

Camp Otis. This publication may have pointed the way to the later establishment of *The Messenger* on the part of the General Council of the Union Church of the Canal Zone. According to Dr. Elliott's publication

"The poor of Colon on Christmas day were remembered in a substantial manner. . . . Christmas morning, fruits, canned milk, candy, toys and clothing were distributed to 50 families representing 120 children, and to 30 prisoners in Cristobal jail, and 100 more in Colon prison. Messrs. Weaver, Larson, Veen, Piper, Elliott, Andrew Fraser and Dominic Raymond attended to the distribution, using the Quartermaster's wagon."

Features of the publication included news items, short book reviews, poems and warnings against the dangers of alcohol and other social evils.

The following indicates something of the cosmopolitan nature of the construction era, and of the welcome accorded those who came from other lands.

Tripoli, Syria
December 4, 1911

"Dear Sir Rev. C. H. Elliott:

"I am very glad to write you about Mr. Alexander Soloman that he is member of our church here in Tripoli and in full standing life etc.

"Will you kindly treat him as a good and active member for he is still a member in our church even when he is away in Panama and God may reward you.

Yours very sincerely

Habeeb Subeeych."

The Church's Homes

The following excerpt from a letter addressed to Chief Quartermaster, Lt. Col. C. A. Devol, November 14, 1911, would indicate that the earliest beginnings were housed in an I.C.C. Chapel-Lodge. A letter, signed by the church's Executive Council's Chairman and Secretary, reads, in part:

"The Union Church building at Cristobal, having been converted into a criminal court, we understand that one of three temporary locations will be made available for the Union Church work, namely: The Y. M. C. A., the public school or the old court building. There are serious objections to all of these locations for permanent church work."



Dr. and Mrs. Carl H. Elliott and sons—Phillips P., now pastor First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, and John H., pastor St. Paul's Congregational Church, Nutley, New Jersey.

After enumerating the objections, the letter concludes with—

“Inasmuch as church buildings are provided for employees of the Canal, at other towns on the Zone, and that Cristobal is a permanent town, and that there will always be a necessity for a church, for the benefit of Canal employees, we respectfully ask

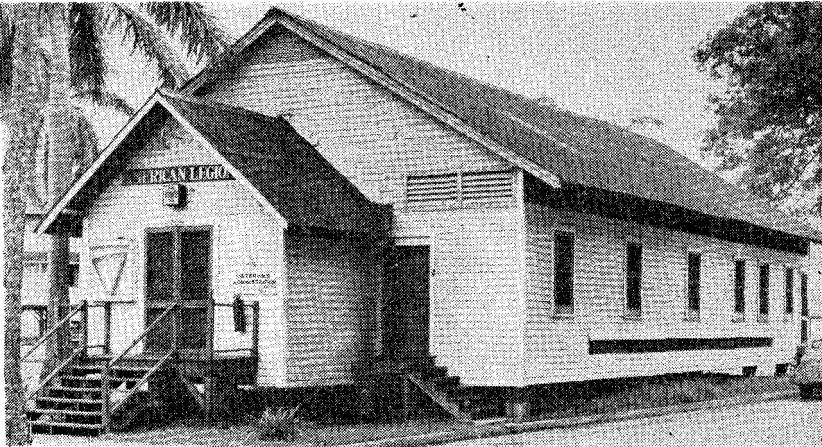


Photo by R. K. Hanna

Union Church Building, Cristobal, 1912 to 1921

that a small permanent church building be provided, conveniently located, to properly take care of the Union Church organization."

At a meeting of the Executive Council, held on January 8, 1912, it is recorded that the Committee on Church Building Construction reported that the new Church Building being built would be 35 by 68 feet, with 11 feet fitted for use of the Primary Department of the Church School, with an office for the pastor in addition. There is supporting evidence for the belief that, unlike similar buildings in other communities, this was not a Chapel-Lodge; but that it was devoted entirely to the use of the Cristobal Union Church. Dr. Claude Pierce, the Council's Chairman, appointed Mr. Larson to assist Dr. Elliott on the Building Construction Committee. Even with the added

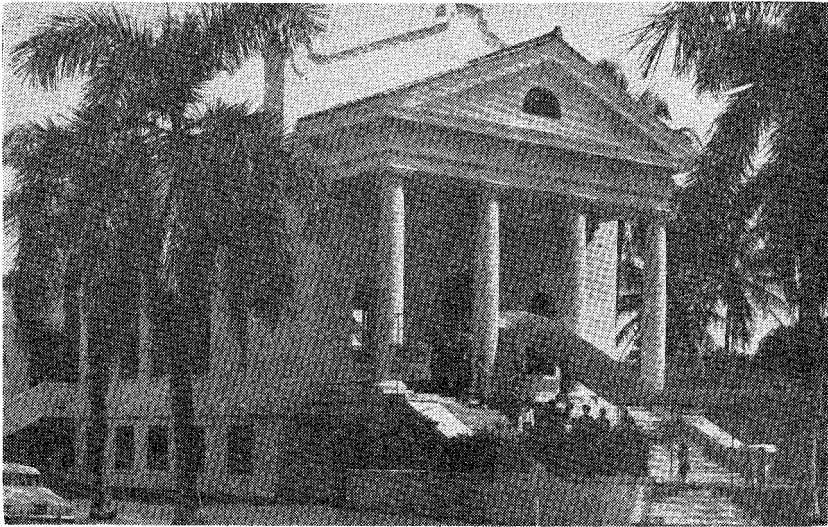


Photo by R. K. Hanna

The Cristobal Union Church

space provided by the new building, it was necessary that classes continue to meet on the ground floor of the Court House, across the street. This by courtesy of Judge Rerdell. This building still stands across the street from the Cristobal Clubhouse, and is currently occupied by the American Legion. Since 1921, when the Cristobal Union Church moved into its present building, the structure has also served as Court House, lodge room, Labor Hall and Christian Science Church building. Preluding

