

QUARTERLY REVIEW

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



Evangelistic Preaching

By R. M. Whitsett

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The biggest word in the minister's vocabulary is evangelism. Evangelism is fitting the gospel to the hunger of the human heart. We do not lecture for God: we speak in God's place. The greatest opportunity in the world is given to the gospel preacher. In *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 122, we read that « Christ's ministers... are appointed to act in His stead. » In the place of Jesus, we carry a message to the world.

Evangelism is living, flaming truth. It is dynamic. It changes a man's heart completely.

Preaching has a high place in the word of God, and nothing in history can compare with it as a constructive force. But preachers are not born; they are made. It is not necessarily something we acquire by study. It comes by a divine call. The true minister for God is never self-called. The initiative comes from above. « No man taketh this honor unto himself, » said Paul, « but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. » Heb. 5: 4. Elsewhere the apostle described very definitely his call to the ministry:

« And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry. » 1 Tim. 1: 12.

The preacher who is called by God and or-

daind of the Holy Spirit, who is consecrated in heart and bears a scriptural message, is the greatest man in the world today. Among all the leaders of civilization, he occupies the highest place. Without him and his message, the world would go back to savagery and death.

Preaching is the greatest science and the greatest art. Not long ago I was sitting in the office of one of the world's great surgeons. We had been in the operating room for several hours. I had watched his skilful fingers perform many acts of surgery. There was one case that was particularly difficult, and we came down to his office to talk about it. I praised his skill, calling it miraculous. This he resented. He said, « There are no miracles in that sort of skill. It is true that God performs a miracle in healing, but I studied for many years to acquire that skill. It is in your profession that miracles are performed. Preaching is the greatest science, and changing the human heart is the greatest miracle in the world. »

It is also the greatest art. Painters take a brush, palette, and canvas and give us a picture. We preachers do the same with words. We try to make Jesus a living personality to all who hear our message. But we cannot make Him a living personality unless we know Him as a personal Saviour. Preaching is the outflowing of a life. When

people hear us speak, they see Jesus as a man of real dynamic force, a strong figure who walked up and down Galilee 1900 years ago with an appealing message. « Never man spake like this Man. »

The Jesus that I know appeals to the real man. I can almost see the sun shining on His wavy hair, His arms and face bronzed by the sun. He was a man of the outdoors. When they would have thrown Him over a cliff one day, He walked right through the center of the crowd. No man dared lay a hand on Him. He was a strong man. His hands were used to the feel of carpenter's tools. They could grip a hammer and saw and chisel very well. He could pick up a table and throw it out of the temple. And yet He could speak to a poor woman crying in the streets. He could say, « Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. » That is Jesus. Let us paint pictures of Him with words, for preaching is truly the greatest art in the world.

Preaching is more than teaching. Teaching is important, and the teaching ministry is one part of the ministry. But evangelistic preaching is greater. A teacher has a textbook and a course of study to follow. If the student does not learn his lesson today, he may learn it tomorrow. He may have three or four or six months to complete the course. It is not that way with preaching. It is always, « NOW is the day of salvation. » Cease from sinning NOW; accept Christ NOW. Before the hearer leaves the room, he must make a decision.

How can a preacher have power to do this? The secret is found in the heavenly unction of the Holy Spirit. The preacher gets his authority from Jesus Christ, his message from the word of God, and his power from the Holy Spirit. His message will be powerful in direct proportion to his belief in that power.

Oh, how wonderful to be connected with God's work for this day! The ministry is a high and holy calling, and to labor in earth's last hour is the greatest privilege in all history.

Now, how are we going to save lost men in the Southern European Division? I have seen much to impress me already, but there is so much more to do. The population of this country is so great, and our members so few. The same is true elsewhere in the field. At times it may seem an impossible task, but not with a consecrated group of men. If we recognize that our primary purpose is to preach to lost souls, not only to serve as administrators of the word, then we are equal to the task. In the eyes of the world this may seem a very small and insignificant group, but in God's sight we are well able to do the task.

But there is a danger that confronts us: the danger that we may dwell too much upon our administrative duties and allow them to occupy too much of our time, while millions are being lost every day.

I have studied carefully your organization in this field. It is a strong organization. But I do appeal that every one of you who are leaders in the work will be a leader in evangelism as well as in administrative work. A leader is a man who knows how to go out ahead and do the work himself. That does not mean that he will spend his full time at evangelism, but it does mean that every man around him will be inspired by his ministry. We need business men and

institutional heads in our work, but they should have in their hearts a passion for lost souls.

Our ministry is divinely appointed. We elect men to office, but we elect only those men that are appointed of God. You read *Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 52 and 53, and you will see the program that God has given for the leadership of the church.

The greatest undertaking in the world is to lead lost men to Christ. To create this world, God had only to speak a word, but to redeem men from sin He had to give the greatest possession of heaven. It cost God more and requires more from men than anything else in history. And into this saving work He has called us. It requires everything that we have in our life, all our energy, our strength, our perspiration, our tears and blood and life.

But do not think that the ministry is only hard work. It has shining and glorious rewards as well. Success is found not only in the addition of members, but rather in multiplication as they bring others to Christ. And Daniel said that « they that turn many to righteousness » shall shine « as the stars for ever and ever. »

I am going to suggest five things that will help us to become better soul winners. The essential thing is not with preaching itself, but with the preacher. It is no trouble to preach; nearly anyone can get up and talk to people. But it is very difficult to make a real preacher, because preaching is the outburst of the soul in speech. He must really have something to say.

1. **Love for Jesus Christ.** You remember that a lawyer came to Jesus and asked Him, « Which is the great commandment of the law? » Christ's answer was, « Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. » Matt. 22: 37. The first essential in soul winning is a love for Jesus Christ. We cannot lead others to Christ unless we know Him by personal experience. Unless we know what repentance, forgiveness, and conversion are, we cannot talk about them to others. That is why Paul says, « I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him. »

And we should be separated completely from the world. Indulgence in worldly pleasure is suicide to our power. The harboring of secret sins in our life will paralyze our work. We must be clean if we are to bear the vessels of the Lord. Who is sufficient for this great and holy calling?

