

**ADEN, FRED AND MRS. ADEN
(ANNA A. PETTIT)**

From the high seas and homeward bound, the Aden family sends season's greetings, wishing for friends both north and south of the equator a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROMISING NEW YEAR.

Address in the U.S.A. - 1511 B. Ave. - Box 1118 - C.P.

*Response
June 1971*

Mrs. Almeda Pettit Aden, a Methodist missionary in Argentina for 37 years, died May 8. She was born

August 14, 1892 in Guelph, Canada. She sailed for Argentina January 26, 1918. She taught at Colegio Ward in Buenos Aires until 1926, becoming its director at that time. She retired in October, 1955. Mrs. Aden is survived by five children.

Date of Death of Fred Aden

June 1, 1965

MISSIONARIES OF THE

FRED ADEN

Born in Garrison, Nebraska.

A.B. from University of Southern California in 1915.

M.A. and High School Teacher's certificate from U.S.C. in 1916.

Honorary Ped. D. from U.S.C. in 1931.

Honorary LL.D. from Occidental College in 1946.

Taught one year in Selma Joint Union High School, Selma, California.

Came to Colegio Ward, Buenos Aires, Argentina in February, 1918, as Treasurer and Commercial Department Head, Director since November, 1920.



MEDA PETTIT ADEN

Born in Ontario, Canada.

A.B. from Occidental College, Los Angeles, California in 1914.

High School Teacher's certificate from University of Southern California in 1915.

Taught one year in Reedley Joint Union High School at Reedley, California.

Married Fred Aden in 1916.

Mother of five children: Phyllis, Fred, Ruth, Alameda, Melvin.

Came to Colegio Ward, Buenos Aires, Argentina, in February 1918.

the lack of it is by no means limited to Argentina.

On Ward campus we mean to carry our end, first by seeing to it that our own course of religious education is constructive and Christ-centered, and second by consecrated teaching. Beyond this, must be a wholesome Christian environment permeating practically every phase of the work, including class room and outside student activity, to which must still be added the presence of Christian teachers, living witnesses to the fact that Christianity actually works.

Fred Aden.

METHODIST MISSIONARIES OF THE RIVER PLATE REGION

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

Dr. and Mrs. George P. Howard, Puan 556.

Colegio Ward: Dr. and Mrs. Fred Aden, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Ramey.

Facultad Evangélica de Teología, Camacú 282:

Dr. and Mrs. B. Foster Stockwell, Dr. and Mrs. John M. Norris, Lena C. Knapp.

ROSARIO, ARGENTINA.

Colegio Americano, Avenida Pellegrini 1352: Katharine Mamie Donahue, Olive Givin, Ulla Person.

The Rev. Paul S. Williams, Bulevar Oroño 202, Rosario.

LOMAS DE ZAMORA, ARGENTINA.

First Methodist Church (English-speaking), Alem 51: The Rev. and Mrs. Basil R. Truscott.

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY.

Casa de la Amistad, Chile 3338, Villa del Cerro: The Rev. and Mrs. Earl M. Smith.

Emmanuel Methodist Church (English-speaking), Tristán Narvaja 1451: The Rev. and Mrs. Warren A. Nyberg.

Instituto Crandon, 8 de octubre 2709: Jennie Reid, Marian Daily, May Hoerner, Maylah Kress.

RETIRED MISSIONARIES.

Mrs. Ada C. Drees, Mrs. Louise K. Bauman, Mrs. T. A. Truscott.

P A M P A B R E E Z E S

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Mrs. Lena Knapp
Mrs. Fred Aden

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PRESENTACION

Son los libros, como los cofres que encierran ricos caudales, los que celosamente y a través de su tipografía guardan el fruto de mentes cultas, estudiosas e inteligentes, o registran en sus páginas hechos o vidas dignas de tal distinción, reviviendo en su contenido las inquietudes de su autor o de sus personajes.

Con destino a nuestra revista oficial y por ser el autor de estas páginas un viejo Ex-Alumno y colaborador del Dr. Fred Aden desde hace ya más de diez y ocho años, le encomendamos preparara una biografía del querido maestro. Sus antecedentes como autor de varios libros lo habilitaban para la misión que se le encomendó.

En los veinte apretados capítulos de clara prosa y sencillo estilo que componen esta publicación, Pedro N. Urco: a nos ha hecho ver que la figura del Dr. Fred Aden es digna del libro, y haciendo honor a sus méritos es que la Sociedad de Ex-Alumnos lo edita como homenaje a su socio Honorario, a su maestro y amigo.

ALEJANDRO DELGADO
Presidente
Sociedad Ex-Alumnos Colegio Ward

El "espíritu" idea la "vida"; pero sólo la vida puede poner actividad y realizar el espíritu, desde su más simple actuar, hasta la ejecución de una obra a la que otorgamos sentido espiritual.

Max Scheler

La educación procede de lo interno (*ex ducere*) y se dirige hacia un plano espiritual, superior al orden natural, que sólo puede vivir el hombre. Naciendo en lo finito —el ser natural— parece que mira hacia lo infinito en la conquista del ser espiritual.

Juan Mantovani

A MANERA DE PROLOGO

A pedido de la Sociedad de Ex-Alumnos del Colegio Ward, hemos trazado estos rasgos biográficos del Dr. Fred Aden. Es una apretada síntesis escrita al correr de la pluma y con la premura de un trabajo periódico. Quedan en el tintero —tal vez para mejores tiempos o tal vez para que otra pluma más autorizada les dé forma, una vez que esta vida noble y fecunda haya completado su trayectoria— innumerables facetas de su rica personalidad. Con la pluma del escritor suele pasar como con los pinceles del artista, que pocas veces alcanza a trasla-

dar al lienzo en todo su verismo y esplendor la riqueza de colorido del paisaje que lo obsesiona. Claro está que todo depende del escritor y del artista: en todo caso, sirva el cuadro debilmente bosquejado para rememorarnos con el paisaje, en este caso con el hombre que lleva casi treinta años entregado en cuerpo y alma con ansiedad de apóstol, tal como debe realizar su obra el maestro, a la delicada y compleja tarea de formar caracteres de abrir surcos nuevos en el campo educacional de sembrar principios e ideales que llevados a los cuatro puntos cardinales del país por centenares de estudiantes han de dar frutos inasperados en un mañana no le-

jano. Con los ideales nobles y generosos suele pasar como con la buena simiente: da fruto hasta en los escombros.

Los ideales que se siembran en el espíritu virgen del niño o en el fértil de la adolescencia y de la juventud, jamás se pierden, pues son reservas potenciales que abonadas luego por la experiencia y la reflexión, dan como resultado un carácter, una conducta. Tal la riqueza y el galardón del maestro. Tal el único objetivo que debe inspirar la acción de los que consagran su vida a la niñez y a la juventud. El Doctor Aden pertenece indiscutiblemente a esta clase de educadores. Lo demuestra su vida y lo prueba su

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jano. Con los ideales nobles y generosos suele pasar como con la buena simiente: da fruto hasta en los escombros.

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obra. Sembró en las almas simiente de bien a lo largo de casi treinta años y ya comienzan a percibirse los dorados frutos de su siembra en las diferentes esferas donde llegó su acción. Tiene el futuro en sus campos inmensurables, mucha semilla que a su debido tiempo germinará, aunque es posible que el sembrador no recoja la cosecha en su plenitud. Así es y así debe ser. Sembrar para que otro recoja. Plantar un árbol para que otro goce su sombra. Arrojar la buena simiente en los surcos intangibles del espíritu con fe y abnegado amor, tal como lo hizo el Maestro Incomparable; los frutos los dará el tiempo y ellos enriquecerán la vida de nuevas ge-

neraciones que a su vez entregarán la antorcha a las generaciones del porvenir. Tal es la misión de los sembradores del espíritu a los cuales pertenece el maestro de cuya vida fecunda, apenas si hemos trazado un pálido esbozo.

El Autor.

CAPITULO PRIMERO

La infancia

El 23 de abril de 1890, en el pequeño pueblo de Garrison, Estado de Nebraska, en el medio oeste de los Estados Unidos, nació nuestro biografiado, octavo hijo de don Minke Aden y de doña Catalina Wiltz, ambos alemanes, que se radicaron en esa región eminentemente agrícola de los Estados Unidos, siendo muy niños. Su infancia transcurre alegre y feliz en medio del ambiente rural de la heredad de sus padres, dedicados por completo a las rudas faenas del campo. Al llegar a la edad escolar, el pequeño Federico fué inscripto en la muy modesta es-

Chips

M

Este hombre es un maestro, simple y llanamente un maestro; pero un maestro en quien la vocación es llama viva que alimentan principios éticos y espirituales de genuina raigambre cristiana.

Chips



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un culto y del trabajo constante y tesonero la varita mágica de la prosperidad. La madre, Doña Catalina Wiltz, es allí la vestal que mantiene siempre encendido el sagrado fuego de la concordia y la armonía; el padre, Don Minke Aden, varón fuerte, de sólido carácter y de conducta rectilínea templada al calor de principios austeros y de ideales generosos, es el puntal de un hogar que alcanza sólido prestigio en la región. Si la piedad era la principal característica de la madre, la bondad, la honradez y el espíritu emprendedor, constituían los principales perfiles morales del padre que contó siempre con el respeto y el cariño de vecinos y amigos. Por su generosidad

y desprendimiento, más de una vez perdió su fortuna, que rehizo nuevamente con tesonero esfuerzo y contando siempre con un nombre prestigiado de honradez, capital inapreciable y la mejor herencia que se puede dejar a los hijos.