the dedication services, the congregation held its third Anniversary Dinner in the famous Hotel Washington, on the evening of February 17, 1912. A menu card carries the name of Mr. J. A. Smith as toastmaster, Mrs. Frank Ullrich, pianist, and a ladies' quartet, the Cecilians. Speakers were Mr. C. J. Dinnan, the Rev. Carl H. Elliott, Mr. E. A. Putnam and the now world famous Col. William C. Gorgas. The next day, February 18, came the dedication ceremonies, with 140 persons present. On the program were Dr. C. C. Pierce, the Rev. Carl H. Elliot and the Rev. Harry Compton. Col. William Sibert opened the ceremony by presenting a key made from old French brass by Jeweler J. L. Kerr, of Colon.

The files of the *Star and Herald* yield a rather complete account both of the laying of the corner stone and the opening, for use, of the present Church building. According to the news account, the stonelaying had been delayed for some weeks, until the Rev. Harry Owen, D.D., pastor, and Mr. H. A. A. Smith, President of the General Council, returned from a financial campaign in the states. During the program, June 12, 1921, the pastor performed the act of laying the cornerstone and Mr.

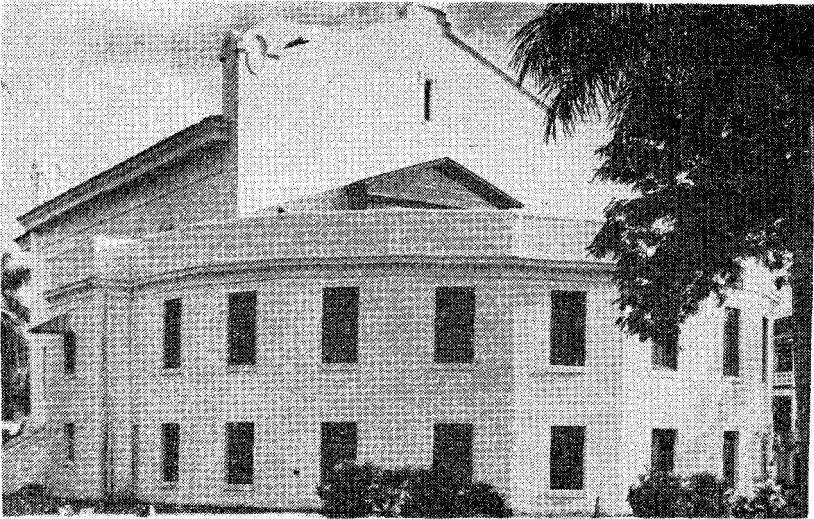
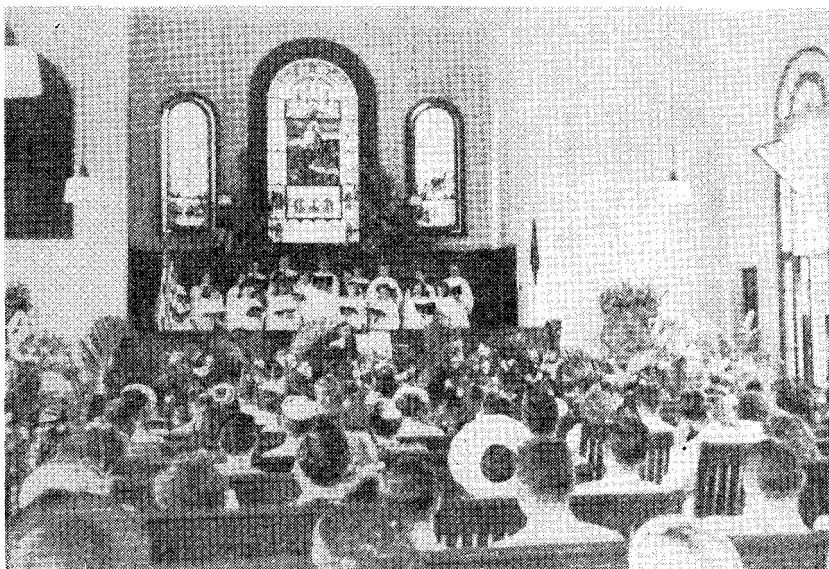


Photo by R. K. Hanna

The Cristobal Union Church, rear view showing the Church School

Smith gave one of the principal addresses. Offering prayers were the Rev. E. M. Oliver, Superintendent of Methodist Missions and the Rev. R. C. Mitchell, of the Gatun Union Church. Mr. G. M. Sauerwein offered brief words on behalf of the Building Committee; the Rev. B. B. Knapp, of the Balboa Union Church, spoke on "The Task of the Church." Mr. Paul Warner and Mrs. Burgy each sang a solo. The Rev. C. Pittman, of Union Church in Pedro Miguel, read the scripture lessons. As Chairman of the Local Council, Mr. A. E. Tyson read a brief history of the Cristobal Union Church. A forty piece band of the 14th Infantry, from Fort Davis, offered selections. In a large congregation, seated on the lawn, the reporter noted the presence of the American Consul and Mrs. J. D. Dreher, Colonel G. L. Yearick and his mother, Dr. Hubbard, Mr. J. F. Warner, the Rev. Vernon L. and Mrs. Eggleston, Mrs. A. E. Tyson, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Walker and Mr. and Mrs. William Harrison.

