

YOUTH CONGRESS SPECIAL



VOLUME 1

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"They come, they come, North, South, East, West, the chosen band of earth, the best.
The Advent youth, their banners wave, a witness of the truth God gave."



Part of the Delegation of 2,000 Advent youth from the Northern European Division attending the Paris Congress.

PARIS YOUTH CONGRESS

JULY 24—29

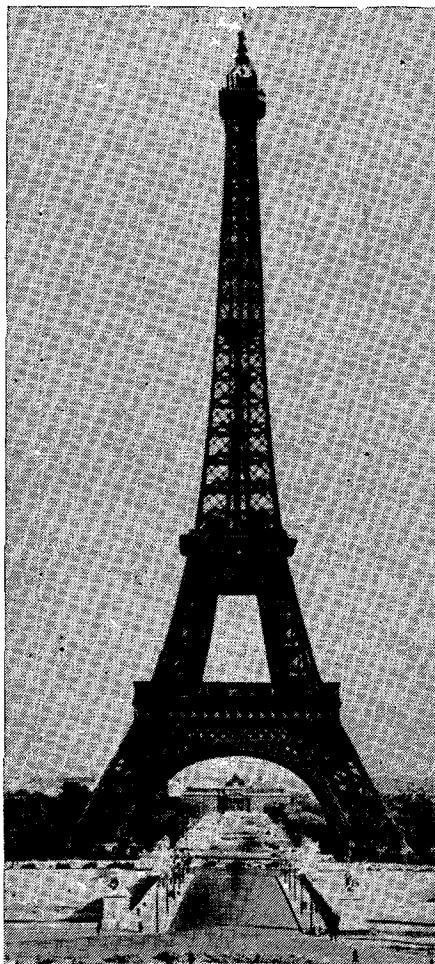
1951

"THIS is your hour!" were the challenging words of E. W. Dunbar, youth leader of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, as he opened the five-day Congress of some 5,000 Adventist youth in the great hall of the Parc des Expositions at the Porte de Versailles in Paris on July 24, 1951. Never before in Europe had there gathered such a mighty band of Advent youth. They had come from all parts of Europe as well as from lands afar, the greatest gathering in the history of our youth work in these ancient and historic countries. More wonderful even than this was the fact that these youth, coming from nations that had so recently been torn asunder by war and strife, could meet here in such glorious fellowship with hearts united by the love of Jesus. Yes, the world's greatest need to-day is a revival of faith in God and a belief in the brotherhood of man, and here in Paris was a practical demonstration of the remedy for this need.

Pastor Dunbar continued: "How happy we are to greet you at this great European Youth Congress! The lateness of the hour calls for your fresh energy; the unfinished task demands the courage, daring, and strength of youth. We pray that you, our Missionary Volunteers of Europe, will stand shoulder to shoulder with the God-fearing and loyal Adventist young people around the world in this 'Share Your Faith' crusade for Christ."

Sitting there gazing over the masses of upturned faces, radiant with the bloom of youth, one could not but wonder what the pioneers of the Advent movement would have thought could they have been with us and seen this gigantic gathering. Who can estimate the potential might of this youthful army, particularly when God's Holy Spirit in its fullness lays hold of it, in the finishing of God's work!

This was indeed a challenging hour for the 5,000 Advent youth of Europe and as they witnessed the lighting of the great Congress torch, hearts glowed with an earnest zeal and consecration as they dedicated themselves to the bearing aloft of the torch of truth until Jesus comes. Might it be that some day these very same



CONGRESS MOTTO

"Lève-toi, éclaire le monde!"
"Mache dich auf, werde Licht!"
"Arise, shine!"

"On the many ways to our united meeting the motto precedes as a leading star. 'Arise and shine!' This is no exhortation and challenge, but it is the good tidings: 'The light is here.' The beauty of the Lord is rising upon you, Advent youth, and in the power of this light you yourself can become light. Attracted by the shining of the rising sun 'the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.' Isa. 60:3.

W. Räcker,
M.V. Secretary of the
Central European Division.

young people will experience the glorious privilege of handing their torch back to the One who Himself had commissioned them to bear it? Who could remain silent as that vast concourse of young people burst forth in song, each in his own tongue, singing the thrilling words of that grand old hymn, "Coming again, coming again, Jesus is coming again!"

This first night was, however, just a prelude to the feast of good things that was awaiting these eager young people, and as Pastor A. F. Tarr, the Northern European Division president, led out in the devotional hour on Wednesday morning, the young people were invited to open wide the door of the Congress and of their own individual hearts and welcome, at the very commencement of the Congress, the greatest Guest of all guests, the Lord Jesus Himself. The devotional services on the following mornings, taken by W. Räcker, Central European M.V. leader, and L. K. Dickson, vice-president of the General Conference, proved both inspirational and challenging and set the spiritual tone for the day. We regret that space does not permit of our giving a detailed report of these services.

The speakers at the eleven o'clock hour on the three week-days were Pastors W. Müller, W. R. Beach, and T. J. Bradley.

The afternoon session commencing at 2 p.m. was given over to the grand story as told by various delegates of opportunities of sharing their faith with their schoolmates, their family, their friends, and even strangers. How stirring were the stories of the successful work of some of our Finnish sisters in public evangelism. Also thrilling was the testimony of one young African who, by sharing his faith, had been instrumental in winning one hundred of his own people way back in the villages of West Africa. These youth had a living faith and here demonstrated the working of this faith as they stood on the platform side by side with the trophies they had won to Christ. Yes, the growing devotion and evangelistic fire in the lives of our youth are the new hope and joy of the church.

The three evening programmes were

THE STORY OF THE CONGRESS

By T. J. Bradley

THE CONGRESS BEGINS

ONLY one word had mattered to thousands of young people throughout the world of Adventism for weeks past, and that word was PARIS. Why? Because from July 24th to 29th the long-looked-for Congress of Advent young people was due to convene at the Parc des Expositions. If one could have hovered over various countries and towns in a helicopter, I am sure it would have been an interesting sight. Activity in churches, activity in institutions, activity in homes, activity everywhere.

For months committees of our leading brethren had grappled with the problems of preparing for this great youth gathering, and as each day brought everyone nearer the opening of the Congress, interest and excitement mounted rapidly. Thousands of youth were certainly keen and enthusi-

astic in their readiness for the great days of fellowship, but many others besides the youth found a return of youth, and forgot that their hair was grey or their heads bald, and some even forgot that they were grandfathers. But it is supposed that they thought, "Well, what do a few years matter if spirit and heart are still young?" And so one and all, with a spirit of youthful excitement, packed bags and cases and labelled them with "Paris Youth Congress."

They came by train or by boat, they came by car, they came by plane, they came by motor buses, they came by cycles. Hundreds and thousands converging upon this ancient city which is celebrating its 2,000 years anniversary in commemoration of its foundation. The site chosen for the Congress is somewhat on the outskirts of Paris, toward Versailles. Huge audi-

in charge of the three Divisions in turn, and certainly formed a fitting climax to the good things provided during the day. These programmes had been carefully prepared and rehearsed prior to the Congress and showed the talent of our young people at its best.

The Northern European Division led the way and gave an inspiring pageant entitled "Northern Lights," which Pastor E. L. Minchin describes elsewhere in this issue.

The second programme, given by the Central European Division on Thursday evening, was a feast of lovely music. For quality and artistry the solos and instrumental items ranked high. But who can describe the beauty of the choral works! Was this surely a foretaste of that grand moment in the heavenly kingdom when the angels cease their songs and God's redeemed join in that grand chorus of the song of Moses and the Lamb. For these dear German young people have loyally and magnificently stood the test in a land that is yet strewn with war ruins and rubble and where thousands are homeless, testifying: "We went through fire and through water: but Thou broughtest us out." Psa. 66:12. May all these dear young people be present at that final day to help swell that grand anthem of praise and deliverance.

The joys and blessings of the Sabbath day were filled to overflowing by the impressive and touching programme of the Southern European Division as they lived again before our eyes scenes from the struggles of the early Christian church and that of the Middle Ages in the various countries of Southern Europe.

Other highpoints of the Congress, including the arrival of the delegates, the beautiful Sabbath services, the colourful grand march past of the delegates in national costume, and the closing service of the Congress are all very ably described by our roving reporter, Pastor T. J. Bradley, in his "Story of the Congress."

The Congress was certainly one of colourful pageantry and of thrilling, heart-stirring experiences as related by the youth of Europe; and on every side there has gone out a note of courage and determination to finish the work, though it cost them their lives. All considered it a great privilege to be present. Read the impressions of many of our outstanding workers on page twelve. By the grace of God, this Congress will go down in the annals of history as the greatest gathering of Advent youth ever seen in the Old World.

THE EDITOR.



Pastor E. W. Dunbar, World Youth Leader, receives the torch.

toriums for the main public meetings, for the restaurants and the dormitories, gave ample accommodation for the various needs of the assembled delegates.

Come with us to the front gates of the Parc des Expositions. A number of French gendarmes meet you at the gates. They are friendly and at the beginning quite curious as the different nationals begin to appear in their various costumes. You enter through the iron gates, wide open, and see great avenues of maple trees, and immediately on your right is the information office with notices in different languages, informing the people that any location problems can be solved within.

To the right of the information office can be seen the large dormitories for both young men and young women. To the left are the restaurants and the main meeting hall.

Let us take a peep at the arrival of some of the delegates outside the dormitory. As we approach the main doors we see groups of young people excitedly chatting together. They are waiting for their friends. Suitcases and bags everywhere. Anxious eyes are scanning the array of suitcases for personal belongings. In one corner of the large arrival square eight or ten buses are already parked, having disgorged their youthful occupants and now look very deserted. Then suddenly there are shouts and cheers of excitement as around the corner of the distant buildings more buses nose their way toward the disembarking platform. The language on the side of the first bus indicates that it has come from Germany. Youthful hands wave as the friends alight from the buses. Baggage is forgotten and all one can see is a tangle of arms and heads in friendly, happy embraces. From the dry, gravel square the dust rises and settles again, but that is all forgotten in the happy excitement of the re-union of friends from near and far.

Let us leave the grounds for a moment or two and take a peep at one of the main stations in Paris, where the English delegates are to arrive by train. On the platform can be seen the usual Congress placards of welcome. Presently the great steel horse drawing the carriages filled with Congress youth appears at the distant end of the platform, and then what excitement! Doors are flung open and out jump the excited group of youth; some returning to Paris for a further visit, but many looking at Paris for the first time. There are many warm and friendly greetings, and soon the platform is so crowded that it is difficult to move

against the stream of Adventist youth surging toward the waiting buses. It is all so thrilling. Paris seems to have become a centre of Adventism!

And while all this was happening at the main stations, our young people from Holland, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Germany, and many other countries were travelling in various modes toward the same converging point—Paris and the Youth Congress. A peep into the dormitories showed long lines of camp stretchers and smiling faces making beds ready for a well-earned sleep. One may say "a well-earned sleep," but sleep did not come, for far into the night preparations were still busily being made for the arrival of more and still more delegates from distant fields. However, everyone was willing to make the best of the preliminary inconveniences, so that the following days

European Division, Pastor A. F. Tarr, who had arrived with the delegates by train at Gare du Nord, was quickly among the friends new and old that he found there. Pastor E. B. Rudge took a keen interest in seeing that as many of our youth as possible were comfortably accommodated, and Pastor G. D. King was to be seen at the Publishing Department stall busily preparing books and papers for the Stanborough Press display. And as for Pastor E. L. Minchin, well, his burdens were so many and the demands being made upon him so great, that one minute you saw him and the next minute you didn't! Brother A. Varmer, too, found a very useful service awaiting him as translator for the many Danish young people who needed some help in their language problems.

From the Southern European Division, Pastor W. R. Beach was waiting to give all and sundry a warm welcome into his Division. His firm but pleasant smile makes one feel that to come into France is to come to receive a real welcome. And special mention should be made of Brother J. J. Aitken, who has ably led in most of the planning and preparing for the Congress. The task has been a tremendous one and although the obstacles with which the Congress Committee has had to contend have been very great, much praise is due to the successful work that has been done. It was just impossible to erase the smile from Brother Aitken's face. He was plied with questions and problems, and surrounded by perplexities, yet his strength and courage never flagged and his smile never vanished. It must have been a saving grace to such a busy personality during those opening hours of the Paris Congress.

Mention should also be made of one very interesting meeting on the opening Tuesday afternoon. Many of the newspapers of Paris were eager to obtain information concerning the Congress and the personalities present, and so an interview was arranged whereby the press could meet with our Congress representatives. Pastor J. R. Ferren, from the General Conference, found himself right at home with press responsibilities placed squarely on his shoulders, and as a result of the contacts made and the information given to the press through our able men, the Paris papers gave interesting news items and write-ups in prominent places in their journals. This publicity is surely an acceptable feature for so great a gathering of Adventist youth. A gathering, the first of its kind held on the Continent.

"For many months we have planned that you might be with us at this time. Your presence at this great Congress marks a new day for the advancement of the cause of God in Europe. You have been called to Paris as torchbearers to rekindle and carry forward the light of truth. Your mission to enlighten the world is the greatest ever given to youth. The world is waiting for your message."

*J. J. Aitken,
M.V. Secretary of the
Southern European Division.*

of the Congress would be a complete success.

Tuesday afternoon was a rare sight. Queues of young people were seen registering and getting their seat numbers for meals. Included among the groups of delegates could be seen many familiar faces. From the General Conference one saw Pastor L. K. Dickson, vice-president, and Pastor E. E. Roenfelt, associate secretary; Pastor L. L. Moffitt from the Sabbath-School Department; Pastor A. L. White, Secretary of the Ellen G. White Publications; Pastor R. A. Anderson, ministerial secretary; Miss Lora E. Clement, editor of the *Youth's Instructor*; and not to forget, of course, our world youth leader himself, Pastor E. W. Dunbar, together with his two associates, T. E. Lucas and L. A. Skinner. From the Northern



THE TORCH

NEARLY ten thousand eyes were looking at it! All faces were turned toward the eastern door! It was a dramatic moment. But what interested everyone so much? It was a tiny flame, carried in a symbolic torch by young Adventist athletic runners. Cheering broke out, clapping increased, the enthusiasm of the moment grew as down the narrow defile between the vast audience of the opening night, the runner with torch and flame sped toward the platform and stood amid his fellow runners triumphantly. What did all this mean? For it was undoubtedly the most dramatic moment of the Congress. Two years previously this torch had been used in the great San Francisco Congress of Advent youth as a symbol of the dedicated ambition of the scores of thousands of young people round the world. That torch stood for the truth which we are commissioned to take to all the world.

The torch had been flown by plane from America to Switzerland, and there, near the little village of Gland, where in 1907 our denomination officially organized its youth programme, the torch was lit by some who were present at that original gathering, and from the pioneers to the gathering of thousands of youth in Paris, the responsibility of bearing aloft the torch of truth was thus handed on. The torch was carried by plane from Switzerland to Le Bourget airport in Paris, and then the gay continental city saw something it had never seen before. From the airport to the Parc des Expositions, a distance of some fourteen miles, representatives of Advent youth from a number of countries, clad in blue and white running costumes with letters in blue and yellow emblazoned on their breast—M.V. Adventiste Jeunesse—dashed through the streets of Paris with police escort, bravely announcing to all the onlookers that here

was a group of youth possessing truth and carrying truth and determined to reveal the truth to all the world. The historic buildings and monuments of Paris, such as the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, Des Invalides, all looked stolidly down upon the keen, vigorous forms of our young men as they flashed past on their journey to the great Congress gathering. Thousands of Parisians stopped, looked, and thought for just a moment or two, but it was a witness which we hope will bear fruit in some lives in the great hereafter.

And so the torch arrived on the platform amid the thunderous cheering and clap-

ping of the immense audience. Pastor E. W. Dunbar, our world youth leader, received the symbolic torch of truth from the runner, and holding it aloft, passed it on to Pastor J. J. Aitken, M.V. Secretary of the Southern European Division, who, in turn, lit the immense Congress torch. This torch was to remain alight above and behind the main platform, reminding us constantly of our world-wide commission. An act of dedication followed, in which the thousands of youth present pledged themselves to share their faith and let their light shine that others by thousands may see and follow the present truth.

COLPORTEUR EVANGELISM AT CONGRESS

By G. D. KING

THE tremendous size of the Congress made the conducting of workshops in the usual sense of the term a practical impossibility; however, most inspiring workshops were conducted and the great attendances and language differences did not hinder the presentation of the spirit of progress and courage which is always manifest in our literature ministry. Young, enthusiastic, and successful colporteurs were present and on the platform from all over Europe. This itself was an inspiring sight. All three divisions, Central, Southern, and Northern, were well represented and took an active part in the two literature evangelism meetings under the direction of the publishing secretary of Northern Europe.

Seventy years of publishing progress was effectively portrayed by the presentation of George A. King, our first large book salesman who began selling *Daniel and Revelation* around 1881. He was not with us in person, of course, but Brother Glynne Meredith of Watford gave a most realistic impression of this grand pioneer as he was interviewed by George D. King. The thousands of young people who witnessed this presentation will never forget that our book work began with real vision and in a spirit of courage and conviction. "God was in it at the beginning," said George A. King, and that He is in it to-day was clearly indicated by the excellent response from Brother John Klim of Washington Missionary College, a student colporteur with five summers' experience

in the field. Brother Klim's appeal made a deep and, we believe, a lasting impression on the many thousands present.

From each division we heard the marvellous story of God's hand directing and protecting His own work in many difficult but fruitful lands.

At the Friday morning meeting, the thrilling experiences from the lands of Europe and Africa sounded like chapters from the "Acts of the Apostles." Indeed it was the story of the acts of apostolic colporteurs who go from place to place under the direction and blessing of God's Spirit, winning hundreds of souls for Christ through the printed page.

Yes, it was evident that God who began this great publishing ministry continues to bless and guide it to-day and thousands of our youth are successfully and profitably "sharing their faith" through the fruitful ministry of literature. The excellent display of Adventist literature on show at the centrally located book stall was a most attractive exhibit. The reality of Elder Branson's statement that "Adventists publish the finest religious literature in the world, especially when it comes to the explanation of Bible prophecy" was effectively illustrated by the splendid books and papers published by our Hamburg (Germany), Melun (France) and Stanborough Press (Britain) publishing houses.

