

QUARTERLY REVIEW

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



Under Tent with Our Missionary Volunteers

By **J. J. Aitken** *Y. P. M. V. Secretary,
Southern European Division*

I am writing these lines in Southern France from under my tent which is serving this summer as my office and hotel. The great M. V. camping season is on for 1956, and it is indeed encouraging to be with our young people and their friends in God's great out-of-doors. When one lives under a tent and can admire the great beauties of nature, one appreciates more and more God's care for each of us, and we are drawn away from the artificial security of the asphalt jungle of the big cities.

The M. V. camping season in Southern Europe is one of the greatest departmental activities of the year. Through our camps hundreds of young hearts are won to Christ. Youth need a special inspiration and clear vision of what God would have them do. M. V. camps, rallies and congresses afford the greatest opportunity I know of for helping young people arrive at the most important decision of their lives.

From all corners of our vast Division God is calling: "I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth. Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea I have made him" (Isa. 43: 6, 7).

I have just completed five weeks visiting our young people in Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Greece, Italy and France. In this short time it has been a real joy to me to see over 100 young people join our baptismal classes and begin their preparation to become members of God's remnant church.

This year I met our Yugoslavian young people in large numbers in our churches in Zagreb, Osijek, Novi-Sad, Churug, Belgrade and Nish. Our Yugoslavian Missionary Volunteers have their own orchestra and evangelistic program in almost every church. The members have helped the youth in their musical training, in the buying of instruments, and in free music lessons. This has been a great blessing in the formation of many musicians for God throughout the entire country. I was happy for the great liberty I enjoyed in speaking to our churches, and thankful to God for the onward march of His cause.

I next visited Greece. This year we held our first Junior M. V. camp in this country. The work has gone very slowly in Greece throughout the years, but I am sure that now greater progress will be made. When the church takes a definite interest in the salvation of its children and youth, then the whole program of the church moves along faster. That is what we mean by putting the horse

before the cart instead of being tempted to put the cart before the horse. We need the forces of our fully consecrated youth to help us on the upward pull to the kingdom of God.

Brother Poulos and Brother Germanis, along with their wives and a group of counsellors, were remarkably successful in bringing together about 80 Juniors in two separate camps — one for boys first, and then one for girls. Each of these camps lasted almost three weeks. The site chosen was a very beautiful one, overlooking the sea along the coast of Greece. Forty per cent of the campers were non-Adventists, but all of these expressed their desire to some day become members of our church. I am sure if the apostle Paul were alive today he would have been most happy to see his young torch-bearers running the race of life that has been set before them in God's Word. Once again he would have exclaimed, "Ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life" (Phil. 2: 15, 16).

From Athens I sailed to Brindisi, Italy, and in a few short hours of driving I was in the high Sila range of mountains in the very arch of the southern tip of the Italian boot. The Italian Missionary Volunteer camp is in the vicinity, and I found it without difficulty by inquiring for the "*Campeggio dei Missionari Volontari*." With very meager means this Senior camp of 30 young people had been pitched — with mountain air, trees, a brook and a spring as the only facilities. However God richly blessed us, and on Sabbath ten young people gave their hearts to God and expressed their desire to join a baptismal class. Brother Rossi of Italy has followed a real evangelistic program for his M. V.'s.



Sabbath school program, Belgrade. Yugoslavian boys and girls.



N. Germanis leads Greek boys in singing M. V. choruses at Junior camp.

I found over 58 Juniors on the shores of Lago Maggiore which is a most beautiful lake in the canton of Tessin. Brother Walder, M. V. secretary of the German Swiss Conference, expects over 150 campers this year; and Brother Monnier, who has his camp on Lake Geneva for French Switzerland, expects over 60 campers. This will be our greatest M. V. camping season in Switzerland to date. We thank God that in spite of great indifference more and more young hearts are being won to Christ.

From Switzerland I have just arrived in the *Hautes Alpes* (high Alps) of southeastern France; and here along a beautiful mountain torrent, La Durance, I have found our Missionary Volunteers of North Africa in camp. Due to the war situation in North Africa it is no longer safe or permitted to hold camps in the country. This year the North African Union, along with many friends, helped 115 young people from Tunis to Casablanca to come across the Mediterranean to be here in the peace and quiet of Southern France for a three weeks' camping period. The wonderful thing about this M. V. expedition from North Africa is that our own young people brought their friends not of our faith along. Last Sabbath we saw a great victory here among these high Alps. How thankful I was when 31 young people gave their hearts fully to the Master and stepped forward into our prayer circle, which signified their desire to join a baptismal class and prepare their young lives for the finishing of God's work.

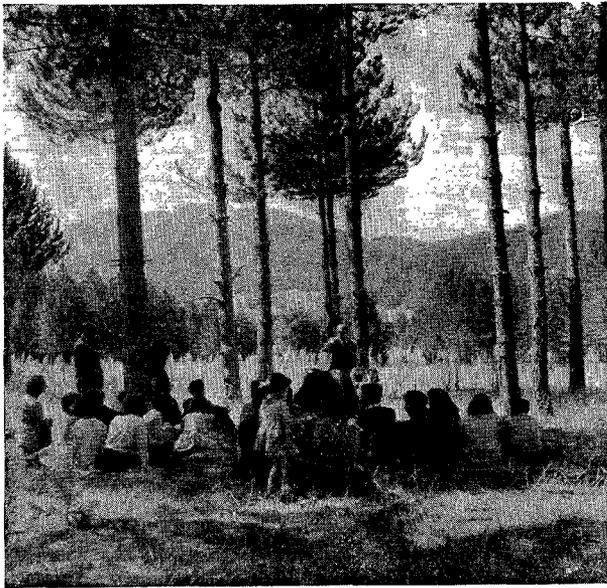
Bringing our young people from North Africa to France was a great act of faith, but God richly blessed their faith under the leadership of Brother

Roland Esposito who has so ably led this M. V. expedition across the sea. Even though these youth were all massed together on lawn chairs in the hold of the ship, they enjoyed arriving in France where three beautiful weeks of camping awaited them. These North African young people are most grateful to God and their friends who have made this M. V. expedition possible.

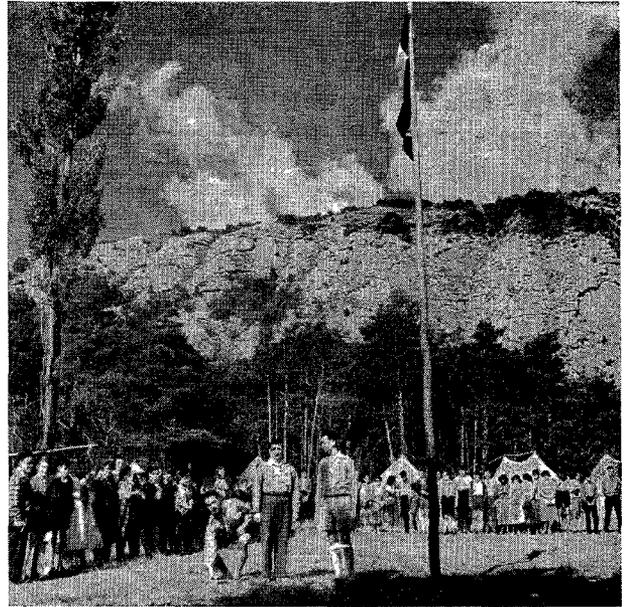
From now on I shall be visiting still more Junior and Senior camps in France, Spain and Portugal to the end of the summer. Pray for these young people of Southern Europe. They want to serve God and hasten His coming. One little boy down in

Greece prayed right after the camp-fire program : "Oh, Lord, You know how stubborn I am, so help my stubborn heart so I can do what You want me to do."