The news story gave the dimensions of the Church proper as 75 feet long by 47 wide and 30 to the sanctuary ceiling. It named eight tons as the total weight of the facade of four Tuscan pillars that top the concrete stairs extending almost



Cristobal Union Church sanctuary

the entire width of the building. The eleven sided polygon, in the rear of the building, provides excellent space for Church School classes. The Architect was Mr. William Crook and the builder, Mr. William J. Duey.

The pastor, Dr. Harry Owen, who began his Cristobal ministry in September, 1919, was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. Building Fund campaigns in the states had produced a total of nearly \$50,000. During the Stonelaying program Dr. Owen spoke briefly, saying in part:

“It (Cristobal Union Church) has bound in unity and co-operative activity Christians of practically all denominations. They have worked together in peace, and for the good of the entire Isthmus . . . this movement is far in advance of the times. I was told again and again, during my 15,000 miles tour in the interest of this work, that our difficulty in raising funds arose out of the fact that we were nearly a century ahead of our times.”

At the laying of the stone, the pastor said: “I declare this stone well and truly laid in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Inside the stone there reposes a sealed copper casket reported to contain the following:

A Holy Bible.

The Honor Roll of the Cristobal Church School.

The original Constitution of the Cristobal Union Church.

The Constitution of the Union Church of the Canal Zone, plus two revisions of this Constitution under dates of September 1, 1917 and June 12, 1920.

A roster of the Executive Council officers.

A roster of the Local Council officers, 1920-21.

The Constitution and By Laws of the Isthmian Sunday School Association, organized February 2, 1908.

A roster of the officers and teachers, Cristobal Union Sunday School, 1921.

A history of the Cristobal Union Church, together with an accounting of its financial status in the matter of Building Funds and a memorandum of the Trust Agreement between the Union Church of the Canal Zone and the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

Copies of **The Messenger**, Volume 1, 1915 and Volume 6, 1920.

An American dollar and a Panamanian Peso, both in currency and enclosed in a Duplex Envelope of the then current date.

A program of the Corner Stone laying and a copy of the **Star and Herald** of June 10, 1921.

A Thwarted Dream

The splendid building stood for almost a quarter of a century without major repairs, but at last huge cracks appeared and widened due to the settling of its coral fill base, and copious leaks came in the roof. New Cristobal, in which the church building and parsonage are located is (despite the name) a part of Colon. Hence supplies of all sorts, including building repairs, are subject to Panamanian Customs duty.

Something must be done about building repairs—but what? Perhaps it was the quest for an answer to that question that precipitated an ill-fated attempt to create one large Union Church for the Atlantic side. With increasing definiteness, the new community at Margarita seemed destined to become the Zone's largest Atlantic side residence area. Official housing plans indicated the continuance of that trend. To have a strong Union Church in such a community was, for Union Church folk, taken for granted. Moreover this shining potentiality was located between Cristobal and Gatun; perhaps a five minute drive from the former and twice that from the latter. The dream was to maintain a strong Church School in each of the older towns with the Union Church folk of all three communities joining in a single church located in promising Margarita. To test the sentiment a poll was taken with what appeared to be decisive results. In Cristobal 243 votes were favorable, with only 5 negations. In Margarita 194 voted



for, with 11 against. Meanwhile the Union Church congregation at Gatun, after careful consideration, had withdrawn, preferring to continue their status quo. The Cristobal and Margarita folk, for a period of three years, sought funds for the proposed new building. This resulted in something over \$6,000, when personality conflicts, and other factors, bogged the movement to a standstill. The funds on hand were amicably prorated to the treasuries of the two churches in accord with the written wishes of the individual donors. Meanwhile, in 1947, a Union Church had been officially formed in Margarita. Its share of the fund was designated for proposed buildings, while Cristobal used its portion for repairs. Incidentally this was materially augmented by the proceeds of two Carnival Fairs aggregating \$900 and \$1,500 respectively.

Christian Training

The vivacious Mr. Stickel was the church's first Church School Superintendent, serving until 1911, when Mr. Wilson H. Kromer, with characteristic efficiency, began a three-year term. In 1914 the headquarters of the Panama Railroad, in whose accounting department he was employed, was moved from Colon to the newly opened Administration Building, in Balboa. By 1912 the enrollment was reported as 302 and records that



The Christian Endeavor—1949

Bottom Row: Thomas Bendiburg, Nellie Holgerson, Lois Howard, Earle Parsons, Eleanore Farstveet, Sponsor, Rita Howard, George McLain.
 Middle Row: Mrs. A. L. Holgerson, Gwendolyn Kariger, Hazel Griffith, Joyce Hawthorne, Leneve Dough.
 Top Row: James A. Kurtz, Grant Phillips, Rev. Havener, Roy Drennen, Charles Slates.

year carry this significant statement: "It is a Union Sunday School throughout; denominations never being mentioned. The boys and girls are taught lessons of right and wrong as they appear in the Bible."