2. **Love for people.** Jesus answered the lawyer, « The second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. » Unless we love people and love to associate with them and talk with them, we cannot win them to Christ. Paul had unceasing heaviness of heart for the unsaved. Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem and longed to gather it as a hen gathers her chickens. The tenth chapter of John tells of the Shepherd's love for His sheep. We must love people. We must enjoy associating with them. If, on the contrary, we love the ascetic, solitary life, we can never be successful evangelists. If we do not have this love for people, then let us pray to God to lay the burden on our hearts, and He will do it to such a degree that we will never be able to get over it.

I see all these people in the city of Paris, and the few Adventists in this great capital of the world.

There are people all around us, We should be talking to them about their souls. I like to pick out a man in a crowd and ask him, «Are you a Christian?» You can have some wonderful conversations that begin just that way. In the barber shop, at the grocery store, in the pharmacy, we should be talking to people.

I confess that there is a certain technique that is successful. In the first five sentences, you must agree with the person. You must arrive at a common denominator in which he is interested. And if you can agree with that person on four or five propositions, you will be able to get him to agree with you on four or five propositions.

I was riding on a crowded train a few weeks ago, when a man came hurrying into the car and sat down beside me. He made himself comfortable, reached into his pocket, pulled out a flask, and poured himself a drink. He started to drink it, but then he looked at me and thought that he should be courteous, so he offered me a drink. I refused, saying that I did not drink. He looked at me as though he thought I were crazy, but he went ahead and took his drink. Then he said, «I suppose you don't like me because I have this bad habit.»

I said, «On the contrary, I do like you.»

«Well, what do you like about me?»

I said, «I see that you are generous; you think of others before you think of yourself. You must have other good qualities.» And that led to a number of propositions on which I could agree with him.

Then he asked me what I thought about drinking. I discovered that he was losing his wife because of drunkenness, and that his children no longer loved him. In a little while we both agreed that he should stop drinking. So he went into the lavatory and poured the rest of his liquor down the drain, and we prayed together that the Lord would give him victory over that habit.

Coming over to Europe from New York, I sat down by the vice-president of the International Telephone Company. I noticed that he did not drink and did not smoke. He asked what kind of work I was doing. He said he had never liked Adventists. He had a nephew who had married an Adventist, and he thought it was the craziest religion he had ever heard of. So I began to answer his questions about religion. You may be sure that first of all I complimented him on the great work that the telephone company was doing. And when he was feeling good about it, I talked to him about religion. As I explained one point, he said «Well, that makes sense,» and the second point, «I believe that,» and at the third point, «Now I see why Adventists keep Saturday.» And at about the tenth point, he said; «That is the best religion I ever heard of.» I had a wonderful time. He shook hands about ten times before we parted.

We need to talk to people. There are a lot of folks just like him up and down these streets all around this church. Lead our people out to meet them, and we will baptize more.

3. An expert knowledge of the Scriptures. The Bible is the sword of the Spirit. One text of Scripture is worth ten thousand ordinary words. It is impossible to win a man to Christ by arguing; there is no line of logic that in itself will get decisions. But God's word speaks with power. One quotation of Scripture

will bring more decisions than an hour of ordinary talk. I am of course talking about that section of the world where people know the Bible. If they do not, our first job is to bring the Bible to them.

Many of you knew Elder F. C. Gilbert. He was an expert in the Scriptures. When I was just a boy and he was visiting our camp meeting, I asked, «Elder Gilbert, do you know the whole Bible by heart?»

He looked down at me and said, «Well, son, I don't think I do, but I will play a game with you. For every text that you quote, I will give the verse before it and the one after it.»

I took him up on it. After all, I could recite all the memory verses! I thought I was going to win easily. But he never failed once. For two hours we played the game. I had two boys checking up on us, and we had to stop him, for he would go on and quote the whole chapter. He was a giant in the Scriptures. Preachers need to be giants in the Scriptures.

4. Prayer. Successful soul winning must be accompanied by prayer at every step along the way. Pentecosts do not come to prayerless preachers. The gift of the Holy Spirit is never given without prayer. The most impressive thing about the ministry of Christ is His prayer life. With prayer, weaklings are made conquerors; without it, giants are reduced to pygmy stature. «The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.» One of the best texts in the Bible is Mark 11: 24: «What things soever you desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.»

I was visiting in the home of a man and wife one day. I knew that the husband was keeping the Sabbath. He had arranged to close his business from Friday night sundown to Saturday night sundown. I took for granted that the wife was ready to be baptized too, so I went, to remind them that there would be a baptismal service two weeks hence, and I was shocked to discover that she was wearing all her jewelry. She had not worn it to the church service. She knew I was coming, and she had it all on, just waiting for me. She said, «Brother Whitsett, I have become convinced that you don't have to take off your jewelry to be a Christian. I want to be baptized with my husband, but I don't want to take off my jewelry.»

So I read the texts; I have about fourteen of them written in the margin of my Bible, and I read them all. She still said No. I suggested then that we pray about it and ask the Lord to impress her what she should do.

«No,» she said, «I don't want to pray about it. I am already convinced; it isn't necessary to pray.»

«Oh, yes,» I said, «it is. We will pray now.»

«No,» she said, «I don't want to.»

Well, then I knew that we would. So I knelt, and just as I started to kneel, I said to the brother, «You pray first.» She finally knelt down with us. The brother prayed, and I prayed. I asked the Lord to make it very clear to her what He wanted her to do.

When we got up from our knees, there was no jewelry in sight. I don't know what she did with it, but it was gone from her wrists, her neck, and her ears. She was wiping away tears, and she said, «Brother Whitsett, I knew all the time it was wrong, but I

Tangier: Gateway to Morocco

By A. Meyer

Ministerial Association Secretary, Southern European Division

On the African coast, just opposite Spain, at the narrowest point of the Strait of Gibraltar, lies the city of Tangier. Built in the form of an amphitheater, it extends from the port as far as the Marshan plateau and continues toward the mountain, overlooking both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Its geographical position, together with its special international status, makes Tangier one of the world's foremost listening posts. There is no army of occupation, nor fortifications of any kind. Order is maintained by an international police force.