CAPITULO III

Diez hermanos

Al fallecer la madre, el padre casó en segundas nupcias y fruto de los dos matrimonios son los diez hijos que bendijeron su hogar, perteneciendo ocho, entre ellos Federico, al primer matrimonio y dos al segundo. Aunque todos los hermanos recibieron instrucción primaria y se-

cundaria, como es corriente en los Estados Unidos, es curioso y digno de anotarse el hecho que con excepción de Federico, ninguno de los hermanos siguió carrera universitaria, dedicándose a la agricultura, la ganadería y el comercio, donde alcanzaron desahogadas posiciones. Todos los hijos, sin excepción, ayudaron a su padre en la tarea de cultivar el campo y criar ganado, explicándose así el amor de nuestro biografiado por la naturaleza, las tareas rurales, su afición por la caza, uno de sus deportes favoritos que conserva en la actualidad y que le permiten huir de tanto en tanto de las múltiples tareas educacionales y administrativas.

CAPITULO IV

Los estudios superiores

Terminados felizmente los estudios primarios, como llevamos dicho, en una escuelita rural en el pueblo de Ulisses, el pequeño Federico realiza dentro del término normal, no obstante su colaboración en las tareas del campo y de la granja de su padre, el High School, ciclo de enseñanza media en los Estados Unidos. Sintiendo arder en su espíritu un deseo grande de saber y tocado íntimamente por lo que debería ser más tarde la razón de ser de su existencia, la vocación por

la enseñanza, se inscribe en la Universidad de California del Sud, graduándose en el término reglamentario de Bachiller y Maestro de Artes, cuyo equivalente sería el título de profesor secundario en ciencias sociales y comerciales. Digamos como dato informativo que en el año 1930, esta misma Universidad, haciéndose eco de su acción educacional en la Argentina y por los servicios prestados en lo que respecta a la aproximación de las culturas de América del Norte y del Sud, le otorga el título de doctor en asuntos pedagógicos en el extranjero, "Honorios Causa".

CAPITULO V

Cómo realiza sus estudios

Ya está el joven Aden en la facultad. No solamente le preocupan sus estudios, sino cómo realizarlos sin que ello signifique una carga económica para su familia, que aunque en posición relativamente holgada, debía afrontar la crianza y educación de los nueve hermanos restantes. El problema resultó para él de fácil solución, pues acostumbrado desde muy niño al trabajo aprendido en la escuela de su hogar, solicita y obtiene —no sin lucha dado los muchos postulantes, ya

que forman legión los jóvenes que allí estudian en estas condiciones— la plaza de ayudante de panadero en el restaurante de la Universidad, pasando, a medida que avanzaba en sus estudios, por la de lavar platos, para conquistar el año anterior a su graduación, el codiciado puesto de mozo de comedor. ¡Cuánta entereza moral se necesita para cursar estudios superiores de esta manera! ¡Cómo se ofendería el orgullo a flor de piel —tengamos el valor de reconocerlo— de más de un estudiante nuestro si se le propusieran tales humildes menesteres a fin de ganar sus estudios universitarios! ¡Cómo contrasta este espíritu y esta actitud por completo despojada

de orgullo y de vanidad, con la cobardía —dejemos de lado las honrosas excepciones— de más de un joven Universitario de estas latitudes, que prefieren que se sacrifiquen los padres, ya en la banquetta del zapatero remendón o ya al pie de la máquina de coser, como tantas madres! El último año, el joven Fred Aden, que en los años anteriores, no obstante sus estudios y sus modestas tareas, había dado pruebas de su capacidad periodísticas, se hace cargo por expreso mandato de las autoridades de la universidad, del semanario estudiantil de la misma. Por este tiempo es también colaborador de un conocido diario de la

ciudad de los Angeles, "Los Angeles Examiner". Así realizó sus estudios superiores el joven Federico Aden, y en esto estriba la sencilla grandeza del hoy Dr. Fred Aden.

CAPITULO VI

Los deportes y otras actividades

Ni el trabajo, ni los estudios, ni las actividades periodísticas, le impidieron tomar parte en los deportes y otras actividades fuera del programa habitual, que en los Colegios y Universidades de los Estados Unidos ocupan el lugar que realmente les corresponde en una educación integral. Favorecido por un físico espléndido se destaca en casi

todos los deportes de la época, tales como basket-ball, baseball, patinaje sobre hielo, box, tennis, football, etc., etc., con lo que adquiere sólido prestigio entre sus discípulos, al mismo tiempo que forma un carácter franco, cordial y caballeresco, pues ya sabemos hasta qué punto contribuyen los juegos atléticos a la formación de una personalidad armoniosa. Los deportes eran alternados con actividades de carácter artísticas, integrando esos famosos "glee clubs" de estudiantes que recorren el interior de los Estados Unidos dando conciertos con fines benéficos o por simple amor al arte. El joven Fred Aden a más de su participación en los conjuntos co-

rales, contribuía con sabrosos monólogos cómicos, para los cuales revelaba excepcionales condiciones, que alguna vez hemos tenido oportunidad de gustar aquí, mostrando de esta manera, no obstante la dignidad del cargo, su excelente sentido del humor.

CAPITULO VII

Qué hace después de graduarse

En 1916 el joven Federico Aden regresa a su hogar paterno con el título universitario bajo el brazo, el corazón alegre y la mente plena de ilusiones. Por entonces ya había fallecido su padre y encuentra a su madrastra velando los recuerdos en

la antigua heredad paterna. Se queda un tiempo allí y colabora en la administración de la pequeña estancia, hasta que es nombrado en el High School, establecimiento oficial de Selma, California, profesor de Historia Antigua y de los Estados Unidos, dictando al mismo tiempo la cátedra de Historia Inglesa. Allí el profesor acredita sus grandes condiciones de maestro y de organizador y es en el desempeño de sus tareas docentes donde le sorprende el ofrecimiento de la "Board of Foreign Mission Of the Methodist Church", para venir a la Argentina y hacerse cargo del Departamento

Comercial del Imprenta Colegio Americano e Instituto Comercial Ward, que tal era su nombre primitivo, donde desempeñaba al mismo tiempo el cargo de tesorero. Acepta la invitación y se lanza a la aventura con su fiel y amante esposa Doña Meda Ferrer, con quien había contraído el 17 de Junio de 1916 la unión matrimonial en el templo de Buenos Aires en el mes de Febrero del año 1913 en las posturas de la Quinta Municipal siendo a la sazón Director del Colegio el Dr. Enry Ferrer, hoy prestigioso autor y profesor de Literatura americana en City College New York.

CAPITULO VIII

La esposa de Mr. Aden

Una de las grandes y delicadas resoluciones que los hombres deben hacer —como que generalmente de ella depende su éxito o su fracaso— es la elección de la compañera de toda la vida. Mr. Aden supo salvar este difícil escollo, uniendo su vida a una mujer de viva inteligencia, de espíritu selecto, de exquisita sensibilidad espiritual y, como corona de todas estas virtudes, unida del mismo sentir y pensar en lo que a la obra educacional se refiere. Son dos maestros que ponen al servicio del

ideal toda la fuerza de sus convicciones pedagógicas y todo el entusiasmo y desinterés que es condición indispensable para realizar obra duradera en el campo de la educación. Juntos se les vió llegar, juntos se les vió vivir, juntos se les vió gozar y... sufrir. La obra es de ambos, porque olvidando gustos personales todo lo supeditaron "al gran negocio que no da dividendos" de la escuela y a ella le consagraron su juventud, su capacidad y su abnegación. Alguna vez dijimos de esta pareja ideal: "Si él es la acción, ella la inspiradora de esa acción; si él es el tronco, ella la hiedra que lo ciñe en apretado y amoroso abrazo". Mrs. Aden, espo-

sa dignísima, madre ejemplar, y maestra abnegada, tiene un sólido puesto conquistado en la obra realizada, y permítasenos decir más: no obstante los kilates morales e intelectuales del Dr. Aden, no obstante su probado temperamento de auténtico educador y su gran capacidad de trabajo, creemos que sin Mrs. Aden, sin esta mujer ideal para un maestro, que siempre estuvo a su lado siendo como un remedo de su sentir y pensar, tal vez no le hubiese sido posible llevar el Colegio a la altura en que está desde el punto de vista económico y espiritual. El Dr. Aden supo escoger, pues, su compañera a quien consideró siempre como su "novia" eterna, su

sostén, su inspiración en la aventura que significa dejar su patria para ir a otra lejana. Estamos seguros que cuando dejó su lugar nativo habrá pensado con Stendhal: "Ir sin amor por la vida es como ir sin estrella por el mar, como ir al combate sin música, como emprender un viaje sin un libro".