Yes, the Missionary Volunteers of Southern Europe are on the march for God. "A little one shall become a thousand and a small one a strong nation : I the Lord will hasten it in his time" (Isa. 60 : 22). Let us work and pray that this prophecy may soon be fulfilled, and that we with this vast army of Adventist youth may be ready to meet our Maker in glory.



Senior M. V. camp Sabbath service La Sila, southern Italy.



Camp leaders with North African group, Embrun, southern France.

Visiting Mission Stations in the French Cameroun

By **A. Meyer** *Ministerial Association Secretary,
Southern European Division*

We had long wanted to visit our missions of the Cameroun and spend several weeks with the missionaries, the evangelists, and the African Bible workers, holding workers' meetings everywhere possible, when a decision of the Southern European Division Committee made this project possible. The hand of God was with us during the long journey and the influence of His Spirit was a blessing to all who assembled at the meetings we held from place to place.

Our first contact with the Cameroun was most agreeable — the magnificent blue African sky, luxuriant verdure everywhere; nevertheless, a tornado coming up the same day reminded us of the vagaries of the equatorial climate. Douala, on an estuary of the River Woury, has the appearance

of a European metropolis and spreads out rapidly in all directions. All year long the city is wrapped in a humid heat, with little variation. The commerce there is intense. From Douala, a road and railway lead to Yaoundé, the administrative capital, situated at an altitude of about 800 meters, in a much better climate. It is a pleasant city, well laid out, with broad asphalt streets bordered by modern administrative buildings and colonial homes in an elegant style, well adapted to the country.

Africa is undergoing rapid evolution in all its countries. The reign of the white man is becoming more and more a thing of the past. Nevertheless, the old ancestral paganism with its traditions, its superstitious practices, the fear of the sorcerer and the witch-doctor, still exists in the bush, and to a

less degree, on the coast and in the cities. Christianity covers all this with a thin film of superficiality. It is true that entire villages are Catholic. The Church is making considerable efforts to "Catholicize" the Cameroun. The different Protestant missions are not remaining inactive, moreover, and have developed a remarkable work, especially the Presbyterian Mission. Nevertheless their influence is less than that of Rome. The Moslems, coming from the North, are gaining territory continually. At the present time, in black Africa, Islam is the great rival of Christianity.

After the Indian Ocean, the Cameroun is the oldest mission field of the Southern European Division. The work there began after the first World War, with R. Jones and W. H. Anderson, followed by missionaries M. Raspal and A. Salée. Since that time, many workers have succeeded them on this African soil; all of them have left visible evidences of their endeavors there, and the African brethren recall them with faithful memories and great thankfulness. In the cemetery at Yaoundé, the tombs of Brother Roger Hirschy, who died in 1953, and of Aldine Cosendai, who passed away in July of 1955 at the age of nine years, are tenderly cared for by the missionaries.

The present missionary team of the Cameroun consists virtually of a United Nations in miniature: France, Switzerland, America, Belgium, Sweden, Rumania and Yugoslavia are represented. Under the experienced direction of A. Cosendai, president of the Union, all the workers labor together harmoniously. In the North, our veteran Brother R. Bergström, assisted by Brother and Sister A. Sanchez-Clerc, is occupied especially with the evangelization of the heathen tribes influenced by Islam. At the stations of Koza and Dogba the work, full of promise, is advancing steadily, and the number of students in all our schools is increasing.

Doctors F. Brenwald and A. Bergman, assisted by nurses H. Tierce, V. Tobler and J. Vuillecard, have begun a remarkable medical work, without neglecting evangelism in its strictest sense. The hospital of Koza is well on its way to completion and will soon be ready to occupy, if the funds with which to finish its installation arrive in time. Brother Bodenmann is in charge of the construction of the buildings.

In the South is the pleasant mission of Kribi, bordering the ocean; M. Radancevic is the director of it. On the other side of the River Lobbé rises the chapel of Grand Batanga, recently constructed in masonry. The belfry is yet without a bell; the pastor, A. Ekitiké, appeals to the brethren of Europe to furnish them with a bell, so that they can call the villages of the bush to prayer and worship.

The station of Sangmélina, situated at the edge of the virgin forest, in the southwest of the

country, has long been directed by I. Curmatureau. The mission of Yaoundé, where the Union office is located, is the responsibility of K. Scheidegger, Union secretary-treasurer, who has taken to heart as well the work of evangelization in the stations of the bush. The city of Yaoundé now has an attractive church, spacious and modern, as well as several elementary classes. In the East is the mission of Bertoua, with the old station of Ndoumbi, directed by R. Bentz, and a dispensary, where the beneficent work of Sister Bentz is highly appreciated. Farther east yet, not far from the border of Oubangui-Chari, is the mission of Batouri, directed by M. Fayard; this brother has put to profit his knowledge of masonry in renovating the station, giving it a clean, white, pleasing appearance which makes an excellent impression. The work at this mission is interesting to follow; as everywhere, several stations of the bush have been set up, and a work will soon begin among the pygmies of the region.

The station of Nanga-Eboko, "the home station," merits special mention. It is a real village, with its huts for the pastor, the missionaries, evangelists, and Bible workers, the chapel, the classrooms, the dining-hall, the dormitories, the dispensary, etc. Life here is always intense. Little by little the "village" is becoming modernized and some interesting improvements have been made in the last months.

The school and the seminary, now united, have altogether more than 400 students. The most urgent task is that of preparing competent, well-educated evangelists and Bible workers possessing, besides a good general background, a knowledge of practical manual labor. It is in this way that the evangelisation of the villages of the bush can be made the most rapidly. The teaching staff, composed of Sylvain Meyer, director of the mission and school, R. Liénard, A. Simon and F. Hugli (for the industrial department) is endeavoring to meet the needs of the school. We would do well to pay tribute here to the wives of these missionaries, of whom several assist their husbands with devotion and a remarkable spirit of self-sacrifice.

The French Equatorial African Union Mission claims 4,200 baptized members; the number of Sabbath school members is around 10,000. In 1955, there were 816 baptisms. For 1956 the workers have fixed their objective at 1,000 baptisms. This will require much faith, courage, work and prayer, for it is quite as difficult to win an African as a European; everywhere conversion is a miracle of God.

Each workers' meeting was for all a time of spiritual refreshment, of happy fellowship. The present problems of Africa are many, and often delicate. Only by mutual confidence and a real spirit of collaboration has it been possible to study them.



A religious gathering, French Cameroun.

The primary concern of everyone is to give more importance to the immense and foremost work of evangelization. There the customs of similar gatherings in Europe seemed remote. The studies given simply, in practical language understandable by all, contributed largely to brightening the vision of the evangelists and the Bible workers.

