no one be deceived. The ambassador to the Vatican, if ever confirmed, will mean that the United States has linked itself diplomatically with the Papacy — the Roman Catholic Church — and not merely with "the scrap of real estate called Vatican City." — *R. & H.*, January, 1952.

*** OPPOSING NOMINATION.** — The American Jewish Congress voted at its biennial convention in New York to oppose President Truman's nomination of an ambassador to the Vatican. An adopted resolution urged the President to recall the appointment "in the interests of fundamental American democratic principles and of inter-religious harmony and accord within this country."

*** CANADA AND VATICAN.** — A 30-man delegation from the Canadian Catholic Federation of Labor recently presented a demand to the Canadian Government to appoint an envoy to the Vatican, "so that Canada can obtain the information she needs when she needs it."

A resolution adopted by the Canadian Council of Churches at its annual meeting in Montreal opposed the appointment of a Canadian envoy to the Vatican. The council represents 85 percent of non-Roman Christians in Canada. The resolution said the council was against sending an envoy to Vatican City because it did not recognize the Roman Catholic Church as a political power.

*** DRASTIC PLANS.** — "Drastic plans have been drafted for the immediate abdication of Pope Pius XII and re-establishment of the Vatican in the western hemisphere should Rome be over-run by Red Armies, reveals the *Look* magazine just out. Mr. Igor Gordevitch, formerly with the Rome bureau of the *New York Tribune*, and a correspondent with unimpeachable Vatican sources, declares, there are only three places to which the Vatican could be safely moved: the United States, Latin America or Canada. The United States is rejected because of hostility toward Catholics in certain sections of the country, and and because the Reds could accuse the church of being an ally of "big business" and "American capitalism." Latin American governments are too unstable and might themselves suddenly become communist dominated. This leaves Canada, and Mr. Gordevitch feels Catholic Quebec is the most likely site. Such a move from Rome would not be unprecedented. — *The Ministry*, January, 1952.

*** TURKEY AND VATICAN.** — Diplomatic relations will soon be established between Turkey and the Vatican, according to reports in Istanbul. The Turkish National Assembly is expected shortly to confirm a decision said to have been made by the government to exchange diplomatic envoys with the Holy See. This will mark the first time that diplomatic ties have been established between the Roman Catholic Church and Turkey.

*** THE CHURCH MILITANT.** — Carl McIntire, president of the International Council of Christian Churches, says: "The Pope's appeal for all to fight under 'the single banner' with his church being the banner, and with him the only shepherd of Christ, confuses the basic struggle against Communism."

It would be no more presumptuous for us to invite the Pontiff to dissolve his papal system to unite with us under 'the single banner' in the Protestant fold in order to fight Communism. To us the struggle against Communism is a holy one. Our faith is at stake. Shall we deny our faith in order to stop Communism, when the whole fight is to save our faith?" — *Herald of His Coming*.

*** HOPIS PROTEST.** — Certain leaders of the Hopi Indian tribe have protested to President Truman against the drafting of Hopis, which they claim is in violation of the religious beliefs of the tribe. — *Watchman Examiner*.

What shall be the end of these things?