CAPITULO IX

Es nombrado Director

El día 15 de octubre de 1920 es nombrado Director. La institución en estos momentos era un niño que contaba con siete años de edad ya que su fundación data del año 13, que es cuando el filántropo ameri-

cano George S. Ward, hace la primera donación "para fundar un Colegio que fuese un monumento vivo a la memoria de su señora madre, doña Nancy Gracey de Ward". Desde ese instante Mr. Aden no se da tregua en la acción. No obstante la pequeñez de la escuelita que a la sazón apenas contaba una cincuenta de alumnos —un poco parecida a la modesta escuelita rural de sus primeras letras, allá en Garrison— el hombre de amplia visión que hay en él vislumbra el porvenir de la institución. Puede decirse que desde ese instante la personalidad del Dr. Aden halla campo propicio para manifestarse, creciendo al mismo tiempo que se da sin reparar en

fatigas, actuando de Director, administrador, profesor, consejero, etc., etc. Su espíritu selecto, abierto a todas las inquietudes, se agiganta en la acción y sacando fuerzas de las flaquezas, teniendo fe cuando todos dudas, viendo posibilidades donde otros no ven más que fracasos, capea el temporal y conduce la nave con mano firme y segura, perfilándola hacia el logro de un destino que él anticipaba brillante. Hoy, 25 años de aquel nombramiento el Colegio cuenta en sus dos secciones, Ramos Mejía y Belgrano, con mil alumnos y un cuerpo Docente y Administrativo que se eleva a 200 personas.

CAPITULO X

Para cada ideal su Quijote

Las instituciones no se forman ni marchan solas. No importa la bondad de una idea, es necesario que atrás de esa idea haya un hombre o varios hombres sosteniéndola y propalándola a fuerza muchas veces de ingentes sacrificios. Para cada ideal su Quijote. Para cada esfuerzo realmente grande y duradero, una voluntad o varias voluntades mancomunadas con un fin, con un propósito perfectamente definido. Sólo así el ideal se cristaliza y los sueños se ha-

cen realidades. El Colegio estaba fundado, recientemente fundado. Era algo así como un incipiente ideal en marcha. Se necesitaba alguien que canalizara la idea, que clavase el ideal en el pico más alto de la montaña, como una bandera que señalase la meta y aunase voluntades. Este alguien, este hombre, era el Dr. Aden. Dotado de una voluntad forjada en el trabajo y en el esfuerzo, una de esas voluntades que van siempre hacia adelante, en derechura al blanco señalado y que no se abaten ante los contratiempos, ni se ablandan ante las caricias de los halagos. A lo largo de más de un cuarto de siglo, los que hemos vivido se puede decir bajo su mismo

techo, no le hemos conocido ninguna flaqueza, ningún momento de desaliento en lo que respecta al ideal forjado: hacer del Colegio Ward un puente de aproximación espiritual entre ambas américas, a la par que contribuir al acervo cultural del país, preparando jóvenes en un ambiente de libertad y al calor de ideales nobles, democráticos y cristianos.

CAPITULO XI

La personalidad del Dr. Aden.

Alguna vez hemos dicho hablando de la personalidad: "Sobre la común base orgánica, la personalidad es aquel grado de espiritualidad que

da relieve propio y hace a un hombre distinto de los demás hombres". Y el Dr. Aden posee una personalidad que lo diferencia —sin que él pretenda ser distinto— nítidamente de los demás hombres. Al instante de platicar con él, se echa de ver que se está en presencia de un hombre de perfiles morales poco comunes. Sus palabras trasuntan un "no sé qué" que atrae, convence y cautiva. Su gesto, su mirada, su sonrisa, su apretón de manos, son únicamente suyos, absolutamente suyos. Es que el Dr. Aden es lo que es por los ideales que sustenta, por la moral cristiana que ensambla toda su vida, que es el móvil de su acción y que lleva a todas partes, a la Di-

rección, a la cátedra, a la vida social, a la vida privada. Atrás de las grandes avanzadas de la institución, la fuerza imponderable de su personalidad, ha jugado un papel preponderante y decisiva.

CAPITULO XII

El caballero.

Sean cuales fueren las circunstancias en que le ha tocado actuar, jamás se le ha visto fuera de su natural apostura de caballero. Lo es hasta en sus más mínimos detalles, hasta en esos momentos duros y difíciles cuando se pone en juego la paciencia y la tolerancia, ante la in-

comprensión y no pocas veces la oposición intencionada de los hombres. Siempre encuentra el adjetivo conciliador, la palabra oportuna que atempera los ánimos, el gesto que dignifica a quien por error se convierte en adversario ocasional. El "gentleman", el caballero despunta en él siempre, sin esfuerzo y sin distinción de personas, ni jerarquías. Artesano o profesor universitario, dama o niño, todos por igual son objeto de su exquisita cortesía. De él podría decirse lo que Sabatier dice de San Francisco: "La mayor parte de su extraordinario poder sobre las almas deriva de su brillante temperamento y de su inagotable cortesía. Nunca amenazó a los hombres, ni

abusó de ellos, ni perdió con ellos su alegría".

CAPITULO XIII

El soñador.

No es el soñador iluso que pretende encerrar el mundo en un pañuelo; es el hombre que teniendo firmemente apoyados sus pies sobre la tierra, siente en su espíritu parpadear una estrella. Es de los que saben, al decir de Vandoyer, "fabricar sueños con la vida y tejer vida con los sueños". Antes de ser realidad lo que hoy existe materialmente, primero fué sueño en su mente, fantasía, chifladura de Quijote, por lo cual algunos, hace poco menos de un cuar-

to de siglo, le hicieron el homenaje del ridículo —un poco en serio y otro poco en broma— en las columnas de las "Mentiras criollas" de las revistas estudiantiles del propio Colegio. Allá por el año 28, en el celeberrimo y querido caserón de Rivadavia y Malvinas, cuando Mr. Aden abría los ventanales de su espíritu soñador en "charlas confidenciales" a los alumnos de entonces, ex-alumnos de hoy, y dejándose llevar por el entusiasmo contagioso de sus utópicos proyectos, cuán lejos estaban los que meneaban sus cabezas y sonreían compasivamente, que aquellos sus edificios de estilo californiano, pedagógicamente construí-

dos y enclavados en medio de árboles frondosos y centenarios, eran "verdades prematuras" que sólo le es dado acariciar a los que como él sueñan despiertos y saben medir toda la profundidad de las palabras del Maestro cuando dijo: "Si tuvieris fe como un grano de mostaza..."

Hoy la locura quijotesca es una hermosa realidad y muchos de los que ridiculizaron sus fantasías, se pasean bajo la sombra acogedora de los añosos árboles y sienten orgullo de ser ex-alumnos de un Colegio cuya sólida y moderna construcción, lo coloca entre los mejores del país. Bien pudiera inscribirse en el dintel de la puerta principal para ejemplo de las futuras generaciones

de estudiantes: "Los edificios que aquí véis y el noble y generoso espíritu que sus muros celosamente guardan, primeramente fueron utopías, fantasías locas de un hombre que supo contagiar a otros el divino don de soñar despierto".

CAPITULO XIV

Su intervención en los donativos.

Lo que cuesta creer a muchas personas —tal vez sea una duda muy latina— es que todo lo que tiene el Colegio Ward ha sido donado por personas que allá en los Estados Unidos, apenas si saben que existe en la Prov. de Bs. Aires un peque-

ño pueblito denominado Ramos Mejía. Hay muchos "chiflados filántropos" allá en el norte, que hacen realidad la cita del evangelio cuando dice "que no sepa tu izquierda lo que hace tu derecha" y que emplean gran parte de sus caudales para estimular obras que, como el Colegio Ward, sean un gesto de amistad y de aproximación espiritual. Son almas generosas enamoradas de principios e ideales como el de la cultura cristiana o el de la investigación científica, por ejemplo, que hacen del dinero un motivo de felicidad y bendición para los demás, sin importarles en qué punto del globo viven los que se han de favorecer. Pues bien, el Dr. Aden tie-

ne un ojo realmente clínico y posee un tacto exquisito para interesar a esos hombres cuya "generosidad parece mentira", en la obra educacional del Colegio. Cuando él directamente no puede llegar a esas personas, sabe buscar un soñador... como en el caso del Obispo Oldhan, su gran maestro y consejero, por cuyo intermedio se han hecho realidad tantos pequeños y grandes donativos. A más de sus viajes esporádicos a los Estados Unidos, los archivos del Colegio están repletos de cartas donde se puede apreciar su fina, su graciosa, su digna manera de pedir para lo que él no llama "su obra", sino el Colegio. En estos casos es donde se pone en juego su

enorme caudal de simpatía, su don de gente, su atractiva personalidad y también, sería injusticia la omisión, la de doña Meda P. de Aden que no le va en zaga en estos menesteres. Ellos ofrecen el "privilegio de cooperar —¡la palabra predilecta del Dr. Aden!— en un negocio que no produce dividendos que se reparte un consorcio determinado, sino que concede la oportunidad de practicar el bien por el bien mismo, de asociarse espiritualmente a una empresa cuyos dividendos se cobrarán en el cielo... Solamente escribimos algunos rasgos de la vida del Dr. Aden; algún día, una pluma más autorizada que la nuestra y que escriba con menos premura, po-

drá arrojar más luz sobre este importante aspecto de la obra y puntualizar cuanto se debe a su influencia personal del millón y medio de pesos que el Colegio posee en la actualidad en edificios e instalaciones. Pero digamos para cerrar este capítulo y como dato ilustrativo, que la institución no le paga ni el sueldo al Dr. Aden, sino la **Board of Missions of the Methodist Church**, y que éste al descontarlo en moneda nacional es igual o más bajo que el de alguno de sus más inmediatos colaboradores. Sus caudales se miden por la cantidad de amigos que posee en nuestro país, en otros países de nuestra América y en los Estados Unidos.

CAPITULO XV

El educador.