The meetings and worships on Sabbath give in general a strong impression of solemnity. As the offering is taken, the members come before the pulpit bringing their tithes, of money or other possessions. After a short prayer they return silently to their places. The deacons take their tasks seriously, maintaining order and tranquility, and waking any who might be sleeping !

Not far from the mission station of Nanga-Eboko is a village inhabited only by lepers. What a picture of distress and misery ! The heart retracts at such a spectacle. The fight is always unequal between the human organism and the disease which almost imperceptibly, but unrelentingly eats it away. The hope of ever being healed seems to have disappeared to all in this place. Only one light remains — that of the Gospel.

At the time of our visit to this colony, the tomtom quickly announced our arrival ; in a few minutes the chapel of the bush, which we have in this village, was occupied by these lepers who had come seeking a message of comfort. These, who can not do great things, content themselves with singing with all their hearts the beautiful songs of Zion. The devotion was followed by a distribution of some used clothing, underclothing, dresses for the mothers and children, and some things for the men — but there was not enough for everyone. Dorcas societies of our churches, with your cupboards often full, think of our unfortunate brothers ; if you have any cloth that could be used for

bandages, used shirts and under-clothing in good condition, dresses, shorts made of cotton or linen (not wool), think of these who are naked, and whose thankfulness would be a real reward.

On the last Sabbath spent at Yaoundé, we saw an African sister enter carrying on her back her paralysed daughter of between 12 and 15 years of age, a student in our school. If some member could donate a simple wheelchair with big wheels in front, it would lighten the task of this mother and bring joy to the heart of this little girl, whose arms and mind are perfectly normal. Brother Scheidegger would receive this gift with gratefulness. Address : Mission Adventiste, Boîte Postale 401, Yaoundé, Cameroun français.

The churches of the Cameroun send their affectionate greetings to their brethren of Europe and elsewhere. United in the same faith and in the same hope, happy to belong to the great family of Adventist Christians, they struggle with joy and courage for the triumph of the message on this African soil. The Black Continent is on the march ; a new wind is blowing there. There is no longer a moment to lose for the missions. Let us think of the workers who have the heavy task of holding up the torch of the Gospel ; in following in our thoughts their work, their weariness, their battles let us pray with all the more fervor that the Lord will give them in exchange the joys of a fruitful and blessed ministry.

The Lord was with us continually on this journey, and with all our heart we offer Him our thanks for His marvelous protection. We pray that His protecting hand will continue to lead our beloved missionaries and workers in this vast harvest field.



European missionaries, French Cameroun.

Divine Providences in North Africa

By F. Charpiot *Publishing Department Secretary,
Southern European Division*

Five weeks spent in North Africa! A long journey of some two thousand kilometers (1,250 miles) from Tunis to Casablanca, five district meetings and visits to a number of churches and institutions! It was all wonderfully interesting, and brought numerous thrills, joys and blessings; and it was a great privilege to take a trip to that corner of the planet at this time of disturbing events.

Surely North Africa is passing through a very grave and tragic period. The entire population is suffering from the perilous situation that has arisen. The large majority of the Moslems would very much prefer to lead a quiet life of fruitful co-operation with the French population, enjoying the blessings of order, good organization and economic prosperity. But they have no choice. The revolution has been cleverly organized. The methods of propaganda, the carefully worked-out military tactics reveal very clearly that master minds are the instigators of all the unrest. A few well-organized groups of reckless, cruel fanatics are terrorizing the country, torturing and slaughtering those who would like to live a peaceful life, whether they be Europeans or Moslems. The threat of death is hanging over those who are not willing to submit unquestioningly to all the exigent demands of the rebels.

Here is an example among thousands: A high government official in the city of D- is sitting with his wife at the breakfast table. Suddenly the door opens. The 70-year-old servant appears with a revolver in each hand and shoots. The woman falls to the ground with a broken thigh. Even though wounded, the man is able to seize the would-be murderer. Both roll to the ground in a desperate grip. But the shots have been heard. Help arrives and the servant is arrested. For fourteen years he had been a trustworthy domestic in that home, always kind, friendly and helpful. When asked why he did the deed, he answered, "I was given these revolvers and told that if I did not kill my employers I would be killed as well as all my relatives. I hated to be a criminal and kill the people who have always been good to me. But I had no choice."

The daily papers have mentioned but a few of the acts of cruelty and wanton destruction that have occurred in many places. But God has wonderfully protected His children, many of whom have been in great danger. One instance among many others:

Rebellion suddenly broke out in a village. The house of an Adventist mother and her son was attacked. Fire was set to the outside door, which soon burned to the ground. The mother and son took refuge on the second floor which was built of wood. Downstairs the rebels pushed a pile of very dry branches and a can of gasoline into the room and then set fire to it. Normally the whole building should have been ablaze and burned down in a few moments. But upstairs two of God's children were on their knees, calling to their help the divine Police, telephone P S 5-0-1-5 (Psalms 50:15: "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me"). The answer came immediately. Instead of blazing up as was expected, the dry kindling wood burned low and very slowly. The heated can of gasoline did not explode. Soon soldiers arrived to the rescue, the rebels fled, the fire was easily put out, and mother and son were safe and alive to praise their divine Protector.

One of the highlights of this tour was the visit to the newly-built school for Arab children. The property on which this institution is built was bought with money from a 13th Sabbath Overflow. It is one of the many marvelous monuments erected to the liberality and love of God's people all around the world. It is located ten miles out of the city of Relizane in the province of Oranie, in the foothills near a number of Arab villages. Until now that section has been about free from danger, but, as everywhere, there are groups of rebels ready to attack at any moment. Brother Pellicer, the head of the newly-born institution, his wife and child, a sister who is a good teacher, and a brother who helps on the farm, are the only Europeans in that sector. Their sole protection is prayer and faith in the presence of the angel of the Lord. It means something to lie down to rest night after night with no other weapons but trust in God, knowing that terrible dangers are lurking all around.

When the school was ready to be opened last spring, Brother Pellicer, who had made many friendly contacts with the Arabs around, visited the villages to encourage the parents to send their children. Some gave reluctant promises, but no children came. It was evident that even though these friendly Moslems appreciated the help of a school, they feared the consequences of the strictly-forbidden contact with Europeans. They knew that death at

the hand of the rebel agents might be the penalty.

The French police came several times to warn Brother Pellicer of danger. Then one day they came with a truck, bringing weapons and rockets to give alarm in case of an attack. What should our brother do? He quietly refused this help, and the police went away carrying with them the machine-guns and other arms they had brought. A few days later some Arabs came to Brother Pellicer and said: "We know what has happened — that you have refused to accept arms from the police. We have been counselling together. Now you may have our children." A few days later some fifty Arab boys and girls were in attendance at the school. The day of miracles is not past.

We have very special reason to praise God for the tender watchcare He has had over His people in North Africa during this distressing period. We are also greatly heartened and inspired to see the courage, the faith and consecration of our members, and to witness the progress of the work. But much remains to be done, and it must now be done in the face of many difficulties and dangers. We pray for God's unmodified intervention in needy North Africa, and especially in favor of the hundreds of thousands of Moslems whom we have so long neglected. God is longing to enlighten these honest souls and prepare them to meet the King of kings when He appears in majesty and glory on the clouds of heaven.