One of the first things which strikes the newly arrived visitor is the extraordinary animation which prevails. The « Grand Socco » (market place) and adjacent streets are typical of the Orient. The Arabs, dressed in their « djellabas, » gesticulate freely as they argue — or, on the other hand, wait placidly for Allah to send them a customer. The little boot-blacks, who can make your shoes shine « comme la glace du Paris, mes amis, » keep their eyes on your feet, awaiting a gesture of permission. Resigned native women pass with their heavy loads. Little donkeys, with steady, laborious trot, transport loads larger than themselves to every part of the city, with remarkable adroitness. What would the Arab do without his donkey? Everything imaginable is bought and sold — not of course without long discussion and much haggling over prices! Time is worth so little, and why do today what can be put off till tomorrow? In this respect, the Arab's philosophy is singularly uncomplicated.

The European section, with its luxurious buildings and well-marked streets, resembles some American cities; vacant lots adjoin magnificent, ultra-modern edifices.

Tangier has had a considerable boom since the war. Capital has flowed in from everywhere, speculation has had free rein, and real estate prices have

soared, making rents extremely high. The present population is estimated at 200,000, of whom almost half are native Moroccans, the Jews forming the second largest group. Among the Europeans, the Spaniards are by far the most numerous. Then come the French, Portuguese, Belgians, English, Americans, Italians, Swiss, Scandinavians, Maltese, etc. — in short, a real tower of Babel!

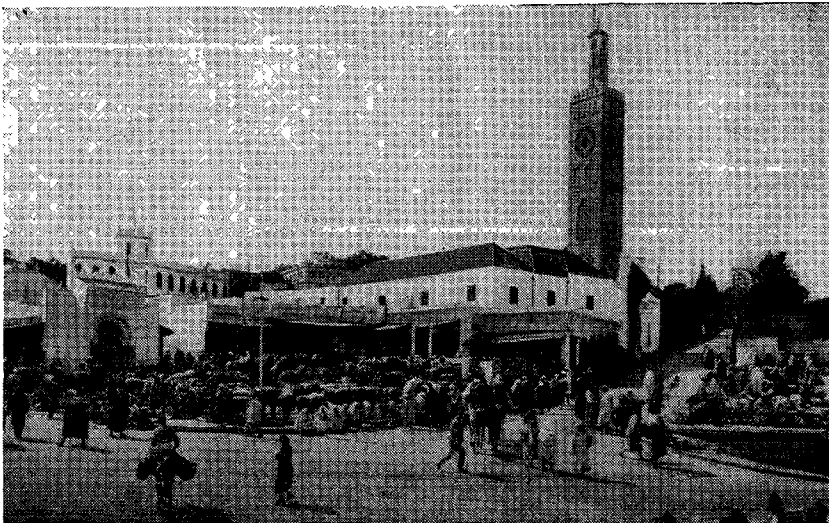
Tangier and the international zone which surrounds it for a distance of twenty kilometers are administered by a council, on which most of the nations mentioned above are represented.

Industry, except for building, is limited. Banking is the principal business, and there are at least a hundred banks — some luxuriously installed in modern buildings, others in the simplest of rented quarters. In addition there are the innumerable booths in the public market, consisting of a counter with one or two drawers for bills and coins, with perhaps a small adding machine for effect! With this, they have all they need for dealing in most of the currencies of the world; for the money market is absolutely free in Tangier. With the sale of lottery tickets, for which drawings are held weekly, this traffic constitutes the principal occupation of a large part of the population. One might include smuggling, which is carried on by land and sea, despite the vigilance of the authorities.

The climate of Tangier, its sunshine and blue sky, no doubt attract many tourists in search of easy money, but there are numerous disappointments, for a slump is beginning to be felt. The number of late-model American cars suggests an exceptional prosperity, but this is largely artificial. Behind the beautiful façade, material and moral misery as well as spiritual death are cruelly felt. Religion is relegated to the background, notwithstanding the mosques, synagogues, and Catholic churches. The French-speaking Protestants hold their services in a small room at the back of a garage.

On the other hand, the hospitals and dispensaries of the various nationalities are numerous and well equipped. The treatment is generally free, for the countries under which Tangier is administered vie with each other in their medical institutions, as well as in their radio stations. The Americans have just built one of the largest transmitters in the world, whose broadcasts will be beamed to the countries behind the Iron Curtain.

Our message was introduced in Tangier almost twenty-five years ago by Brother and Sister J. Reynaud, later succeeded by D. Asiano. Services were held at that time in a private house. Then the few members either died or moved away, and the flame died out.



The « grand Socco » with mosque in the background.

About three years ago the doctors Isidre and Hermine Aguilar settled in Tangier, at the invitation of the Division. Immediately, animated by a fine spirit of self-sacrifice, they began medical work with extremely limited means which their fine missionary zeal only partially supplemented. They did not become discouraged, however, for they had faith in God.

A year later Brother and Sister A. Sanchez joined them for evangelistic work. Public meetings, however were not then permitted. In the meantime, a legal association, «La Voz del Hogar» (The Voice of the Home), was constituted and recognized by the administration of the zone, after much negotiation and delay. Thus was laid the first stone in the edifice of our work in Tangier, where my wife and I arrived at the end of September, 1952.

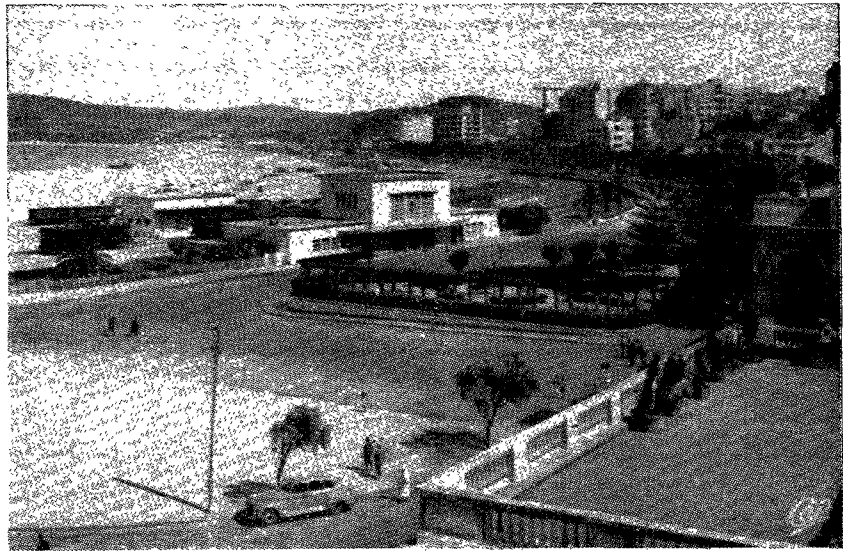
Brother Sanchez and I at once began preparations for a series of public meetings. There was only one hall available, a former hotel lounge which had been converted into a center for American sailors and tourists — the «American Services Center.» The proprietor was willing to rent it to us on favorable terms, knowing the object of the meetings.

We were very cordially received by the director of «Radio International,» who agreed to announce the meetings without charge on the noon and evening broadcasts. The newspapers in turn gave us special rates, and the owner of the largest moving picture theater in the city offered of his own accord to insert our advertisement in his programs. He himself announced the first lecture during the intermission between showings. For our part, we had special prayer together for the success of the effort, for there were all sorts of reasons why we must act with great prudence.

Sunday evening at the hour appointed we were at the hall. What would be the response of the Tangier public, so unaccustomed to public lectures of this kind? God had answered our prayers. We were pleasantly surprised to see a large number of people present, even before the time for the lecture to begin. True, we had no choir, no film, not even a church whose members might have supported us by their presence. We were starting from rock bottom. A screen and curtain partially concealed the bar with its rows on rows of bottles. And we were to speak of the laws of health and temperance! But the audience proved sympathetic and attentive. Several expressed their satisfaction that such lectures were being given in Tangier.

The next morning we were summoned to the central police station for questioning as to the subject of the lectures. The interview ended on a cordial note, and the police commissioner even wished us success! From then on the way was clear, and we could proceed with the full approval of the authorities.

One Sunday night we had an alert: on a moment's notice, a convoy of sailors was to arrive at the Services



View of modern city

Center. And sure enough, here they came in strength, to drink and amuse themselves. What was to be done? Our listeners were also coming in, more numerous than usual. We divided the hall into two sections, by means of a simple curtain, then we told the sailors that a religious meeting was about to begin, and asked them please not to make too much noise. They agreed willingly enough, like the good fellows they were, and remained quiet, even leaving the hall on tiptoe! In our perplexity, the Lord had marvelously answered our prayers. That evening we had one of our best meetings.

On Sabbath, November 15, there were several non-Adventists at the church service, and the communion service which followed was a blessed one. The meeting that night was the last held in the American Services Center, for which we had conceived a real affection. Sunday morning at 7:00 we took ship for Marseille.

Personally, I found great joy in this evangelistic effort. Certainly there is no finer work. The fraternal and devoted cooperation of the Sanchez and Aguilar families contributed largely to the success of the Tangier effort. A spirit of communion, understanding, and prayer made the task easier. May God be praised!

Since then, meetings have been held in our own attractively furnished little hall, where the listeners feel very much at home. Brother Sanchez has charge of the evangelistic meetings, while Dr. Hermine Aguilar, in her husband's absence, gives lectures on health.

The work in Tangier requires perseverance, for the soil is barren; religious thinking is undeveloped. The immediate results of our work will not be so apparent as in other cities, but the seed is already springing up. We firmly believe that a bright future is in store for the work in this city, gateway to Morocco. May God bless those whose privilege it is to let the light of truth shine there, and may they be given courage, perseverance, faith, and humility, which will lead to success for the glory of God. Let us pray for the laborers at work in this new and interesting field.

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OF S. D. A. FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 1953

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
SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV.																							
AUSTRIAN UNION CONF.																							
Danube Conference	21	1478	27	2	10	39	17	9	16	42	-3	1475	3	1	3	5	2	—	20	11	21	1597	1049
Alpine »	19	1141	24	2	7	33	5	4	9	18	15	1156	6	1	1	3	3	—	15	33	19	1250	849
Total :	40	2619	51	4	17	72	22	13	25	60	12	2631	16	2	5	10	5	—	35	73	40	2847	1898
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN U. C.																							
Total :	114	6174	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6174	33	3	2	3	19	—	8	68	160	6000	5400
FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.																							
Belgian Conference	14	923	9	1	1	11	1	5	16	22	-11	912	2	3	1	2	—	—	—	8	15	940	658
East France »	18	488	—	—	1	1	1	2	3	6	-5	483	4	4	6	2	—	—	4	20	16	514	447
North France »	17	1204	—	—	29	29	2	4	36	42	-13	1191	3	3	8	1	—	—	4	19	16	1246	950
South east France »	22	963	2	—	28	30	10	2	30	42	-12	951	8	11	8	1	—	—	23	51	18	950	784
South west France »	6	208	—	—	2	2	—	1	2	3	-1	207	7	2	4	6	—	—	16	35	22	258	220
Total :	77	3786	11	1	61	73	14	14	87	115	-42	3744	28	23	31	12	—	—	54	148	77	3908	3059
HUNGARIAN U. C.																							
Total :	155	7463	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7463	26	10	4	15	35	—	—	90	175	7000	6500
JUGOSLAVIAN U. C.																							
Total :	230	7638	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7638	30	8	—	7	16	—	—	61	300	9500	9000
RUMANIAN U. C.																							
Total :	551	38890	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38890	78	11	—	47	—	—	—	136	560	38000	35000
SWISS U. C.																							
German Swiss Conference	34	1925	7	—	30	37	12	10	30	52	-15	1910	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	33	1909	1208
Leman »	25	1272	2	5	7	14	4	4	6	14	—	1272	12	2	2	5	4	2	21	48	23	1290	1064
Total :	59	3197	9	5	37	51	16	14	36	66	-15	3182	22	6	3	11	6	5	32	85	56	3199	2272
ANGOLA UNION MISSION																							
Benguela Mission	1	—	—	—	37	37	—	—	—	—	—	37	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Bongo Mission	23	3113	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3113	7	7	—	9	—	31	—	54	—	—	—
Cuale »	1	298	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	298	2	—	—	1	—	23	—	26	—	—	—
Lucusse »	1	98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	98	1	1	1	—	—	3	—	6	—	—	—
Luz »	1	522	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	522	3	2	—	1	—	27	—	33	—	—	—
Namba Mission	1	841	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	841	2	1	—	1	—	11	—	15	—	—	—
Nova Lisboa Mission	2	1205	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	37	-37	1168	8	6	—	7	—	17	1	39	—	—	—
Total :	30	6077	—	—	37	37	—	—	37	37	—	6077	24	17	1	20	—	112	1	175	187	14551	10754
FRENCH EQ. AFR. U.M.																							
Batouri Mission	3	436	12	—	—	12	—	—	—	12	—	448	2	—	1	7	—	—	—	10	—	—	—
Bertoua »	2	233	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	233	1	1	3	20	6	—	—	31	—	—	—
Kribi »	3	256	3	—	—	3	—	2	—	2	1	257	2	1	—	2	10	7	—	22	—	—	—
Maroua »	2	255	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	255	3	2	—	5	5	8	—	23	—	—	—
Nanga-Eboko »	6	1393	29	—	—	29	6	8	73	87	-58	1335	2	4	—	13	33	25	1	78	—	—	—
Sangmelima »	4	357	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	357	3	—	—	4	9	13	—	29	—	—	—
Yaoundé »	1	—	—	—	73	73	—	—	—	73	—	73	1	—	1	—	—	2	3	7	—	—	—
Total :	21	2930	44	—	73	117	6	10	73	89	28	2958	16	8	5	52	74	56	4	215	112	10000	7500

The Second Summit Scaled

By L. Beer

President, Italian Union Mission

He who would climb a mountain cannot avoid fatigue. Rather he must rise early and stick doggedly to the path.

Ninety years ago, the first Adventist in Italy began the upward march. The third angel's message was proclaimed at Torre Pellice (in the Waldensian valley), then in Apulia, and by and by in Naples and Rome. In those early days, Sister White also visited Italy. After more than twenty years of climbing, the first church was organized. Another thirty years of evangelistic work went by before the birth of what was known as the « Italian field. » At the end of 1928, the Italian Union was organized, with 390 members. Then passed thirteen years of rugged climbing in order to reach the first summit : 1,000 members.

Thus, in all, it took 78 years of arduous labor before 1,000 pilgrims had joined the lone Adventist of 1863 in his upward climb. On they went without rest, brooking no delay, even in the difficult war period with its restrictions and scarcities. Often people are more willing to listen to talk about heaven during a time of distress than in more prosperous periods. And the 1,000 pilgrims, at the end of 1941, quickened their steps with the firm determination to reach speedily the second goal — 2,000 members ! From that point there was sure to be a wider view, a marvelous panorama.

And how they climbed ! It did not take 78 years, but only eleven, to reach the second level. In their ascent, the 1,000 made use of all their talents and of all the modern methods which their Great Commander had placed at their disposal. The literature produced by the publishing house was a great help, diligently distributed not only by the advance guard of colporteurs but by the whole army of Christian soldiers. The mission school at Florence opened its doors just as the first thousand mark was reached, and each year there were more young people wanting an education so as to form part of the army marching toward the second thousand.

What joy, then, greeted the announcement, in the fall of 1952, that the membership stood at 2,001 ! Not only « joy in heaven » but also among all those who love God's cause on earth and who are actively engaged in furthering its rapid development.

And now, what are the prospects for 1953 ? The equipment of the two thousand is quite different from that of the one thousand. In 1942 we held title to one small chapel in Montaldo Bormida, a chapel in Florence, and the publishing house building, which during the war housed the school also. Today, in contrast, we have nine beautiful chapels and six meeting halls, as well as rented quarters in many places. It is a great satisfaction to enter our chapels and see so many of our people assembling freely. Then our mission school acquired a property of its own, reputedly one of the most beautiful school campuses in the denomination.

Moreover, the publishing house is now equipped with all the machinery necessary for doing its own

printing. More than fifteen employees are engaged in printing the message, and the machines are doing their part toward reaching the 3,000 mark. January 1, 1952, marked the birthday of the journal « Vita e Salute, » which came into existence with fear and trembling but was given a royal welcome by the public and is now healthy and growing, with more than 20,000 subscribers and a total circulation of 30,000.

The radio has followed the march, penetrating the remotest mountain fastnesses, entering places a worker would have difficulty in reaching. Many are the listeners to the Voice of Hope, and more than ten thousand have been enrolled in the Bible correspondence course.

During the year 1952 there were 197 baptisms. Our hearts are rejoiced at seeing so many new souls stepping out by faith to accept God's special message for the last generation.

In the past year the advent people have given ample proof of their attachment to God's cause, not only by their faithfulness in tithe-paying but also in the liberal offerings they have given for missions. Great progress has been made in this domain. Surely God will bless those who have contributed.

Centuries ago, the gospel was spread in Italy by means of the literature distributed by the Waldensian colporteurs. Today this marvelous present truth is likewise being made known by faithful Adventist colporteurs who are carrying the message of hope and peace. God has blessed these pioneers of ours, who during the past year have sold literature amounting to almost 50 million lire (\$ 82,500).

Let us not however, overlook the obstacles to be overcome. The adversary interposes all kinds of difficulties to hold us back. Recently we have had four lawsuits, two of which were decided in our favor. One church, closed in September, has been reopened. A third trial gave temporary victory to the adversary; I say temporary because we filed an appeal the same day, and we hope to come out victorious this time also.

Our brethren and sisters have a hard battle to fight in order to observe God's holy Sabbath. Two brethren employed by the government, one at Rome, the other in La Spezia, struggled for long months to obtain permission from the authorities to observe the Sabbath. Their faith triumphed. Threats of dismissal and other difficulties placed in their way were of no avail to turn back these brave soldiers.