El Dr. Aden es un pedagogo eminentemente práctico. No es, no ha sido, ni será nunca un teórico de la educación. Jamás escribió una teoría educativa. Sus principios pedagógicos que tienen mucho de la filosofía y teoría pedagógicas de Horacio Mann, el gran maestro del norte y de Sarmiento, el no menos grande maestro del sud, están diluidos en centenares de artículos, discursos y conferencias pronunciadas a lo largo de 28 años de ininterrumpida

acción docente y administrativa. Vive la educación. Es un maestro de alma. Un intuitivo. Un humanista. El sabe que donde falla la teoría triunfa el corazón. No se aferra a un método con tenacidad de molusco; sin despreciar el método prueba todos, los compara, los amalgama, los adapta a la individualidad biológica del educando y no cesa hasta que se opera el cambio anhelado en lo único que vale y tiene razón al fin de cuentas en la escuela: el niño. Ama a la niñez y a la juventud; en esto estriba toda su pedagogía y en esto finca el éxito alcanzado. Jamás pierde la fe en una reacción favorable, por más que tarde esa reacción. Siembra principios e ideales sin dis-

cutirlos ni argumentarlos mucho; sabe que el niño y el adolescente es tierra fértil y propicia y que la buena simiente tarde o temprano germinará. Lo importante para él es sembrar a tiempo y fuera de tiempo; la experiencia en la gran escuela de la vida harán la selección, separando la hojarasca y dejando el fruto. Como Director ha sabido ser maestro de maestros, actuando con un tacto, una delicadeza y una dignidad verdaderamente admirables. Abierto a todas las iniciativas, permeable a todas las sugerencias, jamás desairó a un colega, ni tuvo en poco su juventud, ni despreció su vejez. Su palabra tuvo siempre tono conciliatorio y de sugestión: jamás

de mandato imperativo. El hombre, el padre, el amigo que hay siempre en él, dan al maestro acentos de persuasión y de comprensión, favoreciendo siempre al que cometió el error, aunque estigmatizado el mal, que considera debilidad de un momento y no maldad intencionada.

CAPITULO XVI

Su tolerancia.

En el terreno de las ideas sociales, políticas y religiosas, o en las pequeñas grandes alternativas del común vivir, difícilmente se hallará un hombre con mayor dosis de tolerancia, esa difícil virtud que ha ins-

pirado tan bellas frases y tan elocuentes discursos a través de todos los tiempos y que tan poco se practica. En el juego de las ideas, sin claudicar de las suyas, encuentra siempre una manera discreta y elegante para que el adversario no se sienta menoscabado; en las miserias diarias de este "chapucero mundo", vale decir, frente a la indiscreción de uno, la ingratitude, la insolencia, la envidia o la maledicencia de otro, su espíritu conciliador y su sabiduría humanísima —¡ha leído tanto en el corazón de los hombres!— le dan siempre la palabra y el consejo oportunos que allana dificultades y soluciona situaciones difíciles, evidenciando siempre su amplio crite-

rio y su gran corazón. Es evidente que este hombre sería un mal juez, si lo es quien distribuye justicia inclinándose más por el perdón y la misericordia, virtudes cristianas éstas sobre las cuales parece ser tan fácil predicar. La amplitud de ideas y la tolerancia que campea en las aulas del Colegio —aparte de los ideales y principios que son su razón de ser— se le debe a él, pues es de los maestros que tan solamente saben que hay alumnos para educar e instruir, sin pensar para nada en su nacionalidad, credo religioso o ideales políticos. En este ambiente van aprendiendo los alumnos, poco a poco, la difícil lección de la tolerancia.

CAPITULO XVII

El hombre de hogar.

El Dr. Aden es de los hombres que hacen del hogar un culto, comenzando por ser un eterno enamorado de su esposa, la dignísima madre de sus hijos. A viejos conocidos y ex-alumnos como también a colegas antiguos, les hemos oído decir muchas veces: "parece una pareja de novios". Siempre de acuerdo, en armonía siempre, afectuosos en todo momento, comprensivos, tolerantes, respetuosos de sus recíprocos derechos. En ningún sitio se sienten más cómodos y dichosos que en el seno

del hogar, viendo "crecer en torno la familia bajo las santas leyes del amor", como cantó el poeta. El hogar fué siempre el refugio seguro, el sereno abrigo de este batallador incansable y en ese oasis de paz, al amor de los hijos nacidos todos en esta tierra de su adopción, renovó energías, avivó entusiasmos, aplacó dolores y olvidó injusticias. Hogar alegre el suyo, abierto a todos los amigos, de mesa sencilla, pero cordial y donde se celebran con músicas y cantos todos los onomásticos y las grandes fechas hogareñas que hacen dichosos a los hijos y ensanchan y reconfortan el corazón de los padres. Sin lujos que por principio rechaza, le basta un cómodo sillón

al calor de la lumbre para sentirse feliz: es que él sabe con San Francisco de Sales, que "El modo de establecer sólidamente las familias no es amontonando cuantiosos bienes, sino enriqueciéndolas de virtudes y santo temor de Dios". Su hogar ha sido siempre un saludable ejemplo de virtud y de armonía, no solamente para los alumnos sino para los ex-alumnos y otros colaboradores inmediatos, algunos de ellos sus hijos espirituales. Allí en el hogar —detalle que tantos hombres descuidan cuando escalan posiciones— como en la cátedra o en la Dirección, el doctor Aden ha continuado siendo lo que es: un maestro y un caballero.

CAPITULO XVIII

Su filosofía cristiana.

En uno de sus últimos discursos al Cuerpo Docente, el Dr. Aden ha planteado en cuatro máximas limpias y claras, su filosofía de vida:

1. — Saber vivir consigo mismo.
2. — Saber vivir con otros.
3. — Conocer su relación con Dios, su orientación en el universo.
4. — Desarrollo y uso práctico de sus talentos.

Con estas cuatro normas de vida bien meditadas y mejor vividas, ha logrado hacerse útil a sí mismo, a

sus semejantes y a su Dios. No es un contemplativo, ni un idealista estéril, aunque sabe ver el romance y la poesía en las cosas más aparentemente triviales de la vida; ve simplemente el plan divino en lo grande y en lo pequeño, en el universo inconmensurable, como en la límpida gota de rocío brillando al sol, y es dócil a la presión de ese plan divino que envuelve y compenetra todas las cosas, guiándolas hacia la realización de su destino. El hombre es esencialmente bueno, pero lo es más si se conoce a sí mismo según la máxima socrática, y llega a un grado mayor de superación moral y espiritual, si conoce a Dios y ajusta

su vida a sus divinos preceptos. Su filosofía cristiana libre de dogmatismos que obstaculizan la visión de Dios, le ha enseñado a amar la vida y a encararla con entereza y optimismo. Todo su decir y hacer trasunta un gran respeto por la vida, una gran complacencia en vivirla y gozarla en todo lo que ella tiene de más noble y bella. No hay tristeza en su cristianismo. No hay sombras en su visión de Dios. No hay temores del ultratumba en su firme esperanza en el más allá. Cree en Dios y en su paternidad con la sencilla confianza con que el niño cree en su padre, cree en Dios como cree en los amigos y en todas las cosas bue-

nas que nos rodean. Es la suya filosofía cristiana, de pura cepa protestante, aprendida en el hogar de sus progenitores, pasada luego por el tamiz de la experiencia y de la cultura. Por otra parte no hay exclusivismo alguno en sus principios cristianos; presenta sus ideas a discusión y discute sin apasionamiento y dentro del más amplio espíritu de tolerancia, las ideas de los demás. Sabe vivir con personas que no sienten ni piensan como él. Su altruismo le lleva a buscar los puntos que unen y no los que separan. Siempre halla algo que admirar en las ideas de los demás y sin claudicar de las suyas, les tributa el homenaje de su

aplauzo. Es la suya, pues, filosofía cristiana de mesa redonda, donde pueden sentarse sin temores ni recelos los hombres de las más encontradas ideologías y de los más diversos credos religiosos y filosóficos, seguros de hallar la más inteligente comprensión y tolerancia.

CAPITULO XIX

"This is the man".

Este es el hombre. Este es el hombre sencillamente superior, que desde hace veinte y ocho años, hizo del Colegio Ward su ideal de vida, a él consagró su tiempo sin regateos su capacidad y prendas personales

con desinterés y alegría. Este es el hombre que sin creerse indispensable se hizo tal, como pasa siempre con quienes poseen la sensibilidad suficiente para captar una idea y para dejarse poseer por ella. Sin él, sin este hombre de condiciones morales y espirituales de excepción, la obra tal vez no hubiese alcanzado ni la envergadura, ni el merecido prestigio que hoy goza en los centros educacionales del país. Indudablemente ha sido el alma de la institución. Su gran capacidad de trabajo, su pujante dinamismo, su voluntad granítica siempre en tensión, han hecho posible la cristalización de la idea. El "grano de mostaza" de la primera donación cayó en la

tierra fértil de su voluntad incansable, espoleada siempre por una fe sin claudicaciones en el destino de las ideas grandes y nobles, y a cuyos flancos batalla la fuerza imponderable del espíritu de Dios. Pero sería faltar a la verdad histórica, si al trazar estos ligeros apuntes no mencionásemos siquiera sea al pasar, el nombre de dos matrimonios americanos —dejemos de lado el nombre de elementos nacionales que de alguna manera están consagrados a la obra— que han dado y están dando con abnegación y amor, largos años de sus vidas: los esposos Maddock y los esposos Mc Williams.

CAPITULO XX

Demostraciones y honores.