Adventist seminary, Rakoviça, Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslavian School

At Rakoviça, a suburb of Belgrade the capital city of Yugoslavia, our brethren have founded a theological seminary to train Adventist ministers.

We are thankful to the government of this country for its kindness in authorizing the school to operate freely within the provisions of the legal clauses which acknowledge the right of the Adventist church to exist, and entitle it to have a seminary on the same grounds as other religious bodies.

This seminary is beautifully situated on a fertile hillside. The property covers seven and a

half acres, which are being cultivated to produce maximum crops. Vegetables and flowers are grown, for which there is a good market in the capital city.

During the school year 1955-56 twenty-eight students were in attendance — all young men from different parts of the country, and who impressed me most favorably at the time of my brief visit to the institution just prior to the closing exercises.

R. Gerber.

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OF S. D. A. FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 1956

Name of Conference or Mission	Number of Churches	Previous Membership	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total Gains	Apostasy	Death	Letter	Missing Members	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	Attendance Average	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV.																									
AUSTRIAN UNION CONF.																									
Alpine Conference	19	1188	12	2	4	18	5	—	19	—	24	- 6	1182	8	3	2	2	1	—	6	22	19	1253	862	
Danube »	21	1495	37	—	15	52	13	8	13	—	34	18	1513	5	3	3	2	1	—	14	28	21	1634	1007	
Total :	40	2683	49	2	19	70	18	8	32	—	58	12	2595	17	6	9	16	2	—	20	70	40	2887	1869	
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN U. C.																									
Total :	114	6524	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6524	33	3	2	3	19	—	8	68	160	6000	5400	
FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.																									
Belgian Conference	15	938	13	3	1	17	5	1	4	—	10	7	945	6	3	1	7	—	—	4	21	15	1020	661	
French »	64	3021	52	2	82	136	21	13	91	—	125	11	3332	23	17	2	18	4	1	44	109	73	3167	2353	
Total :	79	3959	65	5	83	153	26	14	95	—	135	18	3777	35	20	3	29	4	1	48	140	88	4187	3014	
HUNGARIAN U. C.																									
Total :	257	6748	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6748	27	25	—	21	—	—	—	73	175	7000	6500	
RUMANIAN U. C.																									
Total :	551	31045	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31045	78	11	—	47	—	—	—	136	500	35000	32000	
SWISS U. C.																									
French Swiss Conference	26	1379	27	—	10	37	7	4	9	—	20	17	1396	9	3	1	4	3	3	14	37	25	1255	947	
German Swiss »	33	1960	21	3	35	59	4	5	29	—	38	21	1981	10	4	1	9	3	4	18	49	33	1849	1271	
Total :	59	3339	48	3	45	96	11	9	38	—	58	38	3377	19	7	3	15	6	7	32	89	58	3104	2218	
JUGOSLAVIAN U. C.																									
Total :	230	8056	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8056	47	11	2	8	23	—	—	91	300	9000	8500	
FRENCH EQ. AFR. U. M.																									
Batouri Mission	1	697	34	—	—	34	21	6	—	—	27	7	704	2	2	1	14	—	4	—	23	22	2054	1459	
Bertoua »	3	387	7	2	5	14	1	1	—	—	2	12	399	2	1	—	—	13	13	—	29	18	1495	869	
Kribi »	3	366	3	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	370	2	1	—	—	6	21	—	28	15	1070	797	
Nanga-Eboko »	5	1447	137	—	—	137	—	—	—	—	—	137	1584	1	2	—	—	28	23	—	54	45	4038	3531	
North Cameroun Mission	2	331	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	331	1	1	—	—	16	3	—	21	26	1087	995	
Sangmelima »	2	339	21	—	—	21	—	1	4	—	5	16	355	2	1	—	—	3	12	—	18	10	724	593	
Yaoundé »	6	649	41	—	—	41	6	3	—	—	9	32	681	1	3	—	—	13	17	2	36	18	1208	1095	
Total :	22	4216	243	2	6	251	28	11	4	—	43	208	4424	12	13	1	14	95	102	2	239	154	11676	9339	
INDIAN OCEAN UN. MISSION ..																									
Diego-Suarez Mission	1	19	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	20	1	—	—	—	3	—	2	1	5	19	18	
Fianarantsoa »	10	335	29	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	29	364	3	—	—	—	7	—	1	2	13	20	330	
Majunga »	9	198	12	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	12	210	3	1	—	—	3	—	5	2	14	9	445	
Maurice »	13	996	24	—	—	24	7	3	—	—	10	14	1010	5	2	—	—	8	—	13	4	32	13	835	
Réunion »	8	333	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	333	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	6	8	290	
Seychelles »	1	77	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	77	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	4	1	95	60	
Tamatave »	1	110	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	110	2	—	—	—	3	—	1	2	8	7	270	
Tananarive »	25	1046	60	—	—	60	—	—	—	—	—	60	1106	6	—	—	—	9	—	7	5	27	29	1852	
Total :	68	3114	125	—	1	126	7	3	—	—	10	116	3230	25	6	2	41	—	30	17	121	92	5178	4100	
ITALIAN UNION MISSION																									
Italian Mission	52	2164	69	2	17	88	3	3	19	—	25	63	2227	14	4	—	—	12	4	—	27	111	98	2645	2569
Sardinia Mission Station	1	36	5	—	—	5	—	—	1	—	1	4	40	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	3	2	65	51
Total :	53	2200	74	2	17	93	3	3	20	—	26	67	2267	23	6	—	40	4	—	68	141	100	2710	2620	

NORTH AFRICAN UN. MISSION

Algerian-Tunisian Mission
Moroccan »

Total :

PORTUGUESE UNION MISSION

Azores Mission
Cape Verde »
Madeira »
Portuguese Conference
St. Thomas Mission

Total :

PORTUGUESE AFRICAN U.M. .

Bongo Mission
Cuale »
Lucusse »
Luz »
Munguluni »
Namba »
Nova Lisboa »
Quilengues »
European Churches

Total :

BULGARIAN MISSION

FRENCH W. AFR. MISSION ..

GREEK MISSION

ISRAEL MISSION

SPANISH CHURCH

15	603	45	—	9	54	2	1	20	—	23	31	634	4	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	21	11	509	378		
6	193	12	1	1	14	—	—	2	—	2	12	205	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	10	6	211	186		
21	796	57	1	10	68	2	1	22	—	25	43	839	8	6	2	14	—	—	—	—	6	36	17	720	564			
3	118	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	-2	116	3	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	4	151	135
4	250	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	250	1	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	6	772	343	
1	138	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	-3	135	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	181	164	
17	1402	58	—	14	72	4	6	18	—	28	44	1446	8	6	—	2	1	1	11	—	—	—	29	17	1864	1291		
1	236	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	236	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	377	392	
26	2144	58	—	14	72	5	6	22	—	30	39	2183	14	10	—	7	4	1	12	—	—	—	48	37	3345	2325		
23	4630	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4630	6	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	73	95	7231	4780	
1	676	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	676	3	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	55	4979	3623		
1	151	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	151	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	16	816	424		
1	720	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	720	3	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	40	2157	1624		
5	681	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	681	2	2	1	—	12	2	—	—	—	—	19	9	1690	1640		
1	923	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	-1	922	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	16	45	2122	1570	
22	1879	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1879	2	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	42	80	4277	3654
1	96	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	5	-5	91	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	11	23	762	422
2	120	5	—	—	5	—	—	3	—	3	2	122	6	3	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	22	6	172	125
57	9876	5	—	—	5	5	1	3	—	9	-4	9872	34	30	1	36	12	162	18	—	—	—	293	369	24206	17868		
39	3197	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3197	9	4	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	39	2672	2200		
1	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	8	11	
5	221	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	221	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	5	242	188		
1	35	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	2	—	35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	38	35		
16	1110	62	—	46	108	—	2	44	—	48	60	1170	8	9	1	8	2	—	—	—	—	5	33	18	1555	1043		

RECAPITULATION

SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV. . .

