

# THE CENTRAL HOME

## STEPHEN PAGE

The Central Home has lights!  
It was once the Malingerer's home,  
Dark and lawned with lemon-tree stumps.

Once it was only called House 21,  
But now the hardest worker lives  
There, the tamer of horses,  
The counter of cows, the planter of trees.

All that is good radiates  
From there. Even in the blindness  
Of noon. Look! The light has cracked the chimney  
And burned the floors!

Misionero, do your recorridos,  
The count lessening has no excuse.  
Do not allow your lot to pass  
To overripe clover, do not fall  
Into a crack, do not allow  
The Central Home to become again  
House 21. Let it center the ranch,  
Let it be an example.

I have given you electricity,  
And fixed your doors.  
Misionero, keep it your home.