Mrs. George H. Boomer's 20 consecutive years of superintendency in the Primary Department serves to illustrate something of the maturity of the local Union Church movement. Another evidence of this is found in the experience of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cotton. Mrs. Cotton (Ida May Clawson) came to the Isthmus with her family in 1909. She remembers first attending Sunday School in Gorgona, where Mr. Harvey McConaughey was Superintendent. Upon moving to Cristobal she attended the Cristobal Church School where she and Mr. Ernest Cotton were Assistant Secretaries. Two years later, in 1914, they were the second couple to be married in the Chapel. The service was read by the Rev. William Flammer. The Cottons had three children, all of whom were married in the Cristobal Union Church. Their children, in turn, have been baptized and trained in that church. Currently the Cotton genealogical chain includes great-grandparents, grandparents, children and eight grandchildren who know no other than the Union Church.



The Adult Bible Class—1948

First Row: Mrs. Holder, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. C. L. Morgan, Miss Helen Anderson, Mrs. Robinson.
 Second Row: Mrs. Frank Estes, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Stanley Hamilton, Mrs. Bilson, Mrs. Le Verne Babb.
 Third Row: Mrs. C. M. Utterback, Mrs. Kerry Dunn, Mrs. R. M. Wikingstad, Mrs. Delaney, Mrs. Charles Perrett.
 Fourth Row: Frank Estes, Howard Anderson, C. M. Utterback, E. C. Flowers, Mrs. E. C. Flowers.

It need not be said that through all the years this Church School kept abreast of the times, providing classes, quarters, teachers, literature, recreation, personal guidance and all the normal functions of an institution dedicated to nurturing the Christian ideals.



The Beginner's Department, 1935

The Teachers. Top Row: Mrs. Ethel Troup, ? , Mrs. Harold Thompson, Mrs. Vera D. Calloway, Mrs. J. B. Campbell, Mrs. L. A. Weisenberger, Mrs. H. C. Anderson, ? , Mrs. Harold White.



The Primary Department—1949

Bottom Row: Evelyn Hawthorne, Kay Hamilton, Bonnie Lou Shumate, Garry Laube, Ann McClelland, William Lust, Jacqueline Ashton, Carane Louise Ladd, Patricia Egger, Nancy Utterback, Michael Rudge, Keith Kenway.

Second Row: James Palumbo, Felicia Bendiburg, Jean Page, Ruth Ann Borden, Kathryn Stone, Doris Payne, Bertilda Bendiberg, Marvel Davison, Hayden Wells, Kay Flowers, Robert Hanna, Marion Smith.

Third Row: James Wells, Sandra Roscoe, Nora Weaver, Donald Humphrey, Donald Bruce, Paul Frederickson, Jeanne Lindgren, Marilyn Smith, Carolyn Holgerson, Simon Karton, Pamela Dodd, Carol Ann Forrest.

Teachers: Mrs. Norman B. Davidson, Miss Lois Howard, Miss Joyce Hawthorne, Mrs. William Hadarits, Mrs. Charles M. Louis, Mrs. Andrew Bleakley, Mrs. Clifford Utterback.

There were Teachers Training Courses, Worker's Conferences and Vacation Bible Schools.

An educational feature of distinction was that of pioneering library services. The record reads—

"The Sunday School operates a library of 299 books, of which 255 were donated by the Cristobal Woman's Club, we bought 29, and 15 were loaned or donated by friends."

That was in 1913, whereas the Panama Canal Branch Circulating Library was not established in Cristobal until October 12, 1920. During the intervening years the Union Church Library in the Chapel was the only local source for Children's books.

The Delta Alpha Bible Class was organized in 1915 at the home of its first President, Mrs. George Brignac. During a career of several years this group of women met at the church each Sunday in class study session and each month, in its members' homes, for business and social purposes. The first teacher was Mrs. Frances Cook.



Pioneer Department (Intermediates)—1949

Bottom Row: Terry Conley, Marie Fraser, Marion Didrickson, Alice Chambers, Margaret Joudrey.

Second Row: Mrs. E. C. Flowers, Mrs. Richard T. Conley, Esther Reynolds, Paula Holgerson, Joan Holgerson, Helene de Boyrie, Richard Broadbent, Gilbert Ferre.

Third Row: Pamela Hawthorne, Andrew Fraser, Harvey Smith, Robert Hodges, Kenneth Roscoe.

adopted in 1931, was appropriate, in that there was a definite program of fellowship. This included bowling teams, parties, picnics, and at least one social meeting per month. By this means and the contest technique, it is reported that in 1933 a peak enrollment of 292 was attained, with a top attendance reaching 160. In later years the membership and attendance levelled off to the normal of a lower pressure era. However, it was in that era that the class made its most notable contributions to the spiritual and material life of the church. Help was given in a multitude of items; separating-curtains in the



The Choir—1949

Top Row: Earle Parsons, Mr. O. E. Jorstad (Choir Director), Dr. Frank Kefferstan, Mr. Jamie Carruth, William Miller.
 Second Row: Paula Holgerson, Mrs. G. E. Lust, Mrs. James E. Lawson, Mrs. Arne Hauge, Sophie Papadelpules, Mrs. C. J. Genis (Organist), Mrs. O. E. Jorstad, Miss Judy Jorstad, Miss Eleanore Farstveet.
 Front Row: Blanche Bland, Sanna Munden, Rita Howard, Joan Holgerson, Shirley Van der Dys, Yolanda Van der Dys, Nellie Holgerson, Mrs. G. W. Bland.

parlors, a Pulpit Bible, an illuminated blackboard, electric fans, kitchen supplies, the awning over the front stops, roof repairs and several \$100 bonds for the recent building repairs fund.