Austrian Union Conference
Czechoslovakian »
Franco-Belgian »
Hungarian »
Rumanian »
Swiss »
Jugoslavian »
French Eq. Afr. U. M.
Indian Ocean Union Mission
Italian »
North African »
Portuguese »
Portuguese Afr. »
Bulgarian Mission
French W. Afr. »
Greek »
Israel »
Spanish Church

TOTALS 2nd QUARTER, 1956 ..

TOTALS 2nd QUARTER, 1955 ..

40	2683	49	2	19	70	18	8	32	—	58	12	2695	22	1	5	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	56	70	40	2887	1869	
114	6524	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6524	17	6	9	16	2	—	—	—	—	—	20	70	40	2887	1869	
79	3959	65	5	83	153	26	14	95	—	135	18	3977	33	3	2	3	19	—	—	—	—	8	68	160	6000	5400		
257	6748	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6748	35	20	3	29	4	1	48	—	—	—	140	88	4187	3014		
551	31045	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31045	27	25	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	73	175	7000	6500		
59	3339	48	3	45	96	11	9	38	—	58	38	3377	19	7	3	15	6	7	32	—	—	—	89	58	3104	2218		
230	8056	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8056	47	11	2	8	23	—	—	—	—	—	91	300	9000	8500		
22	4216	243	2	6	251	28	11	4	—	43	208	4424	12	13	1	14	95	102	2	—	—	—	239	154	11676	9339		
68	3114	125	—	1	126	7	3	—	—	10	116	3230	25	6	2	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	17	121	92	5178	4100
53	2200	74	2	17	93	3	3	20	—	26	67	2267	23	6	—	40	4	—	—	—	—	—	68	141	100	2710	2620	
21	796	57	1	10	68	2	1	22	—	25	43	839	8	6	2	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	36	17	720	564	
26	2144	58	—	14	72	5	6	22	—	30	39	2183	14	10	—	7	4	1	12	—	—	—	48	37	3345	2325		
57	9876	5	—	—	5	5	1	3	—	9	-4	9872	34	30	1	36	12	162	18	—	—	—	293	369	24206	17868		
39	3197	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3197	9	4	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	39	2672	2200		
1	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	8	11	
5	221	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	221	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	5	242	188		
1	35	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	2	—	35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	38	35		
16	1110	62	—	46	108	—	2	44	—	48	60	1170	8	9	1	8	2	—	—	—	—	5	33	18	1555	1043		
1639	89275	786	15	243	1044	106	59	280	—	444	597	89872	414	169	32	340	173	303	238	—	—	—	1669	2154	119528	99794		
1542	97256	584	29	733	1346	574	123	765	—	1462	-116	97140	400	143	37	367	187	287	216	—	—	—	1637	2148	122771	104177		

Reported by Our Union Presidents

PART TWO — Conclusion

AUSTRIAN UNION CONFERENCE — *President, L. Schneebauer*

It gives me great pleasure to render a report of our union before this circle of workers. First of all, I should like those present to think back upon the Division Winter Council held last year in Vienna. Since then great political changes have taken place in Austria. The troops that had occupied our land for the past ten years have gone. Today the country is totally free. During those ten years not only were the boundaries separating Austria from the adjoining countries controlled, but also the frontiers between the different zones of occupation. Austria has become a neutral country, and I believe this change in our political situation will bind us more closely than ever to our good neighbor Switzerland. But the closest ties of friendship are those uniting us to God's children in Switzerland and elsewhere. It is God's last message to the world — the blessed Advent hope — and the selfsame purpose in His work that make us one the world around.

Now I should like to tell you something about our activities. As in most other European fields, we begin our evangelistic campaigns in September. Thirteen evangelists will hold public efforts this winter. Our evangelists are laying special emphasis upon the personal contact method of work, for the individual instruction given in the home is of decisive value.

We have very loyal co-workers in our literature evangelists. In the past five years they have found seventy-five persons that have been instructed and baptized. This year we have organized a program of closer co-operation between ministers and literature evangelists. The publishing secretary has a number of colporteurs work together at the same time in the same city. From six to eight cover a town as quickly as possible. The purpose is to find persons who are religiously-minded. Through the presentation of religious books, the conversation turns towards religious things. Four cities in the vicinity of Vienna were worked in this way, and one hundred addresses were handed to the evangelists. These 100 addresses were divided into two classes: those who received Bible instruction every week, and those who, less advanced in spiritu-

al things, were given reading matter to increase their interest. In this way the church members could also have a part in the effort, for the evangelist would never have had time to distribute all this literature. The young people and church members helped.

We have brought more members into the truth from January to September of this year than during all of 1954. Last year we baptized 132 persons, and in nine months this year, 142, with prospects of baptizing 20 to 30 more before 1955 closes. The tithe of our faithful members has increased from quarter to quarter. We can truly say that we are on the way to becoming self-supporting. Our members engage enthusiastically in the yearly campaigns — Harvest Ingathering and Big Week. This demands great courage, for we have no official permission to collect or to sell literature. Yet the work goes on from year to year.

Wherever there is a Dorcas Society our sisters prepare a Christmas fête for poor children. We call our Dorcas Societies our "Helping Hand Groups." In Vienna the societies work together. At Christmas time some 800 children receive packages. As we do not have room to entertain so many children at one time, we hold two fêtes. Every girl is given a new dress, and every boy a new suit. The sisters visit the families and the clothes are made according to the children's measurements.

You may wonder how we can pay for the materials, shoes, et cetera for this distribution. The businessmen contribute generously, and the Vienna city authorities help us to the amount of 12,000 schillings. The authorities are invited to the Christmas program when the gifts are distributed.

Our school in Austria is still young, but a wonderful Christian spirit reigns at Bogenhofen. On different occasions, when some building project was in operation, the students have enthusiastically contributed their time without remuneration.

The faith of new members is often severely tried when it comes to Sabbath observance. This is especially true when a brother who holds an official government position accepts the truth. We had a

friend, the father of two children of school age, who was a magistrate. He was baptized. Then he went to the Minister of Justice to ask for his Sabbaths free, firmly resolved that if this were refused him he would resign from his position. He was told he could never hope for Sabbath release; but, miraculously, the responsible man granted his request. Of course our brother explained that he was willing to make up the time he did not work on Sabbath.

Very often we think of our brethren in the lands with which we have no present contact. We can only pray for them. While waiting for the glad day of reunion let us serve the Lord with joy, for the joy of the Lord is our strength. When Jesus appears in all His glory our joy will be complete. May we then be among those who will hail Him with songs of rejoicing.



ITALIAN UNION MISSION — *President, L. Beer*

Last Sabbath a missionary doctor was in Rome. He was returning to Malaysia. He had spoken to many churches in Australia and Europe, "But," he said, "the most interesting church I have ever visited is the one here in Rome." We ask Why? The answer is very simple. Rome and Italy are Biblical lands. The apostle Paul and other apostles worked in Rome. Today all classes of Christians meet in "the eternal city." Not only did the martyrs of the Middle Ages die in Rome, but also those of the first centuries. Even at the present time it is not easy to be a Seventh-day Adventist in Italy.

I shall not speak to you about the catacombs, nor the Colosseum, nor the Waldensian Valleys, but about the beginnings and progress of the Adventist message in this land.

Italy holds a place of honor in the annals of Advent history. Here the work began in 1863 by a priest — Czechowsky. Ellen Gould White herself labored in the Waldensian Valleys. The first European Adventist lived in Torre Pellice, and Italy also claims the first European colporteur. The organized work in our union dates back to 1928.

In 1929 a great marriage took place in Italy. The state and the church were united, and thus the so-called Roman problem was solved. Certain progress followed this union. Since then our ministers carry a decree in their pockets — a decree of religious "intolerance." But it is an historical fact that Rome never changes.

In 1941 we reached a church membership of 1,000. Eleven years later we had grown to 2,000, and our present membership is 2,200. Had not so many of our members emigrated to other countries, our church enrollment would be 3,000. During the first ten months of this year we baptized 150 persons — more than for all of 1954.

It is not easy to bring souls to accept the truth in any land, and it is especially difficult in our field. But we believe that the Gospel has the same power today as it had 1900 years ago when Paul wrote, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16). I should like to relate some experiences that came about through this power.

Six years ago a naval officer in Messina accepted a transfer to Rome in order to be able to keep the Sabbath. He was employed at the Board of Trade, and obtained Sabbath privileges only with great difficulty. Year before last he received a letter from the President of the Board informing him that within three years he would have to give up his Sabbath-keeping or be dismissed. Finally the last Sabbath passed, and our brother faced dismissal. (Dr. J. Nussbaum is well acquainted with the Vice-President of the Board of Trade, and had given his support to the petition we had lodged in behalf of this member.) I telephoned Brother — that in all probability he would be called in before the President. This gentleman is a very zealous Catholic. Hundreds of employees tremble in his presence. But our brother is truly a converted man. When he entered the President's office he was asked to take a seat — an unheard of courtesy. He was greeted with, "Who is this Dr. Nussbaum anyway?" "He is the general secretary for Religious Liberty in the whole world." "That doesn't interest me in the least," answered the President. "Is he an Adventist?" "Yes, he is my brother." "Look here!" continued the President, "for six years now I have been observing you and your Sabbath-keeping. One thing I must tell you. I am an earnest Catholic, but I must marvel at your faith. It must be rewarded. Today I will address a decree to the personnel chief. From now on you are free from Friday evening

until Saturday evening." Hundreds of employees were speechless that such a thing could happen. When the personnel chief was called to appear before the President, he trembled, for he knew he must give an answer for this case. He stood at attention, while our brother sat calmly in his chair. The chief was given orders to so organize the work that Brother — could make up the time lost on Sabbath. The following Sabbath our brother related his experience. Tears flowed. Yes, brethren, there is power in the Gospel of Christ

Last spring Sir Wiston Churchill was in Sicily, and our worker in a neighboring town felt that this great man should also have occasion to hear about the Advent message. Consequently he wrote a letter to Mr. Churchill, wishing him a pleasant period of rest in Sicily after his many great political victories, and expressing also the desire that God would permit him to learn about the blessed hope of Christ's coming. Mr. Churchill replied to this letter in his own handwriting, thanking our brother for his friendly message. The worker has been offered up to 30,000 lire for this letter.

In 1953 we received half of one 13th Sabbath Overflow. With this money we have built three small chapels in Sicily this year. One of these, the chapel in Piazza Armerina, seats 100. How many people do you think were present for the dedication? Almost 250 besides from 60 to 80 children. . . .

Every Sabbath during the past five weeks I have been in a church where there was baptism; but we hope that before long we can report 52 baptismal services in a year. . . .

When I met Brother Beach at the 1954 General Conference Session, he asked me, "What is your goal for Italy?" I answered, "A few weeks ago lightning made a breach in the Vatican walls, but we were not satisfied with the lightning. We should like to see a breach made in the walls of spiritual darkness." Do you know what our goal is? That fire from heaven, the fire and power of the Holy Ghost will fall upon every Adventist minister in Italy, so that the work of the Lord may be finished triumphantly. Help us with your prayers.



PORTUGUESE UNION MISSION — *President, E. Ferreira*

There are 2,134 members in the Portuguese Union which is composed of Portugal and a few island groups in the Atlantic Ocean: The Azores, The Cape Verde Islands, The Madeira Islands, St. Thomas Islands, and a small territory in Africa — Portuguese Guinea. In this latter territory we have no organized work, but there are a few members.

Our school in Portugal has been closed for two years, and we are still waiting for permission to re-open it. The same is true of a number of our meeting-halls. The Catholic religious influence is being felt everywhere, and sometimes where it is the least expected. Not long ago one of our sisters expressed the wish before her death that a Bible text be read at her grave at the time of her burial; but this we were not allowed to do because we were Protestants.

Good work is being carried forward with the help of the Bible correspondence course, although our statistics are not very high. In a city in the north a couple was brought to a knowledge of the truth through this means. They showed such a missionary spirit that they interested other persons in the message. Today a hundred people are attending the meetings we are holding in this locality.

The colporteur work is going forward encouragingly. Our brethren and sisters sell mostly religious books. In 1955 we were happy we could publish a new edition of *Steps to Christ* and *Desire of Ages*. An edition of *Great Controversy* is in preparation.

On the island of St. Thomas we have just a few less than 200 members, but when the government census was taken in 1950, 950 persons wrote on their census blanks that they were Adventists. Does not this show the good influence our message is exerting on the inhabitants?

We have a good primary school with an enrollment of 300 pupils. 111 sat for the state examinations this year, and 110 passed. In spite of this, false propaganda was carried on against the school, following which an inspector from the metropolis came to look into the matter. But things turned in our favor, for he stated after his inspection that the Adventist school was the best on the island when it came to buildings and instruction.

To those who ask whether it is worthwhile to support our schools, I would like to mention the case of one of our students who was not an Adventist when he came to our school, but who became one later. He went from St. Thomas to Angola where he

presented himself to the authorities for the usual formalities. The governor asked our young brother to enter his service as a cook, but he objected, saying that he could not do so because of the Sabbath. Finally he had to comply with the governor's insistence, after having made the necessary arrangements for Sabbath-keeping. But he was put to the test in another way. He was offered wine, pork, and other unclean foods which he refused emphatically. All these temptations were instigated by the governor's wife who wished to make sure that our brother was sincere.

On an island in the Azores where we have a few members but no worker, the message was brought to the people in a very interesting manner. A Portuguese lady bought one of Elder Spicer's books when she was in America. When she returned to the Azores she put the book up in the attic, very much displeased with its contents. But she had a brother who later on found the book and read it. He became interested and began to keep the Sabbath. He won his whole family to the truth, with the exception of his sister who had been in America. This man contacted Adventists as soon as circumstances permitted, and now the whole group has been baptized.

Proportionately there are fewer illiterate people on the Cape Verde Islands than in Portugal itself.

We have opened four schools in this territory. Even the children of some of the government colonial officials attend our schools. This year the government decided that in all the schools on the islands Saturday would be a day for sport and physical culture — something similar to the way the Hitler youth were trained. Our worker addressed a petition to the school authorities, and the *Official Bulletin* announced that these exercises would take place on another day in the Adventist schools.

As mentioned in the beginning, we have a few members in Portuguese Guinea. This year a young man from Portugal went there to do colporteur work. During his leisure time he studied, and when the time came for the state examinations he went up for them. But he had to pay a fine for not having taken the examination on the Sabbath. This was known all over the colony. A farmer who lived far away in the interior came to find our friend. He said, "I am glad to know that you have the same views as I. For six years now I have been keeping the Sabbath."

We can expect great things in the Portuguese Union in the future. Even if difficulties increase, God's cause knows no defeat. Like David of old we hear "the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees."



PORTUGUESE AFRICAN UNION MISSION — A. J. S. Casaca, *President Bongo Mission, reporting*

Of all Portuguese territory, Angola is the most Portuguese. Its area is 125,000 square kilometers. The population is made up of 50,000 Europeans and 4,200,000 natives. Seven principal dialects are spoken.

The work in Angola is not as easy as one might think. We must battle against three important factors: Catholic pressure which is becoming more and more acute, heathenism, fetishism. With the apostle Paul we may well say that the Gospel is the power of God to transform men and peoples in Angola.

At present there are more than 10,000 church members in Angola. We shall probably reach 25,000 Sabbath school members at the end of 1955. There are 6,000 young people, and 5,400 are enrolled in our schools.

The most important work in Angola is being carried on in the medical line. Dr. Parsons, assisted by Doctor Moretti, has done a noble work which has contributed to break down many barriers of prejudice. The authorities look upon our educa-

tional work with much appreciation also, and even the Catholics speak highly of it.

Some time ago an educational inspector was sent from Portugal to inspect non-Catholic schools in Angola. He visited our stations at Bongo and Nova Lisboa, and expressed great satisfaction of what he found in these institutions. He presented the mission with a written approval, stating that of all the mission stations he had visited our Bongo station came the nearest to meeting the requirements of the Department of Public Education of Angola. This statement is all the more valuable seeing that on a number of occasions we have been accused of working against the national interests of Angola.

A young man from Bongo had been praying for a long time for the conversion of his mother. During a meeting where 2,000 persons were present, an appeal was made to accept Christ. More than 200 persons went forward, and among them was an old woman who, to everyone's surprise said: "You all know me. I was a dreadful sorceress; but

today I have heard the call of the Lord. The Spirit of God has touched my heart, and I stand here to give my testimony. I do not want to be a sorceress any longer, but a Christian. I have helped cause the death of many members of your families." Then she took off her fetishes — one after another. They filled a small basket. It was a very touching scene when our young brother came forward and embraced his mother and praised God for having heard his prayers.

Another young man by the name of Jonas took part in the M. V. Classes. Thinking he was incapable of doing anything of much account, he was left aside. Once when the groups were organized and he had been left out, he asked for a picture roll and started off. For seven months no one knew what had become of Jonas. It was supposed that he had

given up the truth. But one day during our travels we met him again. He was carrying something on his head — his picture roll.

He had organized a Sabbath school of 45 members in the village where he went. We were surprised to see the good group he had brought together. Besides his picture roll he was carrying also a bag which contained the tithes and offerings of the group. A worker was sent to this sector, and Jonas started off again to create other interests. As a result of his work four churches were raised up and more than 400 baptisms took place in these churches.

This year there were more than 1,500 baptisms in the Angola Union Mission. Much still remains to be done. It is not in vain that we have labored. The work in Angola is preparing for the final victory.



FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICAN UNION MISSION — *K. Scheidegger, Secretary-Treasurer, reporting*

It is a great joy for me to be present at this Division Committee, and to listen to the reports of the different countries represented here. Indeed, we do not often have the privilege of being in Europe and meeting with our brethren and sisters. So the memories of the days spent with you will be a comfort to me in the trying moments which at one time or another come to every missionary.

I would like to read a declaration by Dr. Schweizer, which well expresses how every missionary feels towards the black races: "An immeasurable debt rests upon us and upon our civilization. We are not free to choose whether we *will* or *will not* (italics ours) uplift the colored races. We owe it to them. The good that we do them is not an act of charity. It is an act of reparations." This is a debt all civilized nations owe; I mean all those that are profiting from material progress, and whose duty it is to see that less privileged nations benefit from this material progress.

But we have an infinitely greater debt to pay. In the 18th century the natural harbor of Douala was used for many long years as a slave-traffic port. This shameful commerce spread out over a large part of the Cameroun territory. The natives left in the country were the sick, the old, the decrepit. So those of the present generation are their descendants. Although the white race has now established itself in the Cameroun with philanthropic motives, our debt has not been lessened for that. Rather it increases day by day, for the slavery of the population is just as real today, although it is another kind of slavery. It is

the slavery of alcohol, for in all the cities of the country a native can buy all the wine he wishes. In certain places he can buy it "by the minute." That is, he pays for as much as he can drink during a minute. The natives are totally ignorant of the harm alcohol does their health. Most of them come from the bush, and take to drink readily. The white race unscrupulously exploits this weakness. Thus the harm done to the natives in this way is far greater than all the good done by hospitals and schools, for the majority of the population are afflicted by this terrible vice of drunkenness. This is why we rejoice all the more to have church members who are faithful and who live up to the good principles we have taught them. They are thankful to have been freed from the slavery of alcohol and of sin in general.

Most of the natives in our sector of the Cameroun have been under the influence of Christianity for about a century, but this power that comes from above requires a great deal of time before it brings forth fruit. And after all a native remains a native. We do not try to make a white man out of him. We endeavor only to enlighten his darkened soul with the Gospel, so that his life may be transformed.

The task is immense, for a non-converted negro has a hard cruel heart, which nothing seemingly can soften. He has no feelings of tenderness for anyone, not even for his own parents or relatives. Let me give you an illustration. One evening a white man, trembling from fear, knocked at the door of our little African hut, and begged me, as a missionary, to intervene to stop the murder that

was taking place near where he lived. First of all we notified the police, and then proceeded to the hut where a most abominable sight met our eyes. Bound hand and foot, the victim lay writhing on the mud floor. A great number of men were watching the scene. One man was literally butchering the victim's face and arm with a huge kitchen knife. The poor man had already lost consciousness and was foaming at the mouth. It was an innocent person who was paying the penalty for his sister. She had lodged a complaint at the police station and these men were determined to take out vengeance on her, but as she had been able to escape they thought of nothing better than to inflict the punishment upon her brother after having tracked him all through the village as though he had been a wild beast.

I can assure you that Christian natives abandon completely and definitely such barbarous practices, and foster feelings of good-will in their hearts towards their fellow-men.

Now I wish to speak to you about the missionary status in all the country. The three oldest stations are Nanga-Eboko, Bertoua and Batouri. Yaoundé is the present Union headquarters, but Nanga is still the principal station. Here we have a school with 400 children in the primary department and from 60 to 80 students in the Bible department. A dispensary is also doing a good work for the natives. Other stations are established all over the country. They are prosperous and developing normally. I would not forget to mention the one in the north, at Koza, where we are building a hospital in which we have placed great hopes.

The French Equatorial African Union Mission has more than 4,000 baptized believers and some 10,000 Sabbath school members. When it comes to our primary schools, dispersed throughout the country, they group together more than 4,000 children. But all this, encouraging as it is, is definitely insufficient. It is our purpose to carry aloft the banner of peace and salvation farther and still farther into the great Cameroun country to the many souls waiting in darkness for the proclamation of the last message.

THE SNIPER

"I understand that poor Joel just isn't making a success of his work. From what I hear, they aren't satisfied with him and are thinking of making a change" — and the speaker shakes his head in pseudo sadness. (Did I hear a faint gunshot in the distance? Well, maybe I was mistaken.)

"They say that Penelope doesn't have any friends in the new school where she's attending this year. Oh, I don't know anything definite —

just a general impression that she isn't the popular girl she used to be —" (There it is again, that definite sound of a gunshot.)

"It's now a quite generally known fact that Professor Blank can't begin to fill the shoes of his predecessor. I guess they realize what a mistake they made in asking him to take the job." Now I've finally identified that faint sound of gunfire. It's the sharp pistol report of the verbal sniper as he sends his bullet winging on its way!

As I understand a sniper in the military sense, he's an individual who stays pretty well hidden and takes aim at targets that are usually a considerable distance away from him. These habits are also indigenous to the verbal sniper. He assumes an air of hypocritical regret over the disagreeable bits of information and opinion he must pass on, at the same time protecting himself by nearly always prefixing his attacks with "They say" or "I heard" or "It's generally known" or "It seems that." A few moments of thoughtful attention reveal, however, that these are merely clumps of literary camouflage behind which he is hiding.

Of course the intended victim of a real-life sniper is not left unaware of his danger for long. He runs for cover, madly, if he's wise. But the verbal sniper is much more free to ply his trade, and it's doubtful whether the great majority of his victims ever are aware that their reputations are bleeding from so many wounds. It's all so insidious.

I'm really not eager to make any close-up study of a sniper, for it's a dangerous business. But from what I've observed at a safe distance, he seems most to enjoy taking aim at those who are working harder than he is, making more of a success, or trying harder to live up to the best within themselves. Most shocking of all, with real venom he snipes at the sincere, struggling Christian.

Poor sniper — he has to keep his weapons ready for use at all times. He can't afford to relax his vigil long enough to meditate on the poverty of his own soul. How unlike Christ, who tried to heal, not wound, who dealt tenderly even with the broken reed and smoking flax.

Anne Observer, in *The Review and Herald*, July 5, 1956, page 15.

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Here and There

An **Educational Convention** will be held at Valbella, Switzerland from August 23-29 of this year. The leaders and teachers of our Collonges Seminary, our Italian, Austrian, Yugoslavian, Portuguese and Spanish training schools will meet to study their problems and methods for the further development of our educational program throughout the Division. L. H. Rasmussen of the General Conference Department of Education, as well as the educational secretaries of the Northern and Central European Divisions, will be present and contribute to the success of the convention. Our schools in the Indian Ocean Union Mission will be represented by H. Long who is in charge of the Befandriana school on Madagascar Island, and at present on furlough in Europe.



P. Bénézec who was a missionary in the French Cameroun for many years, as well as president of this mission after the second World War, and later president of the Southeast France Conference, has accepted a call to take over the leadership of the Reunion Island Mission. The presidency of this field was made vacant when J. Surel returned permanently to France about a year ago. Elder and Mrs. Bénézec left their grown-up children in Europe and embarked from Marseille aboard the **S. S. Jean Laborde** on May 18. We are fully aware of the real sacrifice this faithful missionary couple have made in taking up service in a far-away mission field once again. We appreciate their unselfish spirit, and know that the Lord will richly reward and bless them as they labor for Him on the beautiful island of Reunion. Elder and Mrs. Bénézec write that they arrived safely at their mission station and are happy and enjoying their work.



H. Salzmann who is in charge of our mission work in the southern part of Madagascar, writes that a very neat church building was dedicated to the Lord on June 30, 1956 at Fianarantsoa, the main city of southern Madagascar. An article about this service will appear in the next number of the **QUARTERLY REVIEW**.

Ordination: At Athens, during the recent visit of Elder M. V. Campbell, D. A. Christoforides and N. Poulos were ordained to the gospel ministry. On Sabbath, June 9, four Italian workers, B. B. Beach, M. Maggiolini, S. Di Paola and F. Santini, were also ordained. B. B. Beach is the son of Pastor W. R. Beach, our former Division president and now secretary of the General Conference.



The readers of the **QUARTERLY REVIEW** will certainly be interested in the progress the **Bible correspondence schools** throughout the Division are making. The second quarter of 1956 was the most fruitful in soul-winning since our Bible correspondence schools were organized. Ninety-six precious souls were baptized, resulting from this activity. We list these baptisms as follows:

Austrian Bible correspondence school	26
French school in Paris	6
French Switzerland school in Lausanne	3
German Switzerland school in Zürich	4
Italian Switzerland school in Lugano	1
French Cameroun school	2
Madagascar school (Malagasy course)	20
Madagascar school (French course)	9
Italian school in Florence	14
Portuguese school in Lisbon	8
Casablanca school in Morocco	2
Algiers school	1
	—
Total	96



Two of our faithful missionary families who served for a good number of years in the French Cameroun, have returned permanently to Europe. They are the I. Curmatureau and R. Bentz families. They will be replaced at the beginning of this autumn by Elder and Mrs. K. Waber and their two children and Mr. and Mrs. E. Ludescher with their one child. Brother Waber has been an evangelist in different places in Switzerland for a number of years, and E. Ludescher was the preceptor of the Collonges Seminary for about two years. We wish these two **out-going** families God's richest blessing in their new experience, and extend also our best wishes for successful work in the homeland to the **returning missionaries**.

L. Beer, president of the **Italian Union Mission**, reports a good harvest of souls during the second quarter of 1956. Until July 12 about eighty baptisms had been reported. In the small city of Piazza Armerina, located in the heart of Sicily, 17 precious souls were baptized. Over the last week-end of July they were also able to dedicate two new church halls in the Italian Mission: one located in the city of Catania, Sicily, and the other in Firmo on the continent.



One of our young Portuguese workers, **A. Caldeira**, who finished his course at the Collonges Seminary at the end of the last school year, has been called by our Portuguese African Union Mission for general mission work in Angola, Portuguese West Africa. May the hand of the Lord be with Brother Caldeira as he leaves his homeland in the near future for this post of labor.



We all remember the tragic airplane crash over the Grand Canyon, Colorado, U. S. A., when two American passenger planes collided during a thunderstorm, and 125 persons lost their lives. