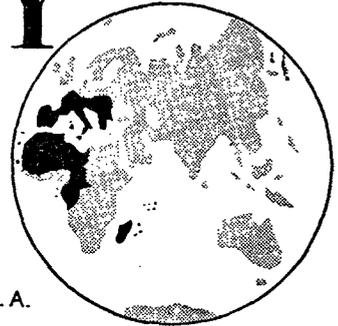


QUARTERLY REVIEW

ORGAN OF THE
SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION of the General Conference of S.D.A.



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NUMBER 1

Message to the Adventist Churches of the Southern European Division

We, the delegates of the Southern European Division, assembled in Annual Council at Brussels, December 15 to 22, 1948, express our profound gratitude to God for the blessings received and the results obtained since the last assembly.

We recognize our supreme need of receiving the power of the Spirit, which will finish the work of God. Conscious of our weakness, we pray earnestly that God will qualify us for faithful service, and we offer Him the gift of our entire consecration.

A glance at the field as a whole shows us the progress realized. Evangelism is in the forefront of our activities and is being carried on in many ways: by means of public lectures and meetings; through the missionary work done by colporteur evangelists, church members, young people, and the workers in our institutions; through the radio and Bible Correspondence Course, etc. The number of baptisms is particularly encouraging. A vast program for the building and rebuilding of chapels is in process of being carried out in various countries. This has been made possible by the generous material help granted by the General Conference, to which we address our affectionate and fraternal gratitude.

The churches have joined heartily in this great and noble task. We as delegates are happy to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have so loyally cooperated in this work, supporting it faithfully by their prayers, their work, and their tithes and offerings.

We are convinced that the moment has come for the whole Adventist church to bring to the

world the message of hope and salvation which has been entrusted to us. Every child of God must be at his post. There can be no faltering. Discouragement must not penetrate our ranks. The task is to be finished with energy, zeal, and enthusiasm. « Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong, » St. Paul tells us (1 Cor. 16:13).

Let us remember the words of Sister White:

« The work is soon to close, The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant. » *Letter*, 1892.

« And still our General, who never makes a mistake, says to us, 'Advance; enter new territory; lift the standard in every land. « Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. »'

« The time has come when through God's messengers the scroll is being unrolled to the world. The truth contained in the first, second, and third angels' messages must go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people; it must lighten the darkness of every continent, and extend to the islands of the sea. There must be no delay in this work.

« Our watchword is to be, Onward, ever onward! Angels of heaven will go before us to prepare the way. Our burden for the regions beyond can never be laid down till the whole earth is lightened with the glory of the Lord. » *Gospel Workers*, p. 470.

Imbued with a sense of our responsibility in the face of the task which remains to be finished,

(Please turn to page 11)

Report from Annual Division Council

By M. Fridlin

Secretary, Southern European Division

The fifteenth Annual Council of the Southern European Division was held at Brussels, Belgium, December 15-22, 1948, at the headquarters of the Belgian Conference, 11 rue Ernest Allard.

This important council was preceded by a Bible Correspondence Course workers' convention at Paris, December 12-14; a two-day convention of union secretary-treasurers at Brussels; and a two-day convention of Publishing Department secretaries and publishing house managers, also at Brussels.

Of the 78 delegates invited to attend this Annual Council, 60 were present. We regretted the absence of delegates from several countries of Europe, from Greece and Spain, as well as the fact that there were no representatives present from the Indian Ocean Union Mission or the West and Equatorial African territories. A telegram was received from Ch. Christoforides, the director of our Grecian Mission, expressing his regret at not being able to attend the session, but informing us that the construction of the new headquarters and evangelistic center in Athens was proceeding rapidly. Telegrams of greeting were received also from other Divisions and from our mission field directors in Africa and the islands, and we voted to send to all our faithful workers in the far-off mission fields a special message of appreciation and encouragement.

We were especially favored by the presence of three General Conference representatives, W. H. Williams, undertreasurer, E. E. Rønfelt, associate secretary, and D. A. McAdams, associate Publishing Department secretary, all of whom gave good counsel and much-appreciated help. The morning devotional studies given by the three brethren were especially enjoyed by all the delegates and friends present.

W. R. Beach, Division president, gave an inspiring report at the opening meeting of the session. Among other things, he said:

«Isaiah 60:1-5 applies to our time and to our movement. Darkness is upon the earth. Fear invades all hearts. Europe is preparing anew for the danse macabre so familiar to its inhabitants. Our situation will become more and more difficult, and in our plans, our budgets, and our resolutions we must recognize this fact; but there must be no discouragement in our midst. We must have a wider vision. We must be ready to walk in paths yet to be discovered and in many cases yet to be opened up.

«The situation is characterized by the fact that in the midst of these changes appear unsuspected possibilities and unprecedented opportunities to develop the work of God. Even as darkness covers the earth, 'the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.'

«At the end of 1945, there were about 30,000 members in our Division, representing the work of 71 years, and we pay tribute to the work of the

pioneers. At the end of 1948, if all reports were in hand, we would have about 60,000 members. While it is true that we have received new territories, baptisms alone account for 25,000 of the increase. It is the blessing of God which has already brought us almost to our goal of 12,000 baptisms during 1948 and which will, we trust, enable us to increase this figure during 1949. With the well-organized evangelistic campaigns in prospect, we have reason to hope for an abundant harvest.

«The radio work and Bible Correspondence courses are being developed, and already the message is being proclaimed over several stations. A quartet has been organized, and in a few months we shall have in Paris a completely equipped studio where programs can be transcribed for the whole Division. The results are already encouraging. Several thousand persons have been enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Courses.

«Eight unions in our Division report a Sabbath school membership larger than the church membership.

«An educational convention was held at Florence, with some fifty teachers in attendance. Many problems were discussed and solutions found. Our schools are well attended, but their enrollment must be increased, for we shall need twice as many missionaries as in the past, with the new territories given to us.

«The Young People's Department has made its contribution to the development of the work in the Division. Congresses have been held, and journals are being published for the young people, as well as to serve as a means of evangelism among their friends.

«In the Home Missionary Department, the financial campaigns have surpassed all previous records, but more can be done with better preparation and direction. Lay evangelism must be developed. When the Holy Spirit descends in power upon all our churches, souls will be gathered in by the thousands.

«The newly started temperance work is a means of putting our work before the public in a favorable light. It is planned to organize branches of this work in all the countries of the Division.

«The Medical Department is developing. A number of institutions are being established or reopened: 'Vie et Santé' at Algiers, the Tunis dispensary, a small dispensary on Réunion Island, and a small work on Mauritius, as well as the proposed clinic at Bordeaux.

«Splendid victories have been gained recently in the realm of religious liberty. Lives have been saved. The International Religious Liberty Association now publishes a journal, *Conscience et Liberté*.

«The Publishing Department faces a critical situation in many countries, but there are 471 regular colporteurs throughout the Division.

«The Ministerial Association is constantly seeking to strengthen the ideals of our ministers. To this end, two new plans have been developed and will be submitted to the delegates during this session.

«The construction of chapels is going forward. In the past three years, more than thirty projects have been or are being finished, in Portalegre (Portugal), Milan (Italy), Angers (France), Ghent (Belgium), Bruges (Belgium), Chur (Switzerland), Czechoslovakia, several in Hungary, Liège (Belgium), Mulhouse (France), Berne (Switzerland), Ferryville (North Africa), Madrid (Spain), Valence (France), Naples (Italy), Messina (Sicily), Rome (Italy), Trieste (Italy), Bienne (Switzerland), Vienna (Austria), Salzburg (Austria), Bordeaux (France), St. Gallen (Switzerland), and in the mission fields.

«Three convictions have impressed themselves upon my mind: First, Jesus is coming soon; second, the advent message is the message for our age; third, the advent movement is the most important event of all time. It is God's work, His church. We must have a deeper consecration, a true missionary spirit. Above all, we must have the Spirit of God, without whose outpouring of power the work can never be finished.»

The Division secretary, M. Fridlin, in presenting his report, spoke of the challenge presented to us by the new territory added to our Division as of January 1, 1949, by action of the Autumn Council. Our schools must prepare additional workers for these mission fields, where twenty-two million people wait in darkness.

Reported and estimated baptisms for the first three quarters of 1948 total 7,116. If it were possible to receive reports from all fields, the figure would no doubt reach almost 10,000. Our hearts are rejoiced by these good reports.

A general summary of the statistics for 1947 and the first nine months of 1948 reveals the fact that 15,185 persons have been baptized during this time, while 3,964 have left the church due to apostasy. The net gain for this period is 10,211.

The total membership of the Division has risen from 16,511 in 1929 to 56,359 at the end of the third quarter, 1948, and it is hoped that by the end of the year the figure will exceed 60,000. The membership has more than trebled since 1929, through the efforts of our faithful and devoted workers and members. There are at the end of the third quarter of 1948 1,301 organized churches, as compared to 1,275 at the end of 1947. The number of workers holding credentials and licenses now totals 1,184.

Mention was made of the five workers who died during this year—H. Meyer-Bärsch, Henri Provin, F. Kovalina, P. Badaut, and R. Schillinger. Truly, they «rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.»

Fifteen missionaries or missionary families have left Europe since the last Division Council to serve in mission lands of our Division and elsewhere. We are thankful to have been able to send these devoted workers to carry the gospel to those so greatly in need of salvation.

The secretary's report concluded with the thought that «The latter rain has begun to fall. The brightest days of the advent movement in the Southern European Division are still ahead. Let us pray God for His blessing that we may have a part in the final triumph of His cause.»

One of the important actions of the Council was the organization of the new French West and Equatorial African Union Mission. J.A. de Caenel was elected president of this new union, and K. Scheidegger, formerly connected with the French Publishing House, is to act as secretary-treasurer.

Each evening we had interesting field reports by the various union presidents and mission field superintendents and their coworkers, to which the members of the Brussels church were invited. These encouraging reports were a source of inspiration to the delegates and church members who each evening filled the meeting hall.

The Sabbath meetings were held in the Salle Coloniale on the Rue Stassart, and all the church members and Belgian Conference workers were invited, most of whom responded. After a good Sabbath school, E. E. Roenfelt preached an inspiring sermon.

The afternoon meeting was devoted to the Press and Radio Department. M. Fridlin, secretary of this department for the Division, reported gospel broadcasts over Radio Luxembourg in French, German, English, and Danish; a religious liberty broadcast in French as well as «La Voix de l'Espérance» over Monte Carlo; a French religious liberty program over Radio Sottens in Switzerland; broadcasts in French and Malagasy over Radio Tananarive, Madagascar; Italian programs transmitted by Radio Bologna and Radio Cagliari, Sardinia; and a Hungarian program

MISSIONARY DEPARTURES

1948

- Samuel José, from Lisbon to St. Thomas Island, Portuguese Union Mission, January, 1948.*
Miss Emilia Noivo, from Lisbon to Madeira Island, Portuguese Union Mission, January, 1948.
W. Fuchs and two children, from Marseille to French Morocco, North African Union Mission, February 14, 1948.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Cosendai and two children, from Paris to Douala, French Equatorial African Mission (returning), March 10, 1948.
Mrs. America Lopes-Ribeiro, from Lisbon to Angola, Southern African Division, May, 1948.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Eoard and three children, from Marseille to Mauritius, Indian Ocean Union Mission, July, 23, 1948.
Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Henriksen, from Marseille to Madagascar, Indian Ocean Union Mission, July 23, 1948.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Meyer and two children, from Marseille to Tunis, North African Union Mission, August 19, 1948.
M. and Mrs. D. Riemens and three children, from Marseille to Madagascar, Indian Ocean Union Mission, October 16, 1948.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Cinzio, from Genoa to Australia, Australasian Inter-Union Conference, October 20, 1948.
Miss Lucília Ferreira, from Lisbon to Madeira Island Portuguese Union Mission, November, 1948.
Miss Aline Burri, from Marseille to Tunis, North African, Union Mission, November 11, 1948.
M. and Mrs. R. Bentz and three children, from Marseille to Saigon, French Indo-China, Far Eastern Division (returning), December 14, 1948.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Hirschy and three children, from Marseille to French Cameroons, French and Equatorial African Union Mission (returning), December 29, 1948.