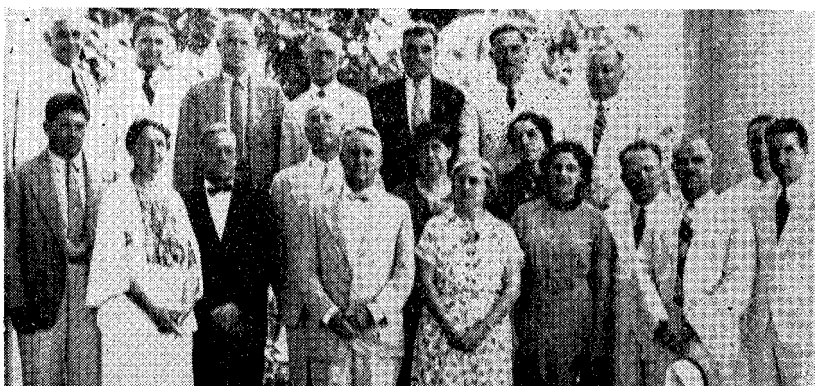
Since 1907, when a Mr. Alexander, President of the Christian Endeavor, was made a member of the Executive Committee, the Cristobal Union Church has seen special youth organizations as important features. Adequate records as such are not available. The Church records, however, intermittently carry such references as the following, dated 1912—

“The Cristobal Young People’s Society meets every Sunday evening at 7:00. It uses the Christian Endeavor Society topics and

the meetings are led by the members. The average attendance is about 30."

It is definitely known that the young folk gave \$50 toward the purchase of choir robes and half as much for an electric light outside the Art window to make the beauty of the window visible during the evening worship.

During World War II the young people, led and directed by a group of faithful women, aided in extending a genuine *At Home* welcome to a multitude of service men stationed on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus. Each Wednesday evening the



The Local Council, Cristobal, 1934

Top Row: A. M. Anderson, A. R. Campbell, George Cotton, N. R. Secrest, I. W. Metzger, A. A. Albright, Rev. R. R. Gregory.
Bottom Row: L. O. Burgess, Mrs. Elmer Stetler, Dr. H. L. Phillips, Capt. Warren E. Minnix, Dr. C. R. Hearne, Mrs. Oscar Martin, Mrs. George Boomer, Mrs. Fred Grunewald, Mrs. O. E. McKay, Rev. C. L. Morgan, Mr. David Smith, Mr. Arthur Cotton, Mr. Walter McClure.

church's recreation hall was thronged with from 75 to 200 uniformed guests. Always there were veritable stacks of cakes and more punch than could be consumed. At the Christmas parties each service man was presented with an appropriate gift package. In response came multitudes of written and verbal expressions of gratitude.

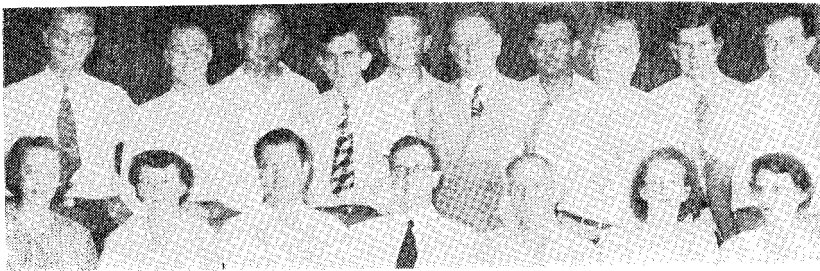
Special Speakers

Following is an incomplete tabulation of the more prominent guest speakers who have brought messages to Atlantic side audiences under this Church's auspices:

Col. W. C. Gorgas	February 17, 1912
Col. Wm. Sibert	February 18, 1912
John R. Mott	(date not known) 1919
Rev. V. R. Edman	May 15, 1927
Dr. Forrest L. Knapp	August, 1942
Rev. Torbleman	February 7, 1943
Rev. Forbes	February 7, 1943
Bishop Ivan Lee Holt	July 25, 1943
Dr. Kenneth L. Pike	January 23, 1944
Bishop Henry Balloch of Chile	August 6, 1944
Dr. Barnhouse	September 10, 1944
Dr. E. Stanley Jones	April 13 and 15, 1945
Bishop Ivan Lee Holt	June, 1945
Dr. Charles Leber	April 28, 1946
Dr. Quinter Miller	April 2, 1947
Dr. H. H. McConnell	March 7, 1948
Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick	May 22, 1948
Dr. Robbins Barstow	Date unknown
Bishop George Miller	Date unknown
Rev. W. E. Reid, Ecuador	Date unknown