No queremos cerrar este esbozo biográfico de este "Yankee" que merece ser criollo por su hidalguía y su amor al país, y que, como tantos otros, no vino para descubrirnos o conquistarnos con su oro, sin mencionar que diversas instituciones en reconocimiento a sus méritos y a su obra, le han hecho frecuentes demostraciones de aprecio y simpatía, otorgándole premios y honores que siempre recibió con humildad y restandole importancia.

Ahora llega hasta nosotros la noticia de que un importante centro de estudios superiores, el **Occidental College** de California del Sud, le otorgará el título de Dr. en leyes "Honoris Causa". Merecida la distinción, pues pocos americanos han hecho más para fomentar la amistad y el intercambio cultural y espiritual entre ambas Américas. El Dr. Aden guardó esta noticia hasta un día antes de su partida para los Estados Unidos, y en momentos de recibir un poncho pampa, obsequio del Cuerpo Docente, al envolverse con él como si fuese con el cariño de sus amigos y como queriendo envolver a todos en el suyo, dijo poco más o menos: Una

universidad de mi estado me asigna mérito suficiente para otorgarme un título honorífico; pero yo les aseguro que nada llega más hondo a mi corazón que esta prenda del país que he aprendido amar junto a mis hijos. La considero el mejor diploma que yo haya podido conquistar en mi vida de maestro, porque ella representa al país y porque es testimonio de afecto de mis mejores amigos.



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TRABAJOS DEL MISMO AUTOR

ESPIGAS DE MI SEMBRADO
Buenos Aires, 1936.

LA SANTA MADRE
Buenos Aires, 1937.

EDUCACION SEXUAL DEL NIÑO Y DEL ADOLESCENTE
Buenos Aires, 1941.

RONDA DE LAS MANOS
Buenos Aires, 1943.

FOLLETOS Y TRATADOS

¡MALDITA SEA LA GUERRA!
Buenos Aires, 1934.

MAHATMA GANDHI (Un apóstol contemporáneo)
Buenos Aires, 1936.

BREVE TRATADO DE URBANIDAD
Buenos Aires, 1936.

EN PREPARACION

DEJAME DECIRTE...

NUESTROS HIJOS

(Desde el mirador de un internado)

DIARIO DEL DIRECTOR DE UN INTERNADO

WORLD DIVISION - RETIRED MISSIONARY
Change of address

Collins Pension Fund	-----Mrs. Lydia Chao	- Room 1404
Area Secretary - ARGENTINA	-----Miss JOYCE HILL	- Room 1533
Education and Cultivation	-----Mr. Robert Holstein	Room 1305
Library	-----Miss Marian Parsell	Room 1372
Mail Room	-----Mr. Raoul J. Rodriguez	Room 1468
Medical Secretary	-----Dr. Reeve-H. Betts	- Room 1536
Social Security	-----Mr. Louis Hughes	- Room 1403
Associate Secretary	-----Mrs. M. Marshall	- Room 1535
Methodist Woman Magazine	-----Miss Carol Herb	- Room 1304
News Department	-----Mr. Leonard Perryman	- Room 1346
Director of Administrative Services	-----Rev. Hans Aurbakken	- Room 1534

Please record the following change of address:

FROM:

TO:

Mrs. FRED ADEN
627 LEYDEN LANE
CLAREMONT, CALIF. 91711

DECEASED

Harry Greenberg
Associate Treasurer
Hd:lc 4/13/70

EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 8, 1970

LAYMAN

W. F. M. S.

SINGLE
WOMAN

WIFE

TEACHER

P

INDUS.

EDITOR

Present Address <i>Adm Fred</i>	From <i>Parlier, Calif</i>	Birth <i>23 Apr '93</i>	Appointed <i>1911</i>	Withdrawn	Death	No. <i>Cut 1</i>
Wife or Husband <i>Anna A. Pettit Adm, Parlier, Calif 6/27/16</i>	Birth-place <i>Parmer, Mo.</i>	Education—Degree <i>A.B. Univ of So California '16</i> <i>M.A. " " " " '16</i> <i>Grad work Univ. of Calif, 1922-1923</i>	Arr. on Field	Cut Miss. Soc. <i>Photo</i>	House	
Conference Relations						

FIELDS OF LABOR

Eastern to America
Buenos Aires?
Hard School.
Buenos Aires - Director Colegio
Americano de Ward Commercial
at Inst., Jan. 1926 - May
1928
Key delegate to conf. by
1928-1929
Buenos Aires

BIOGRAPHICAL

Joined Methodist Church
in 1908 at Ulysses, N.Y.
Long time study school
at Ulysses, N.Y. 1916-1917
to, 1918

Absent From Field Dec. 1922 - Dec. 1923;
April 1928 - Aug. 1, 1928; Nov. 28, 1929
July 1931;

** Extended to April 1, 1931 - Item*
5006, January 22, 1931

S. L. B. Langford
arrived in B. A. July 20, 1931

Phyllis Rae, b June 27, 1919
Fred Douglas, b Nov 11, 1920
Ruth Olive Ader, born July 1, 1922, Buenos Aires, So. America
Almeda Jean Ader, " March 24, 1925 " " " "

Tamara inscul.

LAWMAN

W. F. M. S.

SINGLE
WOMANWIFE

TEACHER

MEDICAL

EDITOR

Aden, Anna A. Pitts

Present Address

From

Larkin, Calif.

Birth

Appointed

Withdrawn

Death

No.

1899

1926

Arr. on Field

cut 2

Birth place

Larkin, Calif.

Cut Miss. Soc.

House

Wife or Husband

Fred Aden, June 27, 1916, Larkin, Calif.

Education—Degree

A. B. Occidental College 1914

Grad. work Univ. of Calif. 1922-1923

Conference Relations

Absent From Field Dec. 11, 2, Dec. 1923;
Nov. 28, 1929-

FIELDS OF LABOR

Business as Manager
 Director - Wash Commercial
 Inst., Jan. 1926 Nov. 1929

BIOGRAPHICAL

Church member
 ...
 ...
 ...

W. W. Reid
Board of Missions of the Methodist Church
150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N.Y.

OCT 11 1954

Fred Aden Receives "Americas Award"

Dr. Fred Aden, Methodist missionary and director of Methodism's Ward College in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was the recipient of the "Americas Award for 1954" at a presentation in Rio de Janeiro, Uruguay, on October 12. It was made at a dinner in that city of the Inter-American Press Association.

The award -- initiated in 1944 by the Americas Foundation-- had been given in other years to former President Herbert Hoover; Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, late president of Columbia University; the Hon. Sumner Wells; the Hon. George Messersmith and Helen Keller, among others.

The award was bestowed on Dr. Aden, says the Americas Foundation, as an "educator, humanitarian and eminent good neighbor, in recognition of his lifetime devotion to inter-American accord as director and head of Ward College, Buenos Aires, and who in the Columbus tradition has chartered new avenues to better understanding among the grateful children of all the Americas."

Says Dr. Farris A. Flint, Foundation president, "Few men have given as generously in time and energy and enthusiasm to the theme of inter-American friendship as the esteemed head of Ward College, and we shall deem it a privilege to add your name to the distinguished list of those who have honored us with their presence, as recipients of the Americas Award."

The Americas Foundation, an independent philanthropic organization, dedicated to the principle of the Good Neighbor, has been active in the encouragement of cultural exchange among the nations of the Western Hemisphere and is known in

New York City, among other reasons, for its successful sponsorship of the change of name of Sixth Avenue to the Avenue of the Americas and the erection of monuments of San Martin and Bolivar.

Dr. Aden, who is retiring from Ward College next April, after thirty-seven years of continuous service, has, apart from his work on the campus, cooperated with numerous goodwill ventures and maintained contact with colleges and universities throughout America, rendering an extensive counselling assistance to exchange students.

He is senior North American member of the Board of Governors and second vice-president of the Argentine North American Cultural Institute, and active in the Argentine-North American University Association.

Dr. Aden was born in Garrison, Nebraska, and educated at the University of Southern California. He holds a degree of Doctor of Pedagogy from U.S.C., and a degree of Doctor of Laws from Occidental College. He has been associated with Ward College since 1918, and has been its director since 1920.

Use

NEWS OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH

The Welsh Choir, directed by Mr. Clwdwn Jones, recently sang for a morning service. The Treble Clef Choir members also were recent guests.

The annual Woman's Society of Christian Service bazaar, with a "Springtime" theme was held on October 7th in the church hall, and was a great success. At the 21st October meeting of the Society, Mrs. Vivian Giles presented a travelogue entitled, "From Here to There" or "A Dream Come True."

October 31st was set as the date for presenting the Bibles to the boys from the Mercedes Orphanage who have reached their twelfth birthday since last October. The presentation is made annually by the Sunday School.

The Teen Age Fellowship planned a cruise on the Tigre for the evening of October 22nd.

On the same evening the Young People's Fellowship of the church held a small party in the church hall to which all the fellowships were invited.

The A.D.I. Girl's Club members, headed by Dora Mitchell, have had some interesting programs this year. Mrs. Harold Mickey was

guest speaker at the October meeting and her subject was Modeling.

The Trailblazers have been enjoying a series of softball games recently at the Wittman quinta.

The regular monthly meeting of the Couple's Club held the evening of October 8th at the Church Hall was in the nature of a "Halloween Party". There have been an unusual variety of programs and settings this year. Previous programs include a scavenger hunt, backward party, an old-fashioned melodrama, games, group singing and a recorded "you guess the mystery man" program. Of the eight meetings held to date during 1954 four were held in the Church Hall and four in the homes of members including the annual Couple's Club picnic at the Wittmans. Attendance has been good, averaging about 50 persons.

In addition to the social function which it performs, the Couple's Club takes an active part in the overall Church program. The annual Church picnic has become a Couple's Club responsibility. Planning and organization of the 1954 picnic which is to be held November 1st is already under way by a committee headed by Couple's Club President Mr. Bill Howard. The Church Nursery is sponsored by the Couple's Club, whose members take turns in entertaining the little tots during the Sunday morning worship service.

Americas Award 1954 for Dr. Fred Aden

The American Foundation of New York recently announced that Dr. Fred Aden, director of Ward College, Ramos Mejia, and Chairman of the Official Board of First Methodist Church, Buenos Aires, has been named recipient of the Americas Award for 1954.

The presentation will be made at Rio de Janeiro on October 12 (Columbus Day) at a dinner of the Inter American Press Association.

The award, instituted in 1911, has been given previously to former President Herbert Hoover; Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, late president of Columbia University; the Honorable Sumner Welles; the Honorable George Messersmith and Helen Keller, among others.

The Award is being bestowed on Dr. Aden as an "educator, humanitarian and church good neighbor, in recognition of his lifetime devotion to inter-American accord as director and head of Ward College, Buenos Aires, and who in the Columbus tradition has chartered new avenues to better understanding among the grateful children of all the Americas."

The letter confirming the award and signed by President Farris A. Flint reads in part as follows: "Few men have given as generously in time and energy and enthusiasm to the theme of inter-American friendship as the esteemed

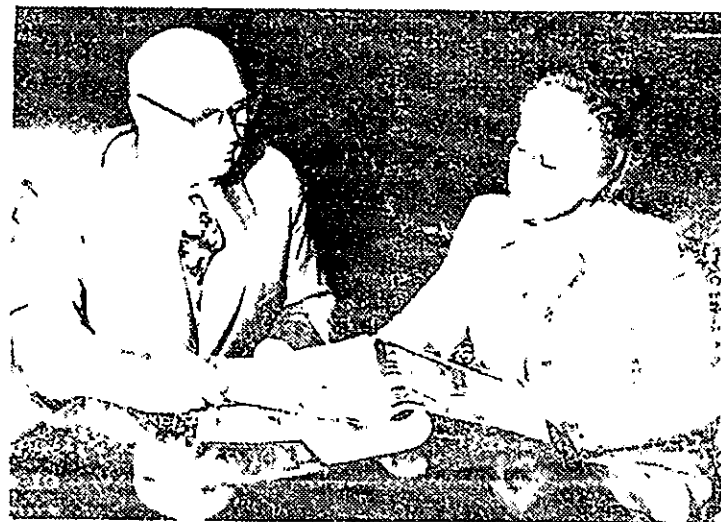
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of San Martin and Bolivar at other extramity.

Dr. Aden who is retiring from Ward College in April after thirty-seven years of continuous service has apart from his work on the campus, cooperated with numerous goodwill ventures and maintained contact with colleges and universities throughout America rendering in extensive consulting assistance to exchange students.

He is senior North American member of the Board of Governors and second vice president of the Argentine North American Cultural Institute (I.C.N.A.), and active in the Argentine North American University Association (A.P.A.N.).



DR. AND MRS. FRED ADEN

My dear Bill: Your circular letter dated Jan. 1, 1950 is responsible for your being included in the Adens family list and scattered with the little spirit. We have sent out about 250 copies, including folks beyond the inner circle, but with whom we maintain a correspondence. The virtue of this letter is that it implies no answer nor
COLEGIO WARD
RAMOS MEJIA, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
even a reading and bears our greetings. In fact, we get the
quite answers, but manage to get out about one letter a year.
February 25, 1950. Sincerely
Bill & Meda

Dear Home Folks:

This is a significant anniversary. Thirty two years ago this evening the Adens arrived in Buenos Aires for the first time, a young couple, a little less than two years married, and with no children. We were to begin work with Colegio Ward, a venture that was to claim a lifetime of service. We are mindful that a lot of water has gone down the Río de la Plata during this lapse of time. Our position has changed from the morning to the afternoon of life, a fact emphasized by the thought of our four married children, not to mention as many grandchildren with another due soon. The youngest of our flock of five is ready to leave us to enter college in September. In the meantime, our life work has become modestly but inescapable interwoven in the history of evangelical Christianity of this country and in the destiny of Argentine-American relationship. Had we the gift of prophecy when we first looked southward from our comfortable outlook in California, the picture might have frightened us. As we look back in the light of experience, we would make no change except through the wish that our capacity to serve might have been greater. Perhaps there may be some merit in the fact that we have kept our faces to the task through smooth sailing and rough, all these years. There is a definite value in continuity in our kind of work.

While I sit here dreaming a bit before the typewriter, Meda is quietly sitting beside me, giving her attention to the more practical challenge of a cross word puzzle. It is her way of relaxing. Maybe you are wishing that I would follow her example instead of pestering you? What a wealth of companionship her presence is! What a grand partner, not only in the home but in this work, -and I say this not because she lets me do the writing and talking.

With the pressure of official examinations extending late in December, and a Conference of Physical Education professors organized by the Ministry of Education and held on our campus during the first three weeks, swallowing up what we usually consider the beginning of our summer vacation, we did not get around to writing our usual Christmas letter. This will, however, bring our season's greetings and best wishes for the new year. We are deeply grateful for the many cards and letters sent to us. Until one has actually lived for years in a foreign land, as we have done, it would be next to impossible to know how much these visible tokens of affection from

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With campus activities almost continuous right through the summer, we find it confusing to know just when the terms begin and end. Of course, the school year - March to December - is traditional. Early in January things started off with the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, always an enjoyable fellowship and especially since some of the ministers are Ward alumni. This was followed by a succession of four interdenominational Christian youth institutes of various age groups and lasting a week each. Summer school was going on in the meantime, and this with the heavy program of repairs, painting, etc., sandwiched in between. What a three-ring-circus life this is! What fun, as daughter Phyllis would describe it.

There were two summer highlights for me, just one for Meda. The first, the meeting of School Directors of the Latin American Central Conference (Methodist), held at Lima, Peru, January 23-25, while not what I would call a rest, was a change and of inspirational as well as professional value. The presence of Dr. Eugene L. Smith,

the new Executive Secretary of the Methodist Board of Foreign Missions, together with Bishops Fred B. Carson of Pittsburgh and Santo U. Barbieri of Buenos Aires, was highly significant. The colorful and historic city of Lima on the Pacific Coast with its peculiar combination of modern and ancient setting, - a paradise for archeologists, - together with agreeable climate, was a challenge in itself.

The second high light shared by both of us, was the visit in Santiago, Chile, the first two weeks of February, when I stopped off on my return from Lima, and where Mada joined me a day later. We had two grand weeks of vacation. As most of you know, the magnetic attraction in Santiago is the Chilean branch of the Adam tribe, made up of Fred Jr., Mary Jo and dear little Marilyn Sue, with her ever present dachshund, "Pitc". Their lovely home, where we found the gates of welcome open wide, proved to be just the haven of rest that we both needed; and what a visit! What a talk fest! If your ears burned a bout that time, there was a reason. Son Melvin, to be exclusive, got in his visit alone just before ours and returned to some muscle hardening work on the campus.

Fred has gotten to be an incurable Goodyear Company booster, and this in spite of the rigors of travel over Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador, including the climbing of mountains at all altitudes to call a t mines in the interest of his work. I could wish that the young rascal had a little more respect for his seniors in chess, but I almost, - what a mean word, - got my share of the games. Maybe the mountain air of Santiago cramps my style. When I reminded Fred that I had taught him the game and that water could not logically rise higher than its source, he suggested in a confidential tone that perhaps he had inherited something additional from Mother. I wonder.

We all managed to get an auto trip together to Valparaiso and the nearby famous beach resort, Viña del Mar, where we spent the night. It is only a three hours drive from Santiago with excellent roads and scenery like the foothills of California, - no giggles from easterners, please. We found the usual fashion show of bathing beauties on the beaches, but only the heroic souls brave the cold water of the Humbolt current. As for me, I'd take it so much as a little too. My little grand daughter put me to shame. But what extremes of wealth and poverty in poor Chile! The revelations you read about will continue until a more equitable distribution of life's necessities is made. Second only to the material poverty is the spiritual need, a suggestion perhaps of the cause of the former. When social law keeps up with the spirit of human thinking, progress is natural and we call it evolution; when governments selfishly allow law to lag, tension explodes and it is revolution with its, too often, dangerous aftermath. This is true anywhere. The missionary appeal in Chile is a clear Macedonian call.

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A fitting climax was our return trip by plane on February 12th. The air was crisp and crystal giving a spectacular view of miles and miles of snow covered mountains including majestic Aconcagua, the highest peak in the western hemisphere. A three hours flight over the flat Argentine Pampa and we were home again in Buenos Aires and unceremoniously introduced to an office full of accumulated work. But if mountain breezes and a grand vacation visit are now only a memory, renewed health and recharged batteries remind us that the experience was unmistakably real.

And now we are in the midst of last minute preparations for the new school year. If the load is heavier than usual, fortunately, the work is not new to us. We look forward to the return in April of our administrative colleagues of many years, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. McWilliams, just completing a furlough year's absence. The new term is starting off this year in stages, according to departments, the first opening the day after tomorrow, and the last on March 15th. We have already had our initial faculty meeting. Last year's enrollment totalled finally 1246 students. This year's figures according to advance registration will be no less, and this in spite of greatly increased fees. It is encouraging that parents and students completely under -

write our growing costs, leaving endowment and special-gifts for scholarships aid, equipment and new buildings.