Statistical Report of the Southern European Division of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending December 31, 1948

Name of Conference or Mission	Number of Churches	Previous Membership	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total Gains	Apostasy	Death	Letter	Total Losses	Net Gain	Present Membership	Ord. Ministers	Lic. Ministers	Credentialed Missionaries	Licensed Missionaries	Bible Instr. Elem. School Teachers	Canvassers	Total Laborers	Number of Sab. Schools	Sab. School Membership	Average Attendance	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1. SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV.																							
2. AUSTRIAN UNION CONF.	17	1274	29	1	23	53	7	7	21	35	18	1292	6	1		2				7			
3. Danube Conference	16	1071	20	5	12	37	—	3	7	10	27	1098	7	2		1	1			9	20	15	1315
4. Alpine »	33	2345	49	6	35	90	7	10	28	45	45	2390	15	3		4	2		9	36	31	2479	1827
5. CZECHOSLOVAKIAN U. C.													3							3			
6. Bohemian Conference													10	3			10			18	41		
7. Moravian »													13	1			9			52	75		
8. Slovakian »													8	1						34	46		
	114	4526	550	—		550	35	10	10	55	495	5021	34	5			9	13	104	165	151	5389	4458
9. FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.													5	1	1					7			
10. Belgian Conference	13	843	25	2	11	38	3	4	3	10	28	871	7	3	1		5			14	30	13	837
11. East France »	15	411	29	4	10	43	5	2	5	12	31	442	4	2			6			1	18	31	16
12. North France »	15	1024	26	7	16	49	12	2	11	25	24	1048	5	5			10	3		42	65	14	638
13. South France »	27	983	17	3	28	48	6	3	31	40	8	991	10	9	1		2	4	1	59	86	14	250
	70	3261	97	16	65	178	26	11	50	87	91	3352	31	20	3	23	7	2	133	219	57	2119	1740
14. HUNGARIAN U. C.													5	—	1	9				15			
15. Central Hung. Conference	52	2077	67	10	25	102	18	6	10	34	68	2145	6	8	1	1	10			30	56	52	2437
16. East Hung. »	63	2527	42	6	10	58	18	6	24	48	10	2537	9	5	1	2	10			32	59	63	2673
17. West Hung. »	30	794	15	1	6	22	3	3	10	16	6	800	5	4	1	1	5			22	38	30	827
	145	5398	124	17	41	182	39	15	44	98	84	5482	25	17	4	13	25	—	84	168	145	5940	4761
18. JUGOSLAVIAN U. C.																							
19. Danube Conference																							
20. Sava »																							
21. Morava »																							
	157	5279	500			500	30	10	10	50	450	5729	12	5	—	13	—	—	—	30	177	6000	4000
22. RUMANIAN UNION CONF.																							
23. Muntenian Conference																							
24. Oltenia »																							
25. North Transylvanian »																							
26. South Transylvanian »																							
27. Moldavian »																							
28. Danube »																							
	551	25000										25000	78	11	—	47	—	—	—	136	560	27720	25000
29. SWISS UNION CONFERENCE ...																							
30. German Swiss Conference	32	1844	4	2	29	35	12	3	37	52	-17	1327	12	2	7	6			19	46	31	1503	861
31. Leman »	24	1219	5	1	16	22	4	5	11	20	+2	1221	9	4	2	5	1	3	13	37	23	914	768
	56	3063	9	3	45	57	16	8	48	72	-15	3048	23	7	9	11	1	3	32	86	54	2417	1629
32. INDIAN OCEAN UNION MISS...																							
33. Madagascar Mission	25	575										575	2	2	1	5	15	5	2	32	27	924	711
34. Mauritius »	13	842										842	3	3		5	5		3	19	17	825	628
35. Reunion »	4	134										134	2			3			1	6	6	182	155
36. Seychelles »	2	78										78	1			2				3	3	99	65
	44	1629										1629	10	5	2	15	20	5	6	63	46	2030	1559
37. ITALIAN UNION MISS.																							
38. Central Italian Mission	10	383	4	—	70	74	1	4	46	51	23	406	3	1	—	4			13	21	10	512	397
39. North Italian »	11	469	8	1	2	11		1	22	23	-12	457	5	4	—	2			10	21	25	691	590
40. South Italian »	22	641	22	2	11	35	3	4	22	29	6	647	5	—	1	5			14	25	22	837	828
	43	1493	34	3	83	120	4	9	90	103	17	1510	18	6	2	14	3	—	37	80	57	2040	1815
41. NORTH AFRICAN UN. MISS. ...																							
42. Algerian Mission	10	413	1		7	8	2	4	15	21	-13	400	2	1	—	4			1	5	13	10	339
43. Moroccan »	4	126	2		8	10	6	—	5	11	-1	125	1	2	—	2			4	9	4	147	95
44. Tunisian »	3	59	6		4	10	—	—	3	3	+7	66	1	1	1	2			3	8	3	57	37
	17	598	9	—	19	28	8	4	23	35	-7	591	7	5	1	10	—	1	12	36	17	543	352
45. PORTUGUESE UNION MISS. ...																							
46. Portuguese Conference	16	841	18	2	15	35			23	23	12	853	2	2	2	11	—	1	13	31	16	724	678
47. Madeira Mission	1	123			1	1			—	—	1	124	1	—						1	3	1	135
48. Azores »	4	73	5		2	7	1		6	7		73	1	2						1	4	4	96
49. Cape Verde »	3	84			—	—			—	—		84	—	3						1	4	3	106
50. St. Thomas »	1	129			—	—			—	—		129	1	—						1	1	—	—
	25	1250	23	2	18	43	1	—	29	30	13	1263	8	9	4	12	—	2	15	50	25	955	877
51. BULGARIAN CONF.	39	1751										1751	9	4		10				23	29	901	718
52. GRECIAN MISS.	5	154	15			15		3		3	12	158	2		3	—				5	5	150	175
53. SPANISH MISS.	10	620	6	1	2	9	—	1	1	2	7	627	4	1	2	5	1	1	2	16	13	700	612
TOTALS	1309	56359	1416	48	308	1772	166	81	333	580	1192	57551	291	100	39	208	72	14	434	1158	1367	59383	49523

broadcast through Radio Hungary. The workers of the Paris studio, under the direction of Ch. Gerber, gave a demonstration of the preparation of a radio program. During these week-end meetings, the «Voix de l'Espérance» quartet furnished a number of songs and hymns which were enjoyed by all present.