Missionary Interests

One test of a church's spiritual virility is the breadth and depth of its interest in the welfare of those outside its own family. By that criterion the Cristobal Union Church has lived on a sound basis. In 1912, during its own infant days, it launched a language and orientation school for the benefit of Chinese. One of the activities was the teaching of English two evenings per week, by the pastor, Mr. Elliott. That same year a Manual



The Local Council, 1949

First Row: Mrs. S. L. Craig, Mrs. R. W. Rubelli, C. M. Utterback, Rev. Philip H. Havener, Mr. R. R. Arnold, Mrs. E. C. Flowers, Mrs. W. F. Grady.
 Top Row: O. E. Jerstad, N. B. Davison, E. F. McClelland, J. E. Lawson, C. F. Maedl, A. R. Campbell, J. H. Stevens, I. W. Metzger, T. D. Ladd, L. C. Palumbo.
 Not shown: Mrs. O. W. Ryan, S. L. Choller, F. D. Estes, A. J. Adams, George McLain.

Training Club was conducted for boys two evenings a week during the school vacation months.

Four years later Mrs. Miller, Miss Evelyn Miller and Mrs. William T. Harrison organized a Sunday School for local Chinese children. In 1919 the School was reorganized under Colonel Lamourex and Mrs. Harrison. There was a subsequent adaptation in 1923, after the church had moved into its present building. The fruitage of this effort appeared in the fact that certain of the earlier pupils became teachers in the school and some of them members of the sponsoring church.

In later years a Social Center and evening school was started for San Blas Indians living in Colon and environs. The sponsors were Dr. C. A. Hearne, Mrs. W. T. Harrison and the Rev. R. R. Gregory. The curriculum included the learning of songs, simple arithmetic and reading and writing. For reasons never defined, Panamanian officials advised Dr. Hearne to disband the group. Perhaps it was seen as being outside the normal domain of a church's program. Perhaps it was due to the use of English, instead of the Spanish language. Participation on the part of the Union Churches in the work being done among the San Blas Indians, having been recorded elsewhere in this volume, need not be emphasized here. Yet at-



Ladies Aid Society, Cristobal, 1913

Top Row: Mrs. Elsie Graves, Mrs. A. M. Anderson, Miss Emma Paul, Mrs. Elsie Rowe, Mrs. Thomas E. Brown, Mrs. George E. Dow (Jennie L.), Mrs. Webster Morris, Mrs. F. Whittaker.

Bottom Row: Mrs. William Harrison, Mrs. E. H. Carter, Mrs. James L. Aznoe, Marjory Carter, Miss Elizabeth Sprau, Mrs. W. F. Bronson.

tention should be called to the leading role played in this worthy project by the Cristobal Union Church. The active interest of the Rev. and Mrs. Morgan and the members began very early and through the years has not abated. In addition to promoting this work, among its own people and elsewhere, the Cristobal folk have long given much personal attention to the handling of mail, meeting ships, and fostering of San Blas projects large and small.

Illustrative of this was the "House Warming" for Mr. and Mrs. Iglesias when their new rest home at Puerto Pilon neared completion. It was a beautiful house, but there was not even old furniture to make it usable. A few Cristobal Union Church friends determined that it could, and must, be filled with brand new articles. They made a floor plan of the rooms and placed paper furniture in all appropriate spots. Then began the task of raising the necessary funds, within their own groups and in other Union Churches. If articles of the high quality desired were not in stock plans and specifications were given Colon's best cabinet maker. So, it came about that on February 22, 1946, Mrs. Iglesias was surprised into a speechless state by a house literally filled with shiny new mahogany furniture that was almost concealed by scores of friends from all the Union Churches. The Rev. Cecil L. Morgan had arranged an appropriate service dedicating both the new house and its contents. In this Mr. Russell L. Klotz, President of the Union Church of the Canal Zone, together with other Union Church pastors, participated.

The Ladies' Aid Society

It was on May 6, 1909, that the Ladies' Aid Society of the Cristobal Union Church was formally organized. Following is an engrossing tabulation of firsts in the helpful career of this organization:

- First President, Mrs. Jule Johnson, May 6th, 1909.
- First Recorded Treasurer, Mrs. Courtright, May, 1911.
- First amount recorded in the Treasury, Dues \$27.23, May, 1911
- First Treasurer's Book purchased, 40 cents, May, 1911.
- First bouquet bought for Church, \$1.25, April 6th, 1912.
- First Secretary's Book purchased, 20 cents, November, 1912.