As Elder Branson again has said: "We ought to be very proud to be connected with the work of distributing literature like that."

"NORTHERN LIGHTS"

By E. L. MINCHIN



A scene during the Northern European Division programme, "Northern Lights." At the rear: Youth of various countries in the Division, each bearing his national flag. Centre: M.V. banners from different conferences, missions and institutions. More were waiting to come on when the picture was taken. Left: Skodsborg nurses. Front: Two young people hold aloft the torch just received from veteran workers of the Division.

HOW fittingly the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights which brighten the night skies of our long northern winters symbolizes the witness of the Advent youth who "shine as lights" amid the moral and spiritual darkness of the earth to-day. Wednesday evening, July 25th, belonged to the youth of our Northern European Division. We shall never forget the thrilling and colourful presentation of the rise of the Advent message in Northern Europe, and of its growth, until to-day the message in these historic lands is being borne on the feet of a mighty and growing army of youthful witnesses. By song, tableau, story, and pageant the march of the Advent youth in the north was presented.

Just as the programme was about to commence, the white background of the platform seemed suddenly to come to life as a rainbow of lights—the Northern Lights—was thrown onto it. Throughout the programme these beautiful, coloured lights moved constantly across the platform giving a very realistic effect to the whole programme.

Two very impressive tableaux told of the early proclamation of the Advent message first in England and then in Sweden prior to 1844. The great audience of over 7,000 will never forget the moving portrayal by a group of our Swedish youth of the witness of the child preachers in Sweden in the days when ministers and adults were forbidden to preach this great

truth. The scene in a Swedish home of a little girl standing up to preach, and the solemn effect upon the listeners, was so reverently and beautifully presented that one could feel the hush in the audience, and not a few were wiping the tears from their eyes.

But now the scene changes, and the story of the growth and spread of the message in our Division since those days was told. Large posters were borne onto the platform telling of the population of our fields and the present membership of our churches. The next moments were dramatic. It is now 1951. The Advent youth of to-day must receive the torch of truth from the hands of the aged torch-bearers. Two groups appeared at

opposite ends of the platform. One, a company of pioneers, led by our beloved veteran, Pastor Muderspach of Denmark, carrying a torch, and the other, a company of youth led by two of our young people from Norway. Brother Muderspach was one of the first leaders of our youth in Scandinavia. Shall we ever forget the sight of this fine, virile Norwegian youth in his teens, grasping the torch from our beloved, snowy-headed leader from Denmark while Annette Wynne, of London, so movingly recited "Arise, O Youth."

From then on followed a great panorama of Advent youth from every conference and mission in our great Northern European Division. They came onto the platform in perfect order, dressed in national costume and carrying beautifully coloured banners which brought messages of greeting and consecration to those present from a much greater army of young people who could not be present. The schools and colleges of our Division, where hundreds of youth are in training, were also represented by banners.

Skodsborg Sanitarium, our largest sanitarium in the world and representing scores of clinics and other sanitaria throughout the north, rendered a beautiful and impressive picture of the ministry of

healing performed by our youth in these institutions. The platform appeared to be nearly full of Skodsborg nurses, and they made a very attractive picture in their uniforms.

Near the close of the programme, while this great and colourful array of youth with banners stood on the platform, four youth from the four corners of the Division came forward. From Iceland and Ethiopia, and from Finland and West Africa the youthful representatives stood with clasped hands. Here we saw a fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah 43:5, 6: "I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring My sons from far, and My daughters from the ends of the earth."

As the organ pealed forth the strains of "The Youth of the World for the Man of Galilee," there commenced the march of the Advent youth down from the platform, along the aisles and back again to the platform. As we bowed our heads in benediction we thanked God for the precious youth among us, and asked that they may be empowered as never before for the glorious and urgent task of taking the Advent message to Northern Europe "in this generation."

Him to-day." A murmur of approval greeted the song as the last echoes of the notes faded away, and then came the speaker for the evening, Pastor R. A. Anderson. It was evident that every heart present was about to be challenged, for he announced his subject as being, "Your Date with Destiny."

The speaker took us back to the times of Esther, and in clear outline revealed again to us the challenge that came to that young maiden as Mordecai placed upon her shoulders the task of representing God and His people before the heathen monarch. "Esther was but nineteen or twenty years of age," said Pastor Anderson, "and she stands as the type representing the Advent youth of to-day who undoubtedly, like Esther, are called to the kingdom for such a time as this. Though we think of our pioneers to-day, as old men, they were not always so, for Ellen G. Harmon was called when seventeen; James White at twenty-one; J. N. Andrews, who became our first overseas missionary, was called at the age of twenty; and Uriah Smith, whose prolific pen has brought immense information and inspiration to the remnant church, began his never-to-be-forgotten career at twenty-four. They were all youthful leaders, but men empowered by God to do a mighty work."

We were then taken back to the days when Jesus gave commission to the disciples, and reminded that these humble men have become great men because in a simple way they accepted a great idea from their leader, and it was the carrying out of that great idea that has turned the world in favour of Christianity. As Pastor Anderson moved toward the climax of his sermon, he challenged one and all with these words: "We live in a world of great and clashing ideas, but God has committed to Adventist youth the responsibility of proclaiming Heaven's ideas and ideals. To a dying world we must take the news of a Saviour risen and coming again. We must take the dynamic news of the saving power of Jesus Christ. You have a date with destiny, but you cannot escape history. The early church was born in a stall, moved in a cyclone, and swept the field like a tornado. And why? Because the early church caught a vision of its task. It had a faith, not merely to hold onto, but to give away and to share with others."

It was then that the great moment of consecration had arrived. The speaker called for the forsaking of sin and the renewing of our hearts in devotion to God; and with an irresistible moving the Spirit

The Story of the Congress

(Continued)

By T. J. Bradley

THE SABBATH SERVICES

THE sun was slowly sinking in the west. Already three busy days were nearly past. Tired feet had found their way back to the Parc des Expositions from an afternoon of visiting some of the places of interest in nearby Paris, and all hearts were throbbing in expectancy of Sabbath blessings.

At 8 p.m. the lovely orchestral music, played by a German group of instrumentalists, began to set the tone for a meeting which will long be remembered as one of the outstanding spiritual features of the Congress programme. Delegates and visitors crowded into the hall, until 6,000 people were seated awaiting the arrival of the platform party. During the song service, which was conducted by Pastor E. L. Minchin, there were three special musical items rendered which should be mentioned. Sister Grazia Lamuvaglia of Italy rendered a very beautiful and appealing solo which was followed by a

soft, sweet item from the choir of Danish young people, and how our hearts were touched with the beauty and sweetness of the melody.

The Sabbath hours had just begun, and already the benediction of heaven was felt to rest upon the large assembled congregation. As the ministers filed onto the platform, the men's choir from Collonges brought the hushed audience into the very atmosphere of heaven. It was certainly a moving experience to let one's eyes roam around the vast auditorium and see thousands of Adventist youth from various countries, not only assembled in person for the Sabbath services, but united in heart that the purpose of that service might be realized. It was evident that a feeling of deeper consecration was being sought, and Miss Del Delker of the Voice of Prophecy, Glendale, California, fittingly expressed the sentiments of all hearts present when, with rich contralto notes, she sang: "Jesus calls me, I must follow

of the Lord claimed the hearts of hundreds of young men and women, many of whom had never publicly confessed Christ before. There were tears of repentance and tears of joy in rededication; but as many hundreds pressed toward the altar for prayer all hearts were raised in thankfulness to God that the refreshing of the outpouring of God's Spirit had come to our great Paris Congress.

The hour was late but all hearts were gladdened and refreshed as the quietness of the Sabbath evening enveloped the camp in sleep.

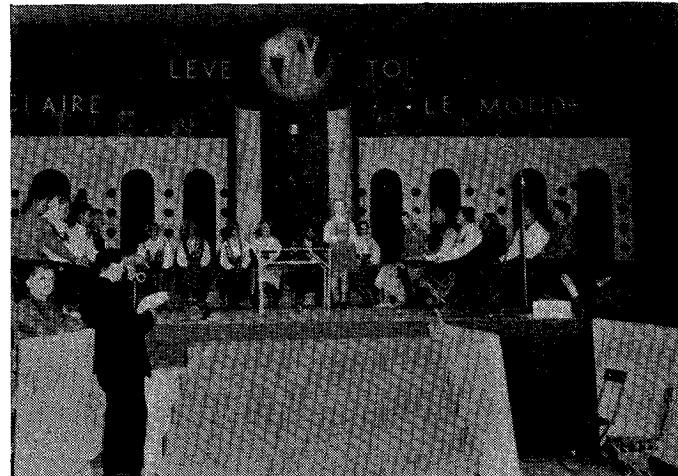
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Paris was bathed in sunshine early when many tired eyes awakened, wondering what the Sabbath day would bring to the Congress. A clear, blue sky; the leaves of the trees just glistening in the sunshine; and a warmth that bespoke a midsummer day, was already evident. By 9.30 a.m. a large gathering of delegates was already assembled for the opening exercises. Choir and orchestral music was setting the atmosphere for one of the largest Sabbath-schools ever held in Europe, and what a privilege it was to attend it. On the platform were gathered Sabbath-school secretaries from far and wide; and those taking part in the programme were also waiting eagerly for the moment of their contribution to arrive.

Let us draw on your imagination and ask you to visualize thousands of young people from the various countries all vigorously joining their voices in singing that grand old Advent hymn: "Give me the Bible, Star of gladness gleaming." The benediction of a prayer uttered in several assembled languages was a unique feature of this unique Sabbath-school; and how interesting it was to have Pastor L. L. Moffitt describe by means of various sized candles the growth of the Sabbath-school movement from its beginning to the present day. The candle that represented our 1950 membership reached from the platform to the roof of the auditorium, and surely impressed all with the immense growth of this Bible study and missionsponsoring feature of our church life.

The Sabbath-school is always interested in producing funds for the mission fields, and the corresponding growth of offerings and membership was illustrated in a very captivating way. Five decades of progress were represented, and each decade was represented by a large coloured streamer rolled out to various lengths to represent the percentage increase in offerings. From 1909, when 15,512 dollars were given, to 1949, when 238,688 dollars were given,

A group of Swedish delegates enacting the scene of the child preachers during the Northern European Division evening programme.



remarkable progress had been seen. The most satisfying feature of all was that this money can now be seen in the mission fields in the form of souls won to the kingdom of Christ. The lesson study for our special Congress Sabbath-school was conducted in conversation form by a group of young people from Britain, and proved to be of great interest.

Immediately after the close of Sabbath-school the great feast of the day began. Seven thousand people were crowded into the main auditorium, and it was a very noticeable thing that the colourful costumes of the week were now missing. A quieter tone was apparent as all awaited the morning sermon from Pastor E. W. Dunbar, the world leader of Seventh-day Adventist youth. The morning prayer was offered by Pastor A. W. Peterson, the youth leader from Australia, and then as had happened many times previously, greetings telegrams were read from various world fields, whose prayers and interests were with the assembled delegates in Paris.

We had come to accept music, more music and beautiful music, and we were not disappointed even in the church service. The Norwegian choir, with Brother Ellingsen as solo obligato singer, sweetly added to their already appreciated musical items, and they were followed by a large combined German-Swiss choir who sang very feelingly: "Oh God, is it Thee who hast shed Thy blood for me?" The words of these various items were unknown to many of us, but the same throbbing pulse of spiritual unity was felt throughout; and every part of every delegation appreciated every item, whatever the language. In the hush immediately preceding the address, Sister Watson of the British delegation feelingly rendered the well-known hymn, "Lead me to Calvary." We felt prepared to listen to the strong and

challenging appeal that was to follow. We felt more able to respond after having heard the golden contralto notes that had so many times blessed our British gatherings.

And then the morning speaker moved quietly to the microphone. His opening text, found in Acts 27:25, revealed the basis of his thoughts for us for the Sabbath service. Three words were chosen from that text: "I believe God." Said Pastor Dunbar: "Your religion begins with God. The ten commandments begin with God. The Lord's Prayer begins with God. The theme of redemption begins with God. In fact, everything of spiritual value and lasting effect begins and ends with God. Opposition to religion to-day is not content with attacking Jesus Christ alone; it is denying God and His very existence. We must hold to and re-affirm our faith in God."

Warm, encouraging words flowed from the lips of Brother Dunbar as he drew the large audience nearer to the moment of climax in his address. The challenge for a stronger faith was issued; the challenge to identify ourselves with God and His remnant people sounded forth, and the response that came to his clarion call was most thrilling and encouraging. Nearly 300 young people moved down the aisles of the vast audience and stood resolutely for following Jesus Christ all the way. During these moments of decision, the strains of consecration hymns played sweetly and softly on the piano by Sister Watson, flowed from the loudspeakers, echoed around and lightly filled the great hall.

This large group desired baptism, and as Brother Dunbar confidently said, so we are to believe: "I feel certain that as a result of this great Congress, hundreds, if not thousands of people will be in the

kingdom of God as a result of the new spiritual power received." Seven thousand people stood with bowed heads after the Paris delegation leaders had appealed in their own national language for reconssecration, and then Pastor L. K. Dickson offered the grateful thanks of all assembled, in moving expressions and tone, for this clear evidence of the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on the meeting. And to the strains of "Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus," closed one of the memorable meetings of the Congress that will live on in our lives and bear fruit long after the last Congress farewell has been said.

THE GRAND MARCH AND FAREWELL

WHAT a moment of excitement it was! The hour had arrived for a grand march through the Parc des Expositions of more than one thousand young people in their national costumes, one in spirit, one in joy, one in purpose, though all differently robed and coming from every corner of our European divisions. The various leaders busily moved among the assembled young people, giving their instructions through the loud speaker which was placed on a van. And so happy was the chatter of the youth that it was difficult for them to arrange the various delegates in preparation for the display.

But at last everything was ready, and to the singing of hymns in various national tongues the procession of youth moved off in bright sunshine and under blue skies.

Movie cameras whirred as they recorded this unique assembly on the march, and less ambitious photographers assembled at vantage points or perched in precarious positions clicked the cameras in order to have a record of that which would be like the Paris Congress, a never-failing joy. Headed by a huge Congress M.V. banner it was indeed a colourful sight. First came the West Nordic Union, happily displaying the costumes of the various peoples from the Arctic to Southern Denmark, and after this glitter of beauty there followed a rare sight. The order of the various delegations hardly matters, but the East Nordic youth were there, and to add to the attractiveness of their costumes, they carried the familiar guitars and sang their beautiful melodies. The British Union delegation looked very trim and neat as they were led by the large group of uniformed Master Comrades. There were strong groups from France and Germany, all singing happily, and those from Bavaria especially were

attractive in their unique head-dress. A very bright group, though small, was the robed Italian section. They stood out like a deep-red climbing rose bush against a background of green trees and fields of grass.

One enthusiastic figure caught one's notice. It was one of the African young people who acted as sergeant-major for one of the marching groups. His super-enthusiastic voice echoed along the highway of moving feet. Other delegations we could mention, but space forbids. They came from Spain, from Portugal, from Iceland and Ethiopia, from West Africa and the Netherlands, from Greece and Austria, from Switzerland and America. In fact, to mention them all would cover representatives from twenty-five different countries.

This mighty procession ended on the wide and spacious steps of the Parc des Expositions, where a very impressive investiture service was held. It was really thrilling!

There was only one sad thought in the minds of everybody at that moment, for now we began to realize that the farewell service was to begin. The fellowship and goodwill of this immense Congress had gripped the hearts. The unity of spirit had taken thousands of youth and mingled them as of one flesh, and naturally, there was a sense of pain at the thought of the parting which must soon take place.

It was at 4.45, Sunday afternoon, when before the vast assembly the youth leaders stepped onto the platform for the last time in this Congress.

Pastor L. K. Dickson lifted our hearts before God once again in prayer. It was a quiet, solemn moment, and we all felt that the Lord had rewarded the efforts made by so many to be present at this Congress.

Pastor E. W. Dunbar made the opening speech of farewell. He said: "During this Congress we have forged a chain of Christian fellowship and friendship that we believe will continue strongly to the end of time." And then he suggested four things which would help our young people to retain the good spirit of the Congress: (1.) Hold on to God. (2.) Keep humble in the study of the Word of God. (3.) Pray much. (4.) Work hard for lost souls. It was then that he shook hands with the M.V. secretaries who had worked so hard for the success of this Congress, and gave them his heartiest congratulations.

Pastor L. A. Skinner, who is an associate in the General Conference M.V. Department, after reading Revelation 22:12, said: "I am glad that with you I can look forward to the return of Jesus. I have been strengthened by this Congress, and our torch of truth must burn brightly until our Lord returns."

Pastor T. E. Lucas, also an associate in the General Conference M.V. Department, followed and said: "This has been a great meeting, but its success will be measured by the to-morrows and how we share our faith everywhere."

Pastor W. Räcker, who led the large and enthusiastic German delegation, said: "When parting with someone you have met in a shop you say 'good day,' if you are parting from an acquaintance, however, you might say 'farewell,' but for us, as brothers, and sisters in the church, looking in each other's eyes and realizing the deep friendship among us, we say, 'I'll see you again.'" This remark was cheered and clapped, for it expressed the feeling of every heart.

Pastor E. L. Minchin of the Northern European Division was then called upon to give his farewell message. With deep

Pastor L. Muderspach, with other veteran workers, handing the torch to the youth of the Northern European Division. Behind, the maps of the Division present the challenge of the unfinished task.



fervour he said: "We love you all! It has been a great joy to look into your faces. God bless you and keep you faithful! Let us all go home to light the fires of truth as never before. The spirit of consecration caught here has been marvellous. We must not disappoint God as we return to our homes to share our faith. Take the unity of this Congress back to your home churches. Whatever difference in customs, our hearts are united in Christ. This is a great closing moment of a great Congress. The Advent youth of Europe are on the march for God. The symbols of our consecration are the banners you have carried to-day. God bless you all, and go forth in the power of God!"

And then a personality stepped to the microphone, who brought forth cheers and sustained hand-clapping. That was Pastor J. J. Aitken. This demonstration was an evidence of the sincere appreciation of the thousands of young people of the constant and successful leadership given to this great Congress by Brother Aitken. With beaming face and from lips expressing an inner joy, he said: "How happy we have been together. For a year we have planned and prepared daily for this Congress, and it will ever be remembered as the Congress of faith. We have seen doors marvellously opened to us. It is a miracle. It is the first time in the history of Paris—and Paris is two thousand years old this year—that so many languages have been broadcast to a conference over a public address system. And

now we face the task of service in our homelands. Let us go forward to accomplish that task, taking the Congress motto with us: 'Lève-toi, Eclaire le monde.' 'Arise, Shine.' As the love of Christ has worked here, so let us go forth in the same love!"

A very touching scene followed these remarks. One of the young people stepped to the platform and presented Pastor Aitken with a beautiful bouquet of gladioli. But the beauty of this incident was transformed into one of touching magnanimity. Brother Aitken turned to his two main helpers on the platform, Pastors Minchin and Räcker, and invited them to step forward. Each of them took the bouquet in his hand, and then with their arms round each other, they held it together as a symbol of the unshakable fellowship and unity which this outstanding Paris Youth Congress had engendered. Enthusiastic clapping continued for some minutes, and as the spirit of fervour rose in tempo, the various delegations were beginning to wish that the Congress was just starting over again. A resolution of gratitude to the city authorities who had so graciously received us into their midst was read by Dr. J. Nussbaum and carried by acclamation.

And it was then that the final moment of the Congress was upon us. Pastor W. R. Beach, president of the Southern European Division, in stating that the Congress had been a great meeting and had succeeded beyond words to express, gave a very warm welcome to all delegates to

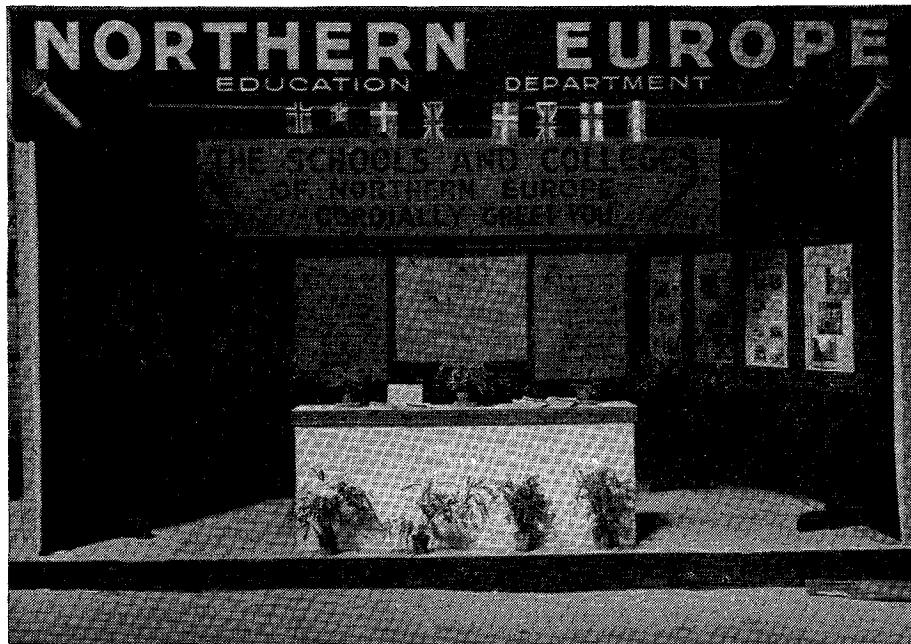
return to his Division whenever opportunity presented itself and assured them of a remembrance in his thoughts. As one might expect, the great gathering was brought to a close by singing the very popular, soul-moving, and at times tear-producing hymn, "God be with you till we meet again." The chorus was sung over and over many times. The delegations hardly wanted to stop. It seemed that while we were singing the hymn, we were still in the Congress, but at last the musical echoes of youthful fervour died in all corners of the vast auditorium, and over the place that had for many days heard voices of prayer and praise, and seen the development within so many hearts of a rising determination to help finish God's work, there rested the calm and peace of the quiet eventide.

May God bless every memory of the Paris Congress, and long may the fervour of those days reign in every heart.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

How precious seemed the light which God has given to the remnant church through the Spirit of prophecy as Pastor A. L. White, grandson of Sister E. G. White, recounted to the vast concourse of young people on Thursday afternoon, July 26th, thrilling experiences of how God through the agency of the Spirit of prophecy, watched over, guided, and protected the Advent church in its infancy. Surely to-day our success in God's cause and the ultimate triumph of this message is dependent on our continuing to follow the wonderful light given us in the Spirit of prophecy. How thrilled the young people were as Pastor White displayed the very Bible that Sister White had held aloft in her left hand for half an hour while in vision. He had brought this Bible from the United States especially for display at the Congress. Try as they might no young person was able to hold it for longer than a few seconds. Two and a half minutes was the longest, according to Elder White, that anyone had ever held it up. Other valuable documents were shown including testimonies written in Sister White's own handwriting. A picture of Sister White with a copy of her signature was presented to each one present as a souvenir.

Of interest to all at the Congress was a small contingent of West Africans being piloted around the grounds by Missionary



The attractive display of the Educational Department featuring our schools and colleges.

D. V. Cowin who had accompanied the young men from West Africa to the Congress. Pastor Cowin could be seen supervising their material needs both in the dormitory and at the restaurant, guiding them in their press conferences, and in so many other ways contributing toward their well-being and their helpful service to others at the Congress.

On Sabbath afternoon, during the pageant of missions, these young West Africans related interesting sidelights on their experiences in their homeland of sharing their faith with their fellow-men, many of whom are still controlled by superstition and fetish. Dressed in national costume they sang native songs of worship and gave the Mohammedan call to worship and prayer. They also demonstrated the use of African "talking drums" which they had brought along with them, beating out a message of greetings to the Congress. Translated, the drums said, "Each of us brings greetings and a big 'thank you' from West Africa to you for all the good you are doing for us." They then presented the drum to Pastor E. B. Rudge, secretary of the Division, as a reminder of their great need for a hospital. In accepting the gift Pastor Rudge assured the young men of the deep interest of the Division in the great and needy field from which they came.

We feel sure these West African workers will carry back to their country the inspiration of the Congress to shine forth amidst the darkness and prepare a rich fruitage for the kingdom of God.

It would be difficult to convey to our readers the tremendous inspiration of the beautiful music at the Congress. Pastor E. L. Minchin with his committee served the assembly with a veritable festival of music. Mr. and Mrs. Buser of Switzerland very ably presided at the piano and organ respectively. Among the many fine soloists special mention should be made of Mrs. Watson of Great Britain, Aaron Elingsen of Norway, J. Jonson of Iceland, and Mrs. Grazia Lamuvaglia of Italy, not forgetting Del Delker of the Voice of Prophecy, America.

The various assembled choirs thrilled the Congress with their artistic interpretations of many beautiful songs. Among these were the Oslo, Finnish, Danish, British, Berlin, Swiss German, Basle, Collonges and the Vienna Salzburg Choirs as well as the Voice of Prophecy quartettes from Italy, France, Switzerland, and London. Long will the strains of these "sweet singers of Israel" remain in our memories.

ED.



The colourful booth of the Northern European Division M.V. Department.

CONGRESS ATTENDANCE

NORTHERN EUROPE

England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales	600
Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland	1072
The Netherlands	300
Iceland	13
Ethiopia	2
West Africa	6
	1993

SOUTHERN EUROPE

Austria	250
Italy	200
Switzerland	260
France and Belgium	460
Portugal	25
Spain	24
North Africa	80
Cameroons	3
	1302

CENTRAL EUROPE

Germany	1300
	—
America	50
Australia	22

Delegates and visitors also came from India, South Africa, and South America.

The figures for Southern and Central Europe are approximate.

Heard at the Congress

"THE Paris Youth Congress goes down in the history of Adventism as one of its truly great gatherings. Never before in modern times has a more important meeting been held. Never were there gathered together a more dynamic, sober, determined, consecrated multitude of youth and youth leaders. A masterful piece of leadership was manifested and the Congress was led to its close on a high note of spiritual resolve. A great victory has come to the youth movement of the church in this outstanding gathering, the effect of which, under God's blessing, will be a mighty advance in the Christian life and service of our youth.

"As our European youth leaders go back from this Congress to make central in their lives the call of Christ, a new day will dawn for the finishing of God's work. We thank God for His rich blessings poured out upon our youth in the Paris Youth Congress."—*L. K. Dickson.*

"IT has been a real privilege to attend the Paris Youth Congress. I have been impressed with the earnestness of these thousands of young people who have gathered from Northern, Central, and Southern Europe. They are the victims of one of the greatest war tragedies in history, yet they are courageous, of good cheer, and they are setting a pace in sharing their faith which is a challenge to their fellow Missionary Volunteers in other parts of the world. If no one had spoken a word from the desk in the great meeting hall the singing of these European young people would have given me an inspiration that I am sure will stay with me for the rest of a lifetime. Every day, every hour, every minute of this great Congress has been packed full of thrills and I face back across the Atlantic to America with new assurance that the Missionary Volunteers in Europe and other parts of the world represented in this League of Nations assembly will do their part to carry the torch of the great Second Advent message to all the world speedily and thus hasten Christ's return."—*Lora E. Clement.*

"I AM under the spell of this great Congress that is finishing in a few hours, but the inspiration and influence will live on in all countries and nations. It has been a great achievement. The fellowship has been wonderful. We know that its influence will bring blessing everywhere when our young people return home to

their different countries and churches. I send a special greeting to the delegates of the NORTHERN LIGHT. Your contribution has been wonderful, and we thank you for what you brought. May God bless everyone who came and all the thousand hearts that have been with us in their thoughts and prayers, but were not able to gather with us. May God make us work for the day when we will all meet again."—*R. A. Anderson.*

"WHAT a wonderful cross-section of the peoples of Europe—and in fact, of the peoples of the world—we have had at this gathering! And of the cream of the people, too. For what more select group could one find anywhere than these whose service, whose money, whose affections and ambitions are all directed toward the interests, both in this life and in the life to come, of others? Even their presence at this gathering was of unselfish purpose: to better equip themselves for the supreme task that still lies ahead, of rescuing their fellow-citizens, young and old alike, for the soon coming kingdom. Yes, this was a grand gathering to attend."—*A. F. Tarr.*

"I AM sure that this Congress is the beginning of a new period for our youth for the ever-enlarging church in Europe. It has been a great achievement bringing the young people together from twenty-five nations. Our youth have received inspiration which will give the Advent message a new meaning and a new drive, and will influence every church and country when the young people return.

"The twenty-two representatives from the Australasian Division have been thrilled and carry back with them inspiration and blessing from this meeting. The young people of Australasia send their greetings of warm fellowship to the youth in Europe."—*A. W. Peterson.*

"THIS must have been one of the greatest youth gatherings in the world. We are glad to see the spirit among our young people, and their desire to work for God. We have learned to know each other and have exchanged ideas. It has been a real success. God has answered our prayers, and we are thankful to Him for the days we have spent here."—*E. W. Dunbar.*

"THIS must be the greatest thing ever. We have caught inspiration, and in a few years I am sure we will have doubled our membership. For our folk who came over here, it has been a great inspiration,

and we have been very happy to meet with our young people from Britain again. We shall never forget the Paris meetings. The feeling here has been very friendly among us all. I think we should meet more often to exchange ideas. It is a wonderful thing to see how others work and we have learned much from each other."—*W. R. Beach.*

"I HAVE been very interested in the ways the youth are working and was deeply moved when I saw what they had done and the different ways they are sharing their faith. The work of our young people is the life of to-day. Thank God for the days we have spent here and for what we have received."—*Dr. Nussbaum.*

"IT has been a marvellous time. Especially have I noticed that the people from the northern lands are very much like us Germans. The harmony among the different nations was very noticeable. We believe that God has come near to each one of us, so we can meet in the place we all are longing for—heaven. I wish the young people and all NORTHERN LIGHT readers God's blessing, and hope that you will be able through these brief words to catch the spirit of our great Congress."—*W. Räcker.*

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