In the evening, Dr. J. Nussbaum gave an interesting lecture on the problems of the religious liberty work in the Division.

On Sunday night, W. R. Beach was the speaker at a well-attended public meeting. His subject was the

return of Christ and the evangelization of the world.

The various committees worked hard, and the keynote of all our plans and resolutions during the Council was «Forward, ever forward.» The resolutions have been printed in booklet form in three languages and will be sent to the various fields.

All who attended the Council, which was marked by a spirit of cooperation and harmony, say that it was the best ever. The delegates returned to their fields with new courage and a new resolution to do even better work during this year.

The Conquest of the Gulf of Guinea

By W. R. Beach

President, Southern European Division

The work of Christian missions in the Gulf of Guinea area and its vast hinterland corresponds precisely with the life span of the advent movement. In 1844, Albert Saker left the island of Fernando Po, crossed over to the Cameroun coast, and started work in the Douala area. Since then a number of missionary societies have joined the battle and have pushed the frontiers of mission activity deep into the Equatorial forest, to the south and east, and the immense savanna that stretches east and north to the heart of Africa.

Messengers of the advent faith joined in this great effort in 1928 — first in the south at Nanga-Eboko ; three years later in the north at Dogba, near Maroua. Since then, seven main stations have been developed partially and have become the center of activity on some seventy-five outstations.

Our work has developed regularly through the years and today holds encouraging prospects. During the war period, plans for further development had to be held in abeyance and certain missionary families were unable to return to their stations. Gradually transportation and living conditions have become more normal. Today we have five missionary families in the field. Four additional families will be sailing within the next few months.

These additions to the working staff will enable us to carry out the General Conference decision regarding the development of the work in French West and Equatorial Africa. J. A. de Caenel, formerly the president of the East France Conference, is at present in the field and is taking up his responsibilities as president of the union, with headquarters at Yaoundé, the capital of the Cameroun. At the end of May, K. Scheidegger and family, of the French Publishing House, will leave Europe to become secretary-treasurer of the union. Elder and Mrs. I. Curmatureau are returning to the Sangmélina station, in south Cameroun. At a later date, Elder and Mrs. Paul Bernard, of the North African Union, will be going out. Elder Bernard will serve as educational and Missionary Volunteer secretary of the union.

In addition to these immediate sailings, we have plans to increase further our missionary staff. For several years the need of a central training school has been felt. Definite plans now have been laid to

secure a concession in the Mbalmayo area, 60 kilometers south of Yaoundé, and to build up a strong training center. This will require the addition of a European teacher possessing appropriate scholastic qualifications. He must be chosen and sent out within the next twelve months.

Our leaders in Equatorial Africa are also surveying the vast stretch of unoccupied territories. They feel that they must start work in the Ubangi-Shari, where the day of opportunity is quickly passing. Catholic missions are fast occupying territories that were Protestant strongholds, and Islam is gradually creeping down toward the south. Only the impenetrable equatorial forest seems to be able to check its onward march. The Bayas, perhaps the main tribe of Ubangi-Shari, is rapidly becoming islamized. We have several Baya boys in our school at Batouri. We are counting on them as the nucleus of a working staff when we enter the Ubangi-Shari territory.

In the north Cameroun territory, notable progress has been made through the years. Eighteen years ago, R. Bergstrom and his wife opened a main station at Dogba, 25 kilometers from Maroua, and started work among the savage heathen Kirdis. This Kirdi area has a circumference of only 250 kilometers ; but in these mountains live nearly 700,000 raw heathen people. The pioneer days of this activity were very exacting in sacrifice and devotion. Elder and Sister Bergstrom paid the price and have done a noble work. Today we have 140 baptized believers in the area. We are approaching a yet more fruitful period. Brother and Sister A. Nion joined the pioneers two years ago and have done an excellent work. Their presence at Dogba made it possible for Elder and Mrs. Bergstrom to move further inland. A concession was secured at Coza, right in the center of the Metakam area of the Kirdi tribes. At Coza our missionaries still live in a temporary hut. They are awaiting funds to be able to build up a permanent station. Already several outstations have been opened and these primitive peoples are moving down to the plain at the call of the everlasting gospel. We have a nice group of native teachers and evangelists. Others are preparing for service.

During the six weeks Brother Fridlin and I spent in Equatorial Africa, numerous plans were laid for

developing the work. The main stations must be further equipped, new stations opened, and our school built. First, however, a headquarters building must be erected at Yaoundé. This program will require hard work and considerable funds. We feel sure that the funds will come as the burden of this field is rolled upon the hearts of our churches around the circle.

Our immediate emphasis was on evangelism. The allurements of the world have deprived us of some of our best workers during past years. Others have taken their place or are preparing to do so. We had approximately 100 native teachers and evangelists at our general workers' meeting at Nanga-Eboko. A week was devoted to the study of principles and plans. At the close of this meeting we held a consecration service and invited each worker to fix a goal for himself as to the number of souls he would endeavor, with God's help, to win in 1949. One after the other the workers arose and gave their pledge. The total is 642 baptisms in 1949. After prayer and devotion, these

men left the meeting and started their trek back to their outposts for hard work. We feel confident that the goals will be reached, and, this being the case, a great victory will be won. This victory will open the way to further advance and development.

Following the workers' meeting, P. Bénézech, who has been leading out in the southern mission, organized a full-scale annual meeting. The Sabbath school had more than two thousand in attendance. The high light of the Sabbath morning service was the ordination of A. Cosendai and R. Hirschy to the gospel ministry, and a call to non-Adventists to join the baptismal class. Hundreds came forward, including a chief who had stood out against the mission for years.

Thus the work is onward. Much can and must be done without delay. I invite our world membership to join in prayer and effort with a view to hastening the message to the 23 millions of French West and Equatorial Africa.

With Our Colporteurs in Italy

By G. Ferraro

Publishing Department Secretary, Italian Union Mission

Our Italian colporteurs, like all the colporteurs scattered throughout the world, are proving the press to be the foremost world power. In fact, it exerts a greater authority on the world than that of Alexander the Great, Caesar, or Napoleon at the zenith of their power. The press is «the greatest preacher of our time,» «the cannon of the thought.» What the noted educator Albano Stotz said fifty years ago is being proved true, «Heaven and hell are today fighting each other on paper.»

By means of our press, and with the help of our colporteurs, we are fighting the final battle of good against evil, truth against error, righteousness against unrighteousness. Indeed, our press and our colporteurs are the human instruments in the struggle between Christ and Satan.

We are happy that the year has ended with a gain of more than seven million lire over last year's sales, an increase from 17,000,000 to 24,000,000, although the price of books has not been changed. More than twenty million pages, or two hundred thousand books, representing twenty tons of paper, have been put in circulation. Sales have averaged 7.50 lire per minute, with a group of colporteurs varying in number from a minimum of 50 to a maximum of 76. Some of them are now at our mission school in Florence, while others are attending the seminary at Collonges, France. Twenty-six students earned their scholarships this year.

The souls that have been baptized as a result of our colporteurs' work are our chief delight. One colporteur alone has been instrumental in gaining twenty souls. At Sciacca, Sicily, where two student colporteurs went for the first time some two years ago, a church has been organized this year. Two more churches will soon be organized in Sicily.

This last November I met at Nisceemi, Sicily, a Mr. Crescimone who told me a singular experience. One

day he bought some shoe nails to repair his own shoes, and when he got home he noticed that the sheet of paper in which the nails were wrapped was a page from a religious book. As he was impressed by the first reading, he read it over and over again, till he found out that it was a page of the Bible. He did not even know what the Bible was, but was so thirsty to know the truth that he looked for a Bible everywhere. Finally he found one at a blacksmith's, who lent it to him. Each evening after work he read and read until the middle of the night, so that his wife thought he was losing his mind. But he was becoming a good man and was more and more enthusiastic as he continued reading the word of God. He read it all within six months, and so found the truth for himself! The Sabbath, health reform, the tithe, were to him divine institutions, although he did not know that there were other people who were following these doctrines.

One day later, Brother Angelo Bognandi began to canvass at Nisceemi, and there he met the blacksmith who had lent the Bible to Mr. Crescimone. They had a long talk, in the course of which the blacksmith said that he had received that Bible from the hands of Antonino Bognandi, the father of Angelo Bognandi, many years before. He also added that he had lent the Bible to a certain Crescimone, nicknamed «the prophet,» who was then reading the book eagerly. Brother Bognandi called on Mr. Crescimone, and the scene which followed is difficult to describe. It seemed as if they had always known each other, as they heartily embraced and called each other «brother.» Soon afterward, Mr. Crescimone was baptized, as well as his wife, a son, and ten other persons. Thus the Nisceemi church was organized in one day, May 23, 1948, as a direct result of our colporteur work.

Our colporteurs often sell literature to priests, in churches and cloisters. Sometimes they have to strug-

gle with the enemies of the truth or are forced to flee at once because of the alarm raised by the priests.

Because of the work of our colporteurs, Adventists are now well known in Italy. Our movement is held in esteem even by eminent Catholics, who recognize the merit of our literature and the nobility of the work done by our colporteurs.

Sister Germana Rovati, a seventeen-year-old student, was canvassing at Milan. As she was talking with a woman, a priest came and began to ask our sister several questions. At last he said, «So you are an Adventist, one of those people who recently had their annual convention at Florence, about whom the newspapers and the radio have told us?» As our sister answered in the affirmative, the priest concluded, «I have always wanted to meet an Adventist, and now I am truly happy.»

One of our student colporteurs found himself this last summer in an aristocratic house, in the presence of Bishop X, a man well known in the city. At first the colporteur felt rather ill at ease, but after he had offered a silent prayer, he took courage, greeted Bishop X, and shook his hand. Then he showed our book *Vivere*. On seeing the name of the publishing house, Bishop X said he was reading one of our books, *Christ Our Saviour*, by Mrs. E. G. White, and that he was very much interested in it. The prelate then invited our colporteur to show him more books, if he had any; so our colporteur showed him all the books he had in his bag, and the bishop bought a copy of each. His parting words, as he affectionately embraced our colporteur, were, «Dear friend, continue your work; bring these good books to all the people, and certainly God will help and bless you.»

Sister Turra's experience has been very peculiar. Finding herself in a section where the people seemed hostile to priests and religion, she decided to visit the parish priest in order to report the fact. The priest bought a copy of *Steps to Christ* and one of *Toward a New World*, by W. A. Spicer, although he knew the literature and the colporteur to be Protestant. Finally he said, «Go out and do what you can in this community, and see if you can convert some of these people.»

One day Sister Toscanelli knocked at the door of a woman who was in a hurry to go out, but at once changed her mind when Sister Toscanelli took *Steps to Christ* out of her bag. The woman invited her to come in, and before our sister had time to show her the book, she said, «I have read this book several times during the war, and it has been of great encouragement to me. I highly prize the author of this book and should like to have more books by this pious Christian woman, truly inspired by God; I am convinced the truth is in these books.»

Recently a man came to my office who had read *Our Day in the Light of Prophecy* by W. A. Spicer, in the Italian edition, several years ago. As this book was out of print and he could not find it anywhere, he borrowed a copy from someone and copied the whole book by hand into two volumes which are now in the possession of W. R. Beach, president of our Southern European Division. This man is now attending our lectures regularly and is persuaded that the Adventist people have the truth. We are praying that he may accept the last message very soon.

Statistical Summary of the Southern European Division for the Year 1948

Name of Conference or Mission	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1. SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV.																								
2. Austrian Union Conference	33	2122	296	20	216	532	36	25	203	264	268	2390.	15	2	6	22	2	2	9	36	45	31	2479	1827
3. Czechoslovakian Union Conf.	114	4207	826	44	210	1080	59	30	177	266	914	5021	34	5	3	4	9	13	104	165	151	5389	4458	1740
4. Franco-Belgian »	70	3141	288	44	128	458	93	32	122	247	211	3352	31	20	3	23	7	2	133	219	57	2119	1740	4761
5. Hungarian »	145	4456	1210	65	123	1398	168	67	137	372	1026	5482	25	17	4	13	25	—	84	168	145	5940	4761	4000
6. Jugoslavian »	157	5279	500	—	—	500	30	10	10	50	450	5729	12	5	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	30	177	6000
7. Rumanian »	551	21500	4730	—	—	4730	700	530	—	1230	3500	25000	78	11	7	11	—	—	—	—	136	560	27720	25000
8. Swiss »	56	2988	145	10	117	272	48	52	112	212	60	3048	23	7	9	11	—	—	3	32	86	54	2417	1629
9. Indian Ocean Union Mission	44	1608	39	3	11	53	9	11	12	32	21	1629	10	5	2	15	20	5	37	63	46	2030	1559	1815
10. Italian »	43	1386	179	11	161	351	34	17	176	227	124	1510	18	6	2	14	3	—	—	—	—	57	2040	352
11. North African »	17	531	75	5	41	121	18	7	36	61	60	591	7	5	1	10	—	—	1	12	36	17	543	877
12. Portuguese »	25	1143	171	6	79	256	17	16	103	136	120	1263	8	9	4	12	—	—	2	15	50	25	955	877
13. Bulgarian Conference	39	1751	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1751	9	4	—	10	—	—	—	—	23	29	901	718
14. Grecian Mission	5	146	15	—	—	15	—	—	—	3	12	158	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	150	175
15. Spanish »	10	572	58	4	3	65	4	5	1	10	55	627	4	1	2	5	1	1	2	16	13	700	612	48743
Totals for the year 1948 :	1309	50830	8532	212	1087	9631	1216	805	1089	3110	6721	57551	291	100	39	208	72	14	434	1158	1367	59383	49523	64984
Totals for the year 1947 :	1275	46148	7661	244	1274	9179	2914	365	1218	4497	4682	50830	272	76	24	242	93	13	323	1043	1342	64984	48743	

**Report of the Publishing Department of the Southern European Division
For the Year 1948**

	Average Number of Colporteurs	Number of Hours	Val of Books in Dollars	Value of Periodicals in Dollars		Grand Total Value of Sales Local Currency	Grand Totals in Dollars
AUSTRIAN U.C.							
Alpine Conf.	2	569			Sch.	10,959,—	1,095,90
Danube Conf.	10	2,880			Sch.	31,475,—	3,147,50
	12	3,449	4,177,80	65,60	Sch.	42,434,—	4,243,40
MISCELLANEOUS I							
	118	25,666	38,716,70		Sch.	1,935,832,50	38,716,70
FRANCO-BELGIAN U.C.							
Belgian Conf.	11	8,027			FFr.	3,802,251,—	12,996,72
East France Conf.	16	12,434			FFr.	5,313,636,—	19,004,62
North France Conf.	39	30,639			FFr.	12,316,089,—	43,861,40
South France Conf.	51	29,088			FFr.	14,391,838,—	50,444,56
	117	80,188	58,858,48	67,448,82	FFr.	35,823,815,—	126,307,30
HUNGARIAN U.C.							
Central Hung. Conf.	30	39,775			Ft.	310,473,70	27,817,95
East Hung. Conf.	33	41,204			Ft.	304,872,50	27,338,74
West Hung. Conf.	24	33,109			Ft.	262,030,90	23,466,66
	87	114,088	48,886,84	29,736,51	Ft.	877,377,10	78,623,35
JUGOSLAVIAN U.C.							
RUMANIAN U.C.							
SWISS U.C.							
German Swiss Conf.	24	37,304			SFr.	228,681,—	53,739,71
Leman Conf.	15	20,230			SFr.	178,428,65	41,930,74
	39	57,534	57,659,56	38,010,89	SFr.	407,109,65	95,670,45
INDIAN OCEAN U.M.							
Madagascar Miss.	2	—			FC.	15,670,—	125,35
Mauritius Miss.	4	40			FC.	24,444,—	195,55
	6	40	115,05	205,85	FC.	40,114,—	320,90
ITALIAN U.M.							
Central Italian Miss.	13	14,356			Lire	8,013,678,—	14,203,33
North Italian Miss.	19	17,506			Lire	9,778,279,—	17,368,84
South Italian Miss.	17	19,288			Lire	5,901,378,—	10,497,52
	49	51,150	42,069,74	—	Lire	23,693,365,—	42,069,74
NORTH AFRICAN U.M.							
Algerian Miss.	9	10,532			FFr.	4,255,680,—	14,881,75
Moroccan Miss.	4	4,445			FFr.	2,219,049,—	7,686,39
Tunisian Miss.	3	2,554			FFr.	922,515,—	3,366,20
	16	17,531	11,502,26	14,432,07	FFr.	7,397,244,—	25,934,33
PORTUGUESE U.M.							
	9	6,929	3,284,33	2,539,50	Esc.	137,732,80	5,823,83
BULGARIAN CONF.							
GRECIAN MISS.							
SPANISH MISS.							
	24	21,564	59,263,23	—		634,712,—	59,263,23

RECAPITULATION

Austrian U.C.	12	3,449	4,177,80	65,60			4,243,40
Miscellaneous I	118	25,666	38,716,70	—			38,716,70
Franco-Belgian U.C.	117	80,188	58,858,48	67,448,82			126,307,30
Hungarian U.C.	87	114,088	48,886,84	29,736,51			78,623,35
Jugoslavian U.C.							
Rumanian U.C.							
Swiss U.C.	39	57,534	57,659,56	38,010,89			95,670,45
Indian Ocean U.M.	6	40	115,05	205,85			320,90
Italian U.M.	49	51,150	42,069,74	—			42,069,74
North African U. M.	16	17,531	11,502,26	14,432,07			25,934,33
Portuguese U.M.	9	6,929	3,284,33	2,539,50			5,823,83
Bulgarian Conf.							
Greecian Miss.	24	21,564	59,263,23	—			59,263,23
Spanish Miss.							
TOTALS	477	377,139	324,533,99	152,439,24			476,973,23

Sister Viti, of Trieste, met in Gorizia a Belgian man whose sister is a Seventh-day Adventist. Before he left Belgium, his sister had told him, «I will be praying for you. The Adventists will follow you everywhere you go!» And, sure enough, at Rome some colporteurs knocked at his door, but he bought nothing. However, at Gorizia he said to Sister Viti, «I can do nothing else but buy your book, but you must tell me what I must do.» This man is now receiving Bible studies from our pastor at Trieste.

Some time ago one of our colporteurs informed me that a Catholic magazine was reporting some interesting news about our book *Vivere* (Living) by Maurice Tièche. I therefore began to look for the magazine, entitled *Reading*. In this critical monthly review, the Catholics recommend or forbid the reading of any book put in circulation. At last, while at Milan, I visited the offices of this magazine and was able to get some copies of it from the hands of a priest. And here is what they have written about our book *Vivere*:

«Even the small world of Italian Protestantism seems to show its willingness to bring a contribution to the spiritual reconstruction of the country, in the form of this attractive volume. And in doing so, it has wisely chosen the fundamental way, which is that

of the re-education of the intellectual powers, of habits, and of human attitudes in relation to life's various tasks...

«So far as human pedagogy is concerned, we can only add our approbation to the author's counsel, as useful and wise as it is good-natured and well-balanced...

«Goodness is revealed even in the charming pleasantness of the style as well as by the truly Christian optimism of the conception; both are greatly needed today.»

We could hardly wish for a more favorable review and better words about our books, the more so as we consider the fact that they are written by a Catholic pen.

We thank God for the throng of colporteurs who go along Italy's roads to sell our inspired and truth-filled literature. We are happy for the fruits which are being gathered by our colporteurs, happy for the seed which is being sown in abundance and is preparing the harvest to be reaped when the work of God shall be accomplished in Italy. May the Lord bless our colporteurs the world over; may He also bless the literature which is distributed with so much hardship and sacrifice, so that the message may be proclaimed to hasten Jesus' second coming.

Report of the Missionary Volunteer Department of the Southern European Division
For the Year 1948

	Austrian Conf.	Czechoslovakia U. C.	Franco-Belgian U. C.	Hungarian U. C.	Jugoslavian U. C.	Rumanian U. C.	Swiss U. C.	Indian Ocean U. M.	Italian U. M.	North African U. M.	Portuguese U. M.	Albanian M.	Bulgarian M.	Grecian M.	Spanish M.	Yearly Average and Totals 1948
Number of societies	22	75	39	62	75	300	22	16	30	6	17	—	—	3	7	674
Number of societies reporting	17	—	24	60	—	—	16	—	27	4	17	—	—	—	5	170
Total membership (all classes)	382	1700	589	1547	1500	11000	425	363	557	116	860	—	—	50	257	19346
Number reporting	139	—	100	639	—	—	95	—	328	—	235	—	—	—	—	1536
Total of Senior and Junior young people baptized, regardless of who labored for them	66	35	55	243	—	—	29	—	33	—	32	—	—	—	50	543
Number baptized whom young peo- ple had a part in winning	39	15	14	118	—	—	2	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	20	215
Number belonging to missionary bands	24	—	148	—	—	—	71	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	99	347
REPORT OF MISSIONARY WORK :																
Number of Bible readings or gospel meetings held	1876	3000	1025	8392	—	—	290	647	7361	702	12386	—	—	—	831	36510
Number of missionary contacts	1854	250	1653	7744	—	—	923	1111	4159	623	22100	—	—	—	80	40507
Number of persons helped	2054	70	1057	460	—	—	620	493	1778	686	4266	—	—	—	157	11641
Literature distributed	6406	5000	36401	11515	—	—	18548	452	19912	2676	70552	—	—	—	1100	172562
DEVOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL:																
Number observing the Morning Watch	198	—	188	679	—	—	119	—	205	84	242	—	—	—	112	1827
Number completing Bible Year and Character Classics	54	—	90	—	—	—	37	—	116	52	128	—	—	—	136	613
Number taking Reading Course ..	21	—	68	15	—	—	71	—	—	—	34	—	—	—	19	228
FINANCIAL :																
Offerings local society work ... \$	627,20	180,—	96,84	1200,73	—	—	125,65	3,27	59,72	—	139,82	—	—	—	87,80	2521,03
Harvest Ingathering	\$ 351,29	700,—	2979,26	63,63	—	—	3548,78	—	1391,08	—	742,04	—	—	—	—	10276,08
Offerings special projects	\$ 156,28	—	1,51	696,15	—	—	381,31	—	—	—	181,48	—	—	—	—	1416,73