- First recorded meeting—Mrs. Wm. T. Harrison, V. P. presiding Oct. 8, 1912. At this meeting first committee was appointed to choose a leader and select a subject for each meeting.
 Man from Mt. Hope engaged to act as janitor at 25 cents a Sunday.
- First recorded tea was served by Mesdames Elliot and Harrison
 First recorded Devotional led by Mrs. Elliot.
- First recorded Speaker, Miss Anne Coope, Subject: Personal Experiences among the Indians in South and Central America, November 12, 1912.
- First refreshments paid for, \$2.02.
 Alcohol stove purchased for use of the social committee.
 Baby garments sent to the Women's Branch, New York City Missions.
- First leader and subject—Mrs. Carter: Korea, December 10, 1912.
- First Commissary Book bought for use of the Society, January 14, 1913.
- First mention of a Federation of Christian Societies on the Canal Zone by Mrs. Thos. E. Brown, March, 1913.
- First Wedding Present, purchased for Jonathan, the janitor, cost \$2.50, March, 1913.
- First Program Committee, consisting of Mesdames Butters, Harrison and Morris. They were also the first hostesses to take care of refreshments.
- First recorded solo, Mrs. Fleming, November 9, 1913.
- First Constitution and By Laws drawn up by Mesdames Brown, Veen and Harrison, December 8, 1913.
- First Meeting of Federation of Women's Societies for Christian Work on the Canal Zone—Delegated: Brown, Nunn, Veen, Harrison, Piper, January 13, 1914.
- First payment of janitor for regular monthly services.
- First Committee to welcome strangers to the evening services (Mesdames Cotton, DeLong, Veen and Harrison).
- First Social assisting church Board, February 10, 1914.
- First Nominating Committee: Mesdames Verner, Townsend, Harrison, Hardeman and Smith, September 8, 1914.
- First Church Decorations given to one member of the L. A. monthly, September, 1914.
- First Offer of L. A. to assist Council in paying for Communion Service and Council let them pay it all, June, 1915.
- First Bazaar held at Y. M. C. A. netted \$221.46, Nov. 11, 1916.
- First Bank Account of \$200.00 opened in name of Society, Nov. 14, 1916.
- First Program of Note given Dec. 12, 1916.
- First money given to Church Board towards deficit in Treasury, Jan. 9, 1917.



Ladies Aid Society, Cristobal, 1934

Top Row: Mrs. Elsie Graves, Mrs. A. M. Anderson, Miss Emma Paul, Mrs. Elsie Rowe, Mrs. R. Peterson, Mrs. Gladys Knox, Mrs. Vera Hill, Mrs. Clara Gilbert.
 Second Row: ? , Mrs. Stephen Worley, Mrs. LeRoy Smith, Mrs. H. L. Smithies, Mrs. Mollie Brown, Mrs. Ella Schmidt, Mrs. J. McLain, Mrs. Watkins, ? .
 Third Row: Mrs. Darley, Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Love, Mrs. I. W. Metzger, Mrs. Pyne, Mrs. Clyde Wallis, Mrs. Ida Martin ? , Mrs. Alice Clemens, Mrs. Frank Parsons, ? .
 Bottom Row: Mrs. Seizias, Mrs. Witt, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Ora Hearn, Mrs. Olga Roe, Mrs. Reinke, Mrs. May Gregory, Mrs. Myrtle Luce, Mrs. Chalmers, Mrs. J. S. Campbell, Mrs. W. Peterson, Mrs. Ethel Stetler, Mrs. Irma King, Mrs. Anna Ferstrom, Mrs. Florence Boomer, Mrs. W. D. Conklin, Mrs. W. A. Barnard.
 With children: Rev. C. L. Morgan.

On June 15, 1934, the Society celebrated its 25th Anniversary. An interesting paper was read revealing certain amazing accomplishments: that the membership had grown during last period, from 18 to 417 and that benevolent giving had rolled into a total of \$5,266.62. Among the institutions were missionary projects benefitting the Colon Free Clinic, the Colon Fire Sufferers, the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., the American Bible Society and the Balboa Union Church Parsonage furnishing, in the amount of \$30. To its own church the Society had made huge contributions throughout this quarter of a century. There was \$725 toward the erection of the building, \$6,414.21 toward its furnishings, exclusive of its pipe organ, to which \$5,000 had been contributed. Comprehensive data concerning achieve-



The Evening Circle, Cristobal—1949

First Row: Mrs. Frank Borden, Mrs. John Stevens, Mrs. F. H. Smith, Mrs. Chester Lindgren, Mrs. Timothy Ladd, Chmn., Mrs. Clifford Utterbach, Mrs. G. E. Lust.
 Second Row: Mrs. Paul Evancoe, Mrs. E. F. McClelland, Mrs. Carroll Anderson, Mrs. E. Clyde Flowers, Mrs. Luke Palumbo, Mrs. P. H. Havener, Mrs. Beckland, Mrs. A. E. Jones, Mrs. Carl Maedl.

ments during the last 16 years is not available. However the work continues with characteristic enthusiasm.

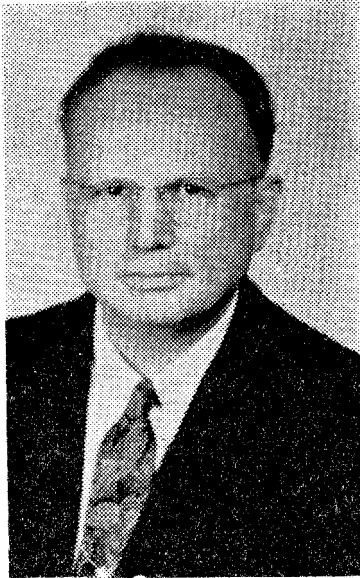
Some Marriage Ceremony Problems

Other than civil marriages are legally difficult in many latin American lands. Evidence of this is found in the fact that during a short five years, the author has been requested to marry not less than a score of North American couples who have flown from South American cities to the Canal Zone that a clergyman might bless their union. This difficulty, and the carelessness it fosters, is reflected in a number of ways, including a high percentage of Common Law marriages. The disastrous Colon fire, in April 1940, revealed something of such a condition in the city of Colon. Several hundred of the thousands made homeless by the fire were temporarily quartered in the recreation hall of the Cristobal Union Church. The Canal Zone authorities did everything in their power to provide temporary living quarters—everything within the Canal Zone law—which required that only legally married couples could be quartered together inside the Canal Zone. To meet this requirement, The Rev. Cecil L. Morgan, pastor of the Cristobal Union Church, did little for several days but perform marriage

ceremonies for couples whose children were witnesses, in many cases.

With the properties of the Cristobal Union Church in the domain over which the Republic of Panama exercised rigid sovereignty, the pastors of that church have, through the years, encountered many and varied experiences. The following illustrates something of the amazing and exasperating possibilities.

Shortly after his arrival on the Isthmus, The Rev. Cecil Morgan was requested to officiate in a ceremony in Colon, with



The Rev. Cecil Morgan

a Republic license. To make sure of his legal status, he interviewed Colon's Mayor, explaining that he was a fully ordained minister with credentials entitling him to perform marriages. The Colon Magistrate assured the minister of his rights and bade him proceed. This official green light was augmented by the precedents of preceding pastors of the Cristobal church. The certificate was readily accepted and duly recorded. Subsequently when the certificate of another Colon marriage was presented for official recording, it was returned. The accompanying letter asserted that Mr. Morgan was not qualified to perform

marriages in the Republic, since his church had never been registered as a religious organization there. Meanwhile the young German couple, blissfully unaware of the technical illegality of their marriage, were honeymooning in South America, where they expected to live. Immediately the officiating dominie presented the facts to the Colon Court. He reports being informed that there was a brand new Mayor, who was in no way obligated to recognize the agreements of his predecessor.

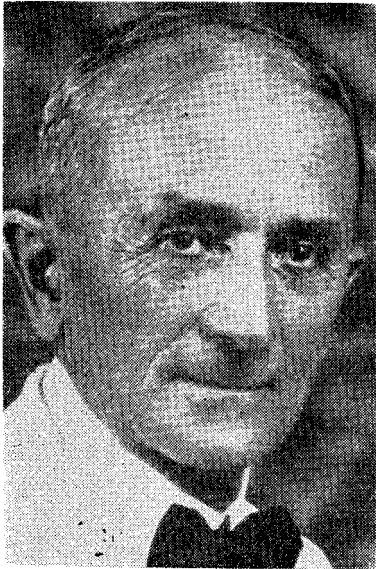


The Rev. Arthur B. Boynton

once popular among learned graduating classes of secondary schools—"Usus Est Magister Optimus" (Experience is the best teacher). The barrister was, in local parlance, a "Mango Tree" lawyer. That capriciously derogatory title connected the absence of learning, prestige or talent, and frequently of not even office space. With knowing nods, he listened to the essence of the problems and promised results pronto. This assurance was characteristically couched in amazingly accurate grammar and rhetoric, and in words with a minimum capacity of fifteen gallons: Of course it would involve a battle of superphysical proportions—worth far more than the paltry honorarium of one hundred and fifty dollars. After agreeing, with wounded pride, to seventy-five percent reduction in the fee and with six dollars advance expense money in his fist, the legal procurator boarded the Panama City train. There, in the nation's capitol, through his ponderous personal influence and legal interpretations, etc., etc., he would legitimize the connubial contract in question. The lone document with which he so proudly returned was but

It was alleged that the whole problem could be resolved by the simple expedient of recording the Cristobal Union Church as a religious organization. Perhaps the best *modus operandi* would be to employ a lawyer, thus eliminating bother, and making sure that much difficulty would not recur. The uninitiated ecclesiastic selected a legal ambassador upon ill informed counsel from Zone friends. He proved to be a West Indian with interminable legal phrases which he had acquired from a correspondence school in far-away Chicago. This—and more, much more, Mr. Morgan learned through the medium of the classic motto,

an officially stamped copy of the license used in the ill-fated ceremony. It was renewed evidence that the marriage had been performed—a fact that no one doubted—but it failed to circum-



The Rev. James Jenness, Ph.D.

vent, or even to minimize, the technical flaw inhering in the failure of the parson's church to be officially registered in Panama.

The anxious clergyman commanded his baffled attorney to press the matter further. Every few days he received consoling assurances, vehicled in words of increasingly diminishing capacity. Finally one morning, with the light of victory (or something) in his eye, the legal champion of Panamanian jurisprudence, with temporarily increased word-gallongage, proclaimed success—but not for another week! After months of such, the spiritual shepherd

decided that his patience had had all the exercise it required for the moment. So, figuratively, with sleeves rolled high and tight, and with all the cohesive Spanish he could muster, abetted by an interpreter, he went direct to the Registrar's office. That unperturbed gentleman calmly dished out the dismaying information that this lawyer in question had never even presented a request for the registration of the Cristobal Union Church. Next morning, upon tracking down the perspiring prosecutor, bloodhound fashion, the exasperated theologian was shown a copy of the paper allegedly presented. The legist once more proffered the "manana" technique naming two weeks as a without-fail, consummating period. The cleric, with this over-exercised patience temporarily on ice, demanded this promise in writing, and worded it himself.

Meanwhile the technically unwed couple had a Physician's assurance that in a matter of a rapidly decreasing number of