On Sabbath, December 20, 1952, the Lesina church, which for more than twenty years had had to meet in a small room in the elder's home, had the joy of dedicating a chapel of its own. A few days before the date set for the dedication, a cyclone descended on the town and tore off part of the roof of the new building, besides causing other damage. But our soldiers did not lay down their arms, nor did they lose heart. Immediately they set to work to repair the

breach, and on December 20 everything was in readiness for the dedication. The march continues . . .

At Agrigento, for instance, the cradle of an ancient civilization as attested by its ruined Greek temples, a new church is being raised up which looks toward a new era. It will be a temple built for eternity, of living stones, which will never fall into ruin.

In the fall evangelistic campaigns, some of our evangelists tried a new experiment. They rented large public places, such as moving picture theaters. In the capital of Tuscany, four meetings were held in a moving picture theater, and a large number of names and addresses were thus obtained. In Calabria, on the other hand, the adversary succeeded in limiting us to only one meeting. But, do what he will, he may stop one troop but not the advent movement. The movement goes on irresistibly, like a steam roller.

Report from Mauritius

By J. Belloy

President, Mauritius Mission

The word «report» is one which does not generally exert a strong appeal. It conjures up a picture of figures, a forbidding succession of more or less exact but boring statistics. However, a report may be something quite different. It may be very helpful to cast a retrospective glance from time to time over the way we have come, the work accomplished. Encouragement and stimulation are thus to be found; sometimes reproaches. It is for us to discover the lessons which will help us to attain perfection in our onward march.

It is with this aim in view that we shall make a rapid survey of the activities of our Mauritian churches and workers during 1952. Although brief, this examination will perhaps enable us to find the weak points in our structure and will stimulate us to correct these defects in the future. On the other hand, we may find occasion for rejoicing over the progress made with God's help, and for giving thanks for the signal favor He has manifested toward us and toward His work.

Mauritius Island, as you are perhaps aware, has a population of 480 thousand, composed of a thorough mixture of races and colors. Judge for yourself: white Europeans, white Mauritians, yellow Chinese, olive-skinned, light brown, dark brown, blackest ebony. A melting pot of races, Mauritius is also a melting pot of religions, with about 160,000 Roman Catholics, 7,000 Protestants, 210,000 Hindus, 60,000 Mohammedans, and 7,000 Buddhists,

Our work has been carried on among these varied populations for some thirty-eight years. At the end of 1951 we had fourteen churches and one company, with a total membership of 754. During 1952, 45 new members were added by baptism, bringing the figure to 899 at the close of the year.

As regards the financial aspects of our work, we can say that the Lord has richly blessed us. Our members have been faithful in tithes and offerings. A few years ago we were barely reaching a yearly average of 35,000 rupees tithe. In 1921 the figure in-

The first and second peaks have been conquered. The triumph of the advent movement in Italy is certain, in spite of all obstacles. Already we see looming before us the third peak — 3,000 members! Our common motto must be «Excelsior!» A united group of evangelists, teachers, office and institutional workers, church elders, officers, and members, are moving forward steadily. Like David, who was not stopped by the giant Goliath but attacked him fearlessly, we are hard at work, knowing that ours is the time of harvest, when the work is to be finished.

Dear brethren, with God's help we want to reach this third goal in the shortest possible time. Let us believe in victory, talk of victory, live victoriously! Let our motto be, in the words of the Italian colporteurs' hymn:

«Più in alto ancor, verso più alte cime!»

«Upward! On to higher summits!»

creased to 65,469 rupees, and in 1952 it amounted to 77,689 rupees. The Sabbath school offerings and the Ingathering campaign also broke all previous records. Our financial situation thus enables us to lay plans for erecting one or two village chapels soon.

This year it is our purpose to make a special effort to extend our work to those parts of the island where nothing has ever been done. To this end our evangelistic van is being pressed into service, with its loudspeaker and projector, for the open-air lectures which have already proved successful, especially at Port Louis, Beau Bassin, and Rose Hill. We feel sure that the Indian audiences will be no smaller than those in the towns of Creole population. In this type of work we can count on the help of a large number of laymen, some of whom are extremely competent and zealous.

For several months, evangelistic campaigns have been carried on under the title «Youth Speaks to Youth.» These meetings have created quite a stir in the capital, causing some alarm in the bosoms of the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical authorities. At this moment, at a distance of about twenty feet from our Missionary Volunteer hall — our evangelistic center for Port Louis — the Catholics are building a workshop for their young people, in order to compete with us. It looks as if the other denominations are also worried about our evangelistic campaigns, since the Protestants too have just opened their first youth hall!

Last November we had the pleasure of dedicating the new Missionary Volunteer hall at Rose Hill, which truly does credit to our work. Since that time it has been in constant use for evangelistic activities similar to those at Port Louis.

The second two-year Bible course given at our school in Phoenix by H. Evard ended last December and has furnished seven new workers who have been employed on a trial basis. For several years Mauritius has had the privilege of giving a helping hand to neighboring islands; six young workers have gone

out to strengthen the native working force in Madagascar, Reunion, and the Seychelles Islands.

The Publishing Department is somewhat underdeveloped, due to a lack of literature in the Indian and Chinese languages, but our courageous colporteurs are nevertheless being blessed in this front-line work. Their sales are larger each year : from 2,000 rupees in 1947, the total has swelled to 5,900 rupees for 1952.

This survey of our activities in Mauritius would not be complete without a mention of the work accomplished by the dispensary. During the past year, 4,317 women and children were treated. Of this number, 1,346 were Catholics, 1,420 Hindus, 1,061 Mohammedans, 399 Adventists, and 91 Protestants of other denominations. The administrative council for the towns of Rose Hill and Beau Bassin has this year donated

1,200 rupees to the dispensary in appreciation of the humanitarian work carried on by this modest medical institution.

And now let us turn our thoughts to the future. Much remains to be done. From a human standpoint the task seems beyond our strength, but with God's help we shall do exploits.

We have set a goal of 80 baptisms for 1953. Do you think our ambition has carried us too far? It is true that we have never yet reached this figure, but we have resolved to work with faith and perseverance, and God's blessing will make up for our deficiencies.

Dear reader, if you will remember us and God's work on Mauritius in your prayers, we are confident that we shall bring in the sheaves that God expects of us during this year of harvest, with not one missing!

A Faithful Witness

By H. Salzmänn
President, Antsirabé Mission

Paul, a valued government employee in southern Madagascar, is living his faith.

Stationed at a lonely outpost, both he and his young wife decided to use their spare time to share with others their hope of a soon-coming Saviour. They felt a special burden for the many heathen villages surrounding them, and therefore they set to work eagerly, bearing steadfast witness in spite of their isolation. How happy they were when the missionary came once a year to visit them! But the young wife was suddenly snatched away by death. It was a severe trial of Paul's faith. Why did this have to happen, when both loved the cause of God so dearly? Only after long prayer was it possible for him to understand God's ways. Then, with new courage and perhaps even more consecration, he went out into the bush to talk of God's wonderful love.

« Unspoiled ; conscientious in his dealings and in his work, » is the estimate of his employers. The difficulties he had at first over the Sabbath have disappeared. His diligence and honesty have won confidence, and his duties have been extended. The promise, « Them that honor Me I will honor » (1 Sam. 2 : 30), has been fulfilled for Paul.

And so day by day he lets his light shine. But on Friday the flame is turned up a little higher! When his work is finished, he packs his things and, with Bible, hymnbook, and picture roll, sets out on foot to visit his « flock. » The heathen villages have come to expect his regular visits. Each time he spends the night in one of them. Like the apostle, he tries to be « all things to all men, » and after his evening worship, he sleeps with the natives on a straw mat

and is content with the simple fare of his friends.

With remarkable love and devotion, he tells how God gave His Son. He tries to make the good seed spring up in the hearts of these simple people. They begin to understand that there is something better in store, even for them. God's Son brings them hope and promise. Life in that village takes on a different character ; it becomes more pleasant, more law-abiding, more Christian. There are no more sacrifices to the spirits ; instead, after the Bible study with the picture roll, an offering is taken for the cause of God. Paul teaches them to sing — no easy task! He teaches them to pray, too, and the Spirit of God brings about a wonderful transformation.

Sabbath sees our brother again on his way to other nearby villages, where he hangs his picture roll on a tree and invites the villagers to listen. And thus he labors regularly in God's vineyard — happy to be able to work for his Saviour, but ever humble, for « who is sufficient for these things ? »

Naturally, such work is not carried on without difficulties. But all obstacles are overcome through the constraining love of Christ. Paul lets nothing discourage him. He knows that God has stationed him at this lonely post, and so he sticks to it, true in faith and witness, hoping always that the mission will soon be able to send an evangelist to develop the work he has begun. But when will this be possible ?

« The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few ; pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest. » Matt. 9 : 37, 38.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans VIII, 35-39.

EVANGELISTIC PREACHING

Continued from page 3

wouldn't admit it. I could tell you No, but I couldn't say No to the Lord.» That is the value of prayer in making decisions.

5. **Baptism of the Holy Spirit.** In the days of the apostles, it was a burning question: «Have ye received the Holy Ghost?» It should be a burning question today. When I hear reports of events that have taken place in some parts of your Division, I know that the power of the Holy Spirit is being manifested here. But we have not seen the full limits of His power. One of the great thrills of my visit to Paris has been meeting those brethren from Yugoslavia and getting the report from their country. Another was the experience that Brother Olson told, of how our brethren in Italy were separated from the Division during the war and reunited afterward. I know that, behind the Iron Curtain, God is performing miracles and that the power of the Holy Spirit is descending upon the church. Brethren, what about us? The most important thing we have to do while assembled here is to pray for the Holy Spirit in our midst. Everything else is secondary.

When Jesus faced His disciples after the resurrection, He said to them, «Receive ye the Holy Spirit.» They were to tarry in Jerusalem until they received the full measure of His power, but He was ready to give the gift. All they had to do was to ask and to make themselves right with God and with one another.

There are things that will keep the power of God away from us. This was demonstrated by the disciples when they were trying to cast out an unclean spirit in their own strength. They were not successful. Then Jesus came up. He had been up on the mount of transfiguration with three of them. The others told Him what they were trying to do. He just spoke, and a miracle was accomplished. Then He took the disciples to one side, and they asked Him: «Why couldn't we do it?» And He said, «Because of your unbelief.» We are told that «instead of strengthening their faith by prayer and meditation on the words of Christ, they had been dwelling on their discouragements and personal grievances.» This will keep the power away from us. But with unity among the brethren, with love in our hearts for each other, with the forsaking of all sin, and with earnest intercessory prayer, we shall receive the Holy Spirit.

How do we get this power? In exactly the same way we get the forgiveness of sin: by praying and believing. Christ has made the promise. We should believe the promise. And with prayer we shall receive.

(A season of prayer followed.)

A TRIP TO CUALE

My first visit, on my arrival in Angola, was to the Cuale Mission. Starting from Luanda, the capital, we traveled by train 427 kilometers eastward to Malange, the terminal point of the African narrow-gauge railway. The route took us first across a wide plain, then wound through luxuriant virgin forest, up to an altitude of about a thousand meters above sea level.

In Malange we were met by missionary A. M. Candeias. Since it was quite late already that day,

we waited until the next morning before starting north in the mission car for another 185 kilometers through a tropical landscape dotted with peaceful-looking native villages, past the 280-foot Duke of Braganza waterfall. Crossing the Lucala River, we saw on the bank a crocodile three or four meters long which the natives had killed the day before, and which was supposed to have eaten several persons. Because of the bad roads and other difficulties, we did not arrive at our mission station, about five kilometers from the little town of Cuale, until afternoon.

The station immediately makes a favorable impression. Brother Candeias' home captures one's attention first of all. It is an attractive one-story brick building with spacious living quarters, which Sister Candeias keeps in apple-pie order. It seems odd to see a red brick fireplace here in Africa, but it comes in very handy, for at this altitude the air is often chilly. A bathroom with running water comes as a pleasant surprise, and a small radio brings the outside world into the seclusion of the African jungle. The guest room is furnished with comfortable beds and facilities for washing. In the midst of this wild, lion-infested country, one might almost think himself in Europe. Another similar dwelling houses the European teacher, Carlos Esteves, and his wife, a nurse. This couple has recently come out from Portugal.

Our work here is among the Jingoas, a tribe which is almost totally heathen. It is principally through our schools that we are accomplishing results. Besides the school at the main station, attended by more than two hundred boys and girls, there are sixteen outschools within a radius of ninety kilometers. Since the school building at Cuale is much too small, a new brick structure is being erected, with four large classrooms, which will be the largest building on the mission station.

Sister Esteves treats fifty or sixty patients daily — many of whom come long distances — at the little clinic. At a stone's throw from the mission houses, an Adventist village, clean and representative of our message, has grown up during the past few years.

During our visit we spoke not only to the pupils but also to a gathering of about four hundred natives. The chapel is simple but well kept. The Candeias and Esteves families are working hard. The school is conducted on the principles of Christian education. We observed the pupils in the garden and workshops as well as in the classroom. One has the impression that a solid work is being accomplished. May God richly bless the efforts of our missionaries, far from home and beset by dangers, as they labor in this section of the Lord's vineyard.

O. Schubert
Secretary, Department of Education.

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* * *
HERE AND THERE
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We are sad to report the death of **P. Haigneré**, pastor of the Angers church, north France, as a result of an automobile accident on April 9. Everyone who knew Brother Haigneré will remember him as a real Christian gentleman. His death is a loss to our work in France. Elder Haigneré's wife had passed away some years ago. He was fifty-three years of age last November.

A Seminary Extension Course for the Southern European Division will be held at Collonges this summer, June 17 to July 25, under the auspices of the Theological Seminary of Washington, D. C. **R. E. Loosby** will act as director of the course. Other instructors will be **S. H. Horn**, **R. A. Anderson**, and **A. Vaucher**. More than sixty workers from various parts of the Division are expected to attend. A three-day press workshop, under the leadership of **J. R. Ferren** of the General Conference Press Relations Bureau, will be held at Collonges immediately following the Seminary Extension Course.

A Radio and Bible Correspondence School workshop is scheduled for three days, beginning June 25, in the Paris studio. **Paul Wickman**, General Conference Radio Department secretary will be present on this occasion, and we feel sure that the time will be well spent.

H. Pichot, who has served for almost six years as president of the Indian Ocean Union Mission, left Madagascar in the latter part of April with his family for furlough. Elder Pichot will not return to the Indian Ocean, as he has been called to the presidency of the North African Union Mission. During Elder Pichot's administration, the evangelistic work in the Indian Ocean Union mission fields, especially in the bush regions, has been strongly organized, and good results have been obtained. **P. Girard**, former president of the North African Union Mission, will replace Elder Pichot. He leaves Marseille with his family on August 8. Elder Girard is not a newcomer in the Indian Ocean Union; as he served as pioneer leader of the Réunion Island Mission from 1936 to 1947.

Reports received from the Bible correspondence schools in the Division reveal 196 baptisms during 1952 as a result of this activity. This represents a great deal of work on the part of the supervisors of these courses, as well as the patient correction of thousands and thousands of lessons.

W. J. Harris, of the General Conference Sabbath School Department will be the guest of the Southern European Division from June 19 to August 31. Elder Harris will visit Switzerland, Austria, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, North Africa, and Yugoslavia, where Sabbath school conventions are scheduled.

A plot of land has been purchased on the outskirts of Yaoundé, the capital of the French Cameroun. A secondary station, with chapel, school building, and housing for native workers, will soon be erected there. Already about thirty natives are meeting on Sabbath in the home of **K. Scheidegger**, the union secretary-treasurer, who transferred his operations to Yaoundé several months ago.

Dr. E. Süßmann, who assumed the leadership of the Bordeaux clinic a little more than two years ago, has been obliged for health reasons to retire. Doctor Süßmann has done everything in his power to give the medical work in Bordeaux a good start, and we wish him God's blessing and sufficient strength to be of continued service to His cause. **Dr. P. Ganty**, son of our Paris transportation agent, will take Doctor Süßmann's place, beginning probably this fall.

The annual meeting of the German-Swiss Conference took place in the Limmathaus at Zurich, April 3-6. In addition to the delegates from the various churches, there was a good attendance, and a fine spirit prevailed. **K. Sturzenegger**, who has served as conference president for the past six years, laid down his burden, and **O. Uebersax**, former Y. P. M. V. and Sabbath School Department secretary of the Austrian Union, was called to fill the vacancy. During Brother Sturzenegger's leadership, the work in German Switzerland has made steady progress.

D. Riemens, who for several years has served as president of the Tananarive Mission in Madagascar and department secretary of the Indian Ocean Union Mission, is returning permanently to Europe. After his furlough, Brother Riemens will connect with the Léman Conference for evangelistic work in French Switzerland.

An important action has been taken with regard to the educational opportunities provided for the German-Swiss young people. The German department of the Collonges seminary, which has been supervised by **P. Steiner**, will be transferred, beginning with the next school year, to the Bogenhofen seminary in Austria. Brother Steiner will leave the Collonges seminary in order to take up teaching work at Bogenhofen.

A. Richli, evangelist and district leader in the Léman Conference, has accepted a call to Mauritius as principal of our school in Phoenix, replacing **H. Evard**, whose furlough is due. Elder Evard founded the school five years ago. Under his capable leadership, it has developed into a valuable asset to our mission work. Brother and Sister Richli will leave during the first part of July, on the same boat as the **E. Villeneuve** family, returning after furlough to their former field of labor in the Majunga district of Madagascar. We wish these two families a safe journey and God's richest blessing in their work in the Master's vineyard.

In the December number of last year, we announced that a fertile piece of land had been offered to our mission in the Southern Cameroun by chief **Béti Eholo** at Niamvoudou. In the meantime, the union committee, with the approval of the Division, has decided to erect the new seminary on this land. **A. Cosendai**, union president, has already visited the site, and fifty hectares have been marked off for the educational center. This will be a strategic location for the school, as we already have 350 members in the region, and a number of nearby villages are asking for native evangelists and teachers. Our young people in the Cameroun will thus have a wonderful opportunity for evangelistic training.