**Report of the Home Missionary Department of the Southern European Division
For the Year 1948**

	Austrian U. C.	Czechoslovakia U. C.	Franco-Belgian U. C.	Hungarian U. C.	Jugoslavian U. C.	Rumanian U. C.	Swiss U. C.	Indian Ocean U. M.	Italian U. M.	North African U. M.	Portuguese U. M.	Bulgarian Conf.	Grecian Mission	Spanish Mission	Totals
No. added to the union membership since last report as the result of missionary work of lay members	224	50	42	721	—	—	74	10	142	—	—	—	—	—	1263
Total church membership in union	2390	5021	3352	5482	5729	25000	3048	1629	1510	591	1263	1751	158	627	57551
No. of persons reporting missionary work	901	2550	204	3276	—	—	645	607	936	182	—	—	—	106	9407
No. of churches and companies reporting	33	114	70	145	157	551	56	44	43	17	25	39	5	10	1309
No. holding first Sabbath missionary service	30	105	16	122	—	—	51	24	39	12	—	—	—	6	405
No. holding weekly missionary service	29	103	10	225	—	—	42	16	39	11	—	—	—	8	383
No. of churches conducting training classes	24	102	4	35	—	—	37	—	39	11	—	—	—	8	260
No. churches with one or more service companies in operation	13	30	2	3	—	—	4	—	25	—	—	—	—	8	85
No. institutes, rallies and conventions held	29	102	11	159	—	—	48	—	26	3	—	—	—	8	386
	17	5	—	12	—	—	6	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	50
REPORT OF MISSIONARY WORK :															
Bible readings and gospel meetings conducted	15309	13500	2675	99955	—	—	6382	4019	28989	5627	—	—	—	2439	178395
Missionary contacts	15129	4840	4615	104205	—	—	10590	4103	16672	4797	—	—	—	4460	169411
Pieces missionary literature distributed	47289	7060	75954	59764	—	—	99722	2324	32161	18051	—	—	—	1306	343631
Number persons helped	10161	5000	2276	2855	—	—	7880	2850	10526	3447	—	—	—	1332	46327
Enrolments Bible Schools	91	—	—	—	—	—	1821	—	180	—	—	—	—	—	2092

A Willing People

By F. Charpiot

Home Missionary Secretary, Southern European Division

« Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners? » Song of Solomon 6 : 10.

In these words King Solomon describes the bride of the Master, the church. When the Bridegroom appears to take the bride home, she will be adorned in the beauty of holiness, « fair as the moon, clear as the sun. » But she will also be « terrible as an army with banners. » She will be clad with the whole armor of God, fighting mightily the battles of the Lord.

The Spirit of prophecy describes the last conflict between the forces of the world and the faithful children of God holding aloft the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel and planting it on the fortresses held by the enemy. Today God is calling and gathering His people for the finishing of the work. He has outlined for us a wonderful program : « The whole church is to give the whole message to the whole world in this generation. » All the activities, energies, and resources of the advent people are combined to achieve this mighty end.

The Home Missionary Department is playing an ever-increasing part in mobilizing and training the church members for their God-given task of proclaiming the last message and gathering thousands of souls for the kingdom.

This noble enterprise is well worth our efforts. It is bringing wonderful returns. In fact, the results are so far-reaching that it is not easy to grasp their real value. An ever-increasing number of millions in almost every currency of the world is flowing each year into the treasury as a result of our great missionary campaigns, Harvest Ingathering and Big Week, and also the gathering of funds for welfare purposes. Thousands of our members are developing the ability of meeting people successfully for this purpose. Thus institutions are built up, a vast army of missionaries and other workers is sent out and provided for, the influence of which eternity alone will reveal.

Last year a small Italian boy of about ten years raised all alone thirty thousand lire for missions.

The Paris church has been doing remarkably well in the Harvest Ingathering campaign. This success is due to the willingness of the members under the direction of E. Guérin, the enthusiastic missionary leader, still tirelessly active in spite of his seventy years of age. He is a specialist in gathering funds. In 1945 Brother Guérin suggested that the church double its Ingathering goal, making it 300,000 francs. This is how he put his proposition : « My goal this year will be 150,000 francs. Will you raise the same amount? » The church of course agreed, and that year nearly half a million francs were collected. The



Two girls, 15 and 17 years of age, who have raised up a church in Hungary.

following year, Brother Guérin alone raised 300,000 francs. Last year the Paris church had a goal of one million francs for Harvest Ingathering. A faithful sister, who has already brought several souls into the message, gathered as her share 100,000 francs. This represents a tremendous effort when one considers that this sum comes mostly in donations of less than 100 francs each.

Yet the financial program is really only a sideline of the missionary activities of the church of God. The one great aim is the salvation of souls. We rejoice as we see how God is using the faithful efforts of the lay members to proclaim this message and win souls to the truth through the distribution of literature, missionary visits, Bible studies, lay preaching, and in many other ways.

We think of a faithful brother in Sicily who each week prepares a written Bible study to be placed on the counter of his drugstore. He invites people to read while waiting for their prescriptions. He has already won several persons in this way.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending a district meeting of 500 people in Bekesczaba, Hungary. On inquiring about lay preachers, I was much inspired to see 66 members, actively engaged in this work, stand to their feet, most of whom have already brought souls to the truth. Two had a record of 25 converts each; three had won twenty each; eight had won at least ten, and eight others at least five. Others had less. Eleven of these lay preachers had new mem-

bers ready for baptism for the first quarter of this year. Twelve others had prepared persons for baptism during the second quarter. Each conference in the Hungarian Union has a fine group of well-trained lay preachers and lay Bible workers holding efforts and giving Bible studies. No wonder the Hungarian Union, in spite of a shortage of workers and many difficulties, baptized nearly 1,300 people in 1948. God is using women as well as men. The young people are especially active.

Two young girls, fifteen and seventeen years of age, were the first to accept the message in their village. They felt a burden to give the truth to others and won their own mother. They found a little hall, and, all alone, invited the people and held meetings with an audience of sixty to seventy persons. A good church is now organized in this place as a result of their work, and new members are added regularly.

We rejoice over the birth and the growth of the youngest child of the Home Missionary Department, the Bible Correspondence Course. Thousands are studying the message in several languages through this means. The number of students increases constantly, and souls are being won. As I write these lines, a letter from S. Agnello, who has charge of the Bible Correspondence Course in Italy, brings the good news that three more enrollees have just been baptized.

Yes, God has a willing people, through which He is going to bring His work to a triumphant close. As we gather at the glad feast, the marriage supper of the Lamb, and contemplate the bride in her glorious beauty, we shall wonder and rejoice as we count the results of the never-ending waves of influence that have been set in motion by the missionary activities of our faithful laity, and our hearts will break forth in a new anthem of praise to the Great Master of the harvest.

Message to the Churches

Continued from page 1

and confident of the complete fulfillment of God's promises to His children, we extend to all our brethren and sisters in the faith our deep fraternal affection, and entreat for them the rich blessing of God.

W. R. Beach, President.
M. Fridlin, Secretary.

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