How fortunate we are with our beautiful thirty acre campus, a growing building plant and no debt. Last year, a single local gift provided us with a manual arts and shops building. Then there was the good fortune in getting an import permit for our new REO busses. By the middle of June we should have our large gymnasium-auditorium building, initiative of students and alumni, ready for inauguration. Now we dream of a library and try to visualize the long projected chapel. But that is the material side. There is the ever widening of our circle of loyal alumni, bearing the stamp of Christian idealism translated in vital leadership in church and state; testimonials of grateful parents and students; and a growing prestige for Ward in Argentine education. The challenge of this work grows on one.

As for a personal report on the Adom family. Up to latest letters, all were well and active. Fred and Mary Jo (Casilla 9391, Santiago, Chile),-- are due a vacation of three months in the States beginning next October. Mary Jo will probably leave about the first week of August, since Fred D. will be away the last months on one of his long field trips. What a fine visit we had with Mary Jo's father and mother, Prof. and Mrs. W.B. Mikesall, during their recent tour of South America.

Phyllis and Olcott Sanders (918 A East 37, Austin, Texas)--, are expecting a little brother or sister for Lynn about the middle of March. Olcott has been offered an assistant professorship in the University of Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina, in the field of folklore and music. This sounds interesting to us, but there are no plans yet. Ruth and "Jimmy" Mahoney, Kelseyville (no street address necessary) California, seem to dedicate a sizable part of their activity to looking after a pair of lively youngsters, Faye Dee and Jimmy Lee. They seem to have settled down to solid citizenship.

Moda Jean and "Bill" Randall (2014 F St, Apt.E. Bakersfield, California) are still in the honeymoon stage to judge from their letters, and full of work and dreams. As for Melvin, our almost sixfoot baby, he is now a high school graduate and is talking of Whittier College, Whittier, California, for September. It will be a wrench for us to let the last of the flock go. Nevertheless, we are very happy in his choice for higher education. This year, until time to leave, he is studying mathematics and typing and assisting in the physical education program at our High School.

Perhaps I should add that a quick business trip to the States last August gave me (Fred) an opportunity to drop in on a reunion of the sisters and families. It was a privilege to meet Olcott and Bill whom we knew only through correspondence . and to see other

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As I write this letter there is a suggestion of fall in the air. Your letters these days speak of heralds of spring, especially those from the west coast and south. We have had on the whole a very moderate summer but with insufficient rainfall until just recently. Vegetation on the campus is lush and colorful. We have such a wealth of flowers. Can't you catch the scent of the dark red roses on the table near me? But why not come and see all this for yourself? A warm welcome awaits you.

Affectionately,

Fred and Meda Aden.

Aden

(Something about Argentina)
(and more about the Adens)

Colegio Ward
Ramos Mejía.F.C.O.
Buenos Aires, Argentina.
May 8, 1945.

Dear Homefolks,

*Dear Mrs. [unclear] - This letter would
be an affliction. It carries our warm affection.
For [unclear]*

Homefolks are never far from us spiritually, but there are special moments when you are indeed very near to us. This is one of those moments. We have just passed through a month of momentous happenings. They will be written in history. Today we are all celebrating the close of the war in Europe. Some seven or eight thousand miles separate us, hence the outward demonstration will vary according to local tradition and circumstances, but our emotions are just the same. We feel the urge to be merry, yet our real thoughts are prayers of thanksgiving; we try to respond cheerfully to friendly congratulations, but a lump comes into our throat. There is so much of contradiction in it all. Yesterday I saw a student bounding across the campus shouting at the top of his voice for joy. It was very natural. But close to me stood another lad, a Dutch boy, strangely quiet. His brother, until a few months ago also part of our college family, was shot down over Holland only last week, and others of our boys are still dying in the Pacific area.

Yesterday afternoon in Reims, France at 2:41 o'clock Admiral Doenitz accepted General Eisenhower's terms of unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Germany. The news reached Buenos Aires just before noon, - our time. I was on the interurban train on my way to a luncheon which we had arranged for E. Stanley Jones with a number of Argentine intellectuals. To know that cessation of hostilities was near, but when a paper was handed to me at the station I immediately found my eyes too full of tears to read more than the big headlines. "SE RINDIO ALEMANIA" - Germany surrenders. My first impulse was to take the next train back to be with my students on the campus, so cheerfully unconscious of the deeper meaning of the news. There was a program to carry out, however, and Dr. Jones regarded us by arising to the occasion.

It has been a quiet and queer celebration in Buenos Aires. Not at all like the 11th. of November 1918, here which I recall vividly. Some days ago the government gave strict orders that no parading or outward expression would be permitted and police everywhere, with mauser rifles instead of the usual small arms, testified to the intention to enforce the decree. The reason given was fear of a communistic uprising. The fact that there had been some fatal shooting by the police during very natural demonstrations following the fall of Berlin, had the effect of keeping people off the streets so there were really less than the usual number of vehicles and pedestrians visible. In view of the Argentine declaration of war on the Axis some weeks back, the prohibition of a public manifestation following the surrender of Germany raises many questions that it is best for me not to enlarge upon.

Yet today was declared a holiday by the government for all Argentina, as a gesture of solidarity. For three days, flags of friendly countries may be flown, and you should behold the colorful decorations. Flags could be counted by the thousands. They have not been taken down tonight. This is a cosmopolitan city, and every country in the world is represented here. The absence of the Russian flag forbidden by decree, is noticeable and has caused comment.

Nor is it possible to conceal the jubilation of the public. Argentine friends call by phone to congratulate us. Letters, telegrams, and formal notes pour in through the mail for the same purpose. Students and parents call personally to shake hands or embrace one as an expression of deep feeling. This is a great hand-shaking country. It was the same sympathetic reaction when President Roosevelt died. The people here mourned with us then. Now they share our joy.

This morning the American community assembled in one of the large modern theaters of Buenos Aires for a service of thanksgiving. It was of a religious character with the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths participating; including a number of specially invited Argentine friends, there must have been 5500 of us present. It was my privilege to lead the singing of the hymns: "O God our help in Ages Past", "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", "Onward Christian Soldiers". What an inspiration it was to feel the emotional response of such a multitude! The last song was "God Bless America". It was highly spiritual!

And it was only a few days ago, April 19th., that we assembled here in the great Colón Opera House, Americans and representatives of other Allies, and in the presence of the Argentine President and Cabinet together with the full allied Diplomatic Corps, including officers and a guard of honor from the American Cruiser "Omaha", to pay tribute to the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt whose "good neighbor" policy made him a special friend of the Latin American Republics. No one present will ever forget the dramatic moment when the vast audience stood in awed silence while the band from the "Omaha" played "The Last Post". There were many wet eyes and not a few homesick hearts. I had had a similar feeling on Ward campus a few days earlier when our Argentine faculty changed the projected "Pan American Day" program to a tribute to the late president. The high moment came when the Argentine flag was ceremoniously lowered to half mast while our college band, colorful in uniform, played "The Star Spangled Banner". Such are occurrences when homefolks are especially near to us.

And now the radio brings the news telling of other foreign community groups having met for celebration today. Wreaths were placed on appropriate monuments. Incidentally, our George Washington near the American Embassy was almost buried in flowers following Roosevelt's death. The radio is commenting; further on Argentine delight over the Allied victory. The Argentine press is unanimous in the sentiment, An event to be remembered in history has taken place and the world knows it.

Through San Francisco on short wave, I just listened to comments direct from London, Paris and Washington. I heard the weather broadcast from London, the first time since the war started and lights are on again; Paris is in the streets and boulevards celebrating as only French can; the capital dome at Washington is illuminated tonight for the first time since Pearl Harbor; and so must it be over the world - even on the Pacific battle fields where a job still remains to be done. If you have heard little of what has happened in Buenos Aires, this letter will let you know, at least, that the interests of democracy and world peace are not being over-looked at this distant geographical point.

As for the situation in Argentina, I believe that things are looking brighter. That the government here declared war on the axis, is of greater significance than most of you realize. To fall in line at this late date was humiliating and don't forget that the cause was pressure from within as well as from without. This does not change the war picture especially as I prophesied in my last letter, but it opens the way for a rapprochement. The fact that a delegation left here yesterday morning for San Francisco is the best proof.

Some disappointed Argentine friends tell us that American recognition has strengthened a revolutionary government, in its illegal status. That is true to an extent, but I believe that more has been gained than lost. Friendly and immediate foreign influence together with a growing disposition of the local military government to cooperate should reasonably be expected to accomplish something constructive. We are looking forward to the arrival of our recently appointed American Ambassador, Mr. Spruille Braden.

As for life on Ward Campus, we are well started in another good year. As you read, that our school term is from March to November inclusive and this is written in late fall. Weather has been lovely with sufficient rainfall to give our park and grounds a healthy green appearance. Oranges are just ripening and the Poinsettias are beginning to bloom. So you see, when we write of our cheerful fireplace, we refer to little more than a fall or winter chill. It is all of that, however, since the atmosphere is humid and the cold penetrating.

Our enrollment is up to standard which means that we are on the outer margin of our capacity with a total inscription of close to a thousand students of whom two hundred and ten live as boarders with us on the campus. Our alumni are now found from one end of the Argentine to the other, not to mention adjoining and other countries. Of our 79 graduates last December, a third are now studying in universities in the U.S.A.

There is a compensation in remaining in one place as long as we have - we are in our 28th year - for we may see the results of our work. There are handicaps too, of course, but these like bad weather we set ourselves to forget. A few days ago a group of our eldest alumni invited Mada and me to lunch with them. One speaking for the rest paid us a tribute, that I pray we may merit, associating us with the ideals of the country we represent, and then presented us with a lovely parchment in testimony of appreciation. These old boys of ours, - doctors, lawyers, business men, - are now greying into middle age, so our reminiscence extended well back into the twenties. It encourages us to know that our services and influence stand the test of years.

An acquisition to our administrative staff this year is Dr. Juan Mantovani, former inspector general of Secondary education in Argentina, author, and professor of philosophy in the National University of Buenos Aires. We have engaged him as technical counsellor and he is helping us publish a modest professional bulletin which we will circulate among leaders in the field of education.

As for the Adams, the family is well separated. Fred Jr. (Lieut. J.G.) is still in the navy and in the Mediterranean area we believe. Phyllis and Ruth are in Pasadena, California, and Mada Jean is a happy junior in the College of the Pacific at Stockton some three hundred miles north of them. Elvin Oldham - thirteen and proud of his first long trousers - is the last of the flock at home and has begun his secondary studies in our "Colegio Nacional". It is full of fun and affection, and is a great comfort to us.

Since my last letter we have added a son-in-law to the family, "Jimmy" Phoney (guess the nationality) now with the Ninth Army, well into Germany. Ruth writes in glowing terms about him. From the qualities she describes, I don't see how the Army has overlooked making him a general. We look forward to meeting him. Ruth is now engaged in some war industry, while Phyllis continues enthusiastically in her work with Dr. Day at the First Methodist Church of Pasadena. We have all been fortunate in our good health.

As for Mada and myself we have a full program of agreeable and never

ending activities which keeps us mentally alert and out of mischief. We are both on too many committees, some having to do with the war effort, others of cultural or social character. We meet the finest people in the Argentine and our friends are legion. As we grow older we find a certain comfort in following the poet's advice to "count your age by friends, not years". We have no regrets that we chose and have remained in this work. The only reason we are not bankrupt financially is that we have no debts, but in the words of the old song. "We've had a lot of fun!"

We can testify that the Christian way of life works, even though we have followed it imperfectly. We are indebted for fellowship and encouragement to the Methodist and Disciples Mission Boards which sponsor Colegio Ward, and to the Boards of Trustees and Managers through which we work here directly. These members are the salt of the earth. We are indebted to friends at home who remember us, with or without letters, to colleagues, parents, and students for cooperation and faith in our leadership. We are greatly indebted to our affectionate children whose love reaches out to us regardless of space or time; and, above all, we are indebted to God, the author of life itself. We accept our blessings as a token of His love.

By another Christmas season, if all is well, we should either be home again or on the way. It will have been seven years in August since I left California, cutting short my vacation leave to return to Buenos Aires to prepare for the celebration of the 25th. anniversary of the founding of Colegio Ward. Seven years is a sizeable portion from the active period of a normal life time. They have gone all too quickly. Looking ahead, we anticipate a great home coming, and we hope to see most of you personally. God grant that the war may have given way by that time to the work of reconstruction. We naturally hope to see son Fred. He promises us a daughter-in-law as soon as he can get a leave. "Mary Jo" is already a part of the family. Then we must meet "Jimmy". This is an event in itself. Meda Jean, claiming some attention, has already invited us to her graduation from college. We could only write our congratulations to the elder brother and sisters when they received their diplomas. And so, like "little Fipps", we plan "to play our fancy's fullest games", happy in the thought that there will be work to do along with the projected vacation visit.

Mother and Melvin have gone to bed, and all is quiet as I finish this letter. The dome lights have long since gone out. If the letter is too long, what then? I remember the old farmer's predicament with a long board. He knew what to do when a board was too short, you splice it, but "what do you do when it's too long?" he asked. As for the letter that's your problem, and as for me, I must off to bed.

That's all, Homefolks, but there's a lot of affection between the lines and the best of good wishes to you all.

John

Excerpt from Article by Fred Aden, which appeared in the
California Christian Advocate
March 6, 1919

California should be especially interested in the work of our church in South America. There are eight workers that we know of personally from the University of Southern California alone.

However, in this letter I wish to concentrate on the immediate work with which Mrs. Aden and I are connected in Buenos Aires. This is a modern city in most respects and the demand is for the very best in education. The great weakness is the lack of moral instruction. The disgust with the Catholic Church has swung the pendulum far the other way and a scorn for things religious with its inevitable consequence of vice and immorality has thoroughly saturated the "Nacional" or high schools and the universities. The school system is far from as far reaching as ours. There are ten thousand waifs on the streets who will never grace the inside of a school building. A recent issue of the "Popular Revista", a prominent local magazine, stated that there are more little boy cigarette smokers in this city than in any other place in the world. You have to see these dirty little wanderers to really appreciate what that means.

It is our job to try to alleviate the situation. It has not been the policy of the Missions to invite the street crowd into the schools. We do not have the money to make a free institution possible, and then there seems to be a better plan. By offering a practical graded course harmonizing with the prescribed government curriculum, with the best possible instructors, we bid for the boys from the very best Argentine homes. Our language and national reputation are great assets. These boys are thrown later into positions of leadership, and we are looking forward to the time when they will further diffuse the Christian principles which we can instill into their lives along with the school work. During the past year we have had with us the son of a Provincial Governor, another of the Secretary of State, another of the Bolivian Consul, besides others of good families.

The task of the missionary teacher is to live in the school building and to be on the job continually. Nor do the wives escape. They, too, must find time above their numerous duties to teach also. There are the boys to be clothed and provided with coltan and mended clothes. The native teachers assume very little responsibility. We try to make as nearly as we can a home for the Internos. We have found it not the easiest thing in the world to take care of other people's children, and kindly bear in mind that we have them from the ages of seven to nineteen. Boys are boys all over the world and playing, yelling, fighting and crying are as much a part of their program as studying, so we are sometimes inclined to think.

But we do have good times together, and the satisfaction expressed by both parents and boys is encouraging. Our birthday celebrations are high water marks in the school life. Mrs. Aden is the cake baker for these occasions and the boys know where to put it, too. They greatly appreciate such things and duly honor

the cook. You should hear the speeches they make with flourishing gestures at every opportunity. Yes, it is a strain and it means a great deal to sacrifice the privacy of family life to live in a mission school but the work is decidedly worth while with its many opportunities for service and there is a certain fascination to it all.

I should like to tell you of the other interesting missionary endeavor in this wonderful city: the churches, the school for girls, the orphanage, the agricultural school, and the like but not least about some of the old veteran missionaries who are still active and the inspiring force of the younger generation from the homeland. In the meantime just recall that we are keenly alive to the program of the Centenary Committee. In the particular church of this city \$100,000 has been pledged already. This year or next will these days isn't it?

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Mr. and Mrs. Fred Aden
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Fred Aden was born in Gering, Nebraska, April 23rd, 1893. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California A. B. degree 1915 and M. A. degree 1916.

Mrs. Aden (Anne A. Pettit) was born in Parlier, California, August 14th, 1892. Miss Pettit graduated from Occidental college with A. B. degree 1914, and attended the University of Southern California one year. Miss Pettit taught in high school at Reedley, California one year. Mr. Aden taught in high school in Selma, California one year. Mr. and Mrs. Aden made application for missionary service in South America in 1917, and received their appointment in 1918, and sailed for Buenos Aires, Argentina, South America in January 1918.

Mr. Aden's own statement of his religious life and call to service, required of an applicant for missionary service under this Board follows:-

"My personal conversion took place during the winter of 1908. I had all my life been a regular attendant at church and Sunday School under pressure of my parents however. I had reached an age when I was becoming rebellious to home discipline, and troublesome, when this new experience changed the whole course of my life, giving me educational ambitions and home appreciation.

"The new life has given me such extreme joy and blessing that I have always, since conversion, been interested in Christian work. I have studied, and prayed, that I might be of service and the opportunity of the foreign field has for several years claimed my interest tho it was not until this spring that I felt willing and anxious to go."

Candidates for missionary service are required to furnish the Board with several references. The replies are more or less confidential but some of the things said of them will be of interest to the church considering taking over their support.

"Mr. and Mrs. Aden are both well educated, spiritual, and by education, for a large place of usefulness in the mission field. They have consecrated, wholesome, optimistic, and pleasing personalities."

"I can give unqualified endorsement to Mr. Aden as a Christian gentleman and as a student with scholarly instincts. He is a good singer, a splendid public speaker

and has very good social qualities. He is above par, physically, mentally and spiritually."

"Mrs. Aden has an exceptionally charming personality, bright, attractive, will win her way any where, in any association. They make a strong team in any community."

On reaching the field Mr. and Mrs. Aden became teachers in the American College, and Ward Commercial Institute in the city of Buenos Aires. This is one of the outstanding educational institutions in Argentina. Mr. Aden is now director of the college. Mr. and Mrs. Aden were home on furlough in 1921, when they both took graduate work at the University of Southern California.

There are four children in the family, their names and date of birth follow:-

Phyllis Rae	6-26-19
Fred Douglas	11-11-20
Ruth Olive	7-1-22
Almeda Jean	3-24-25

Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
please contact
research@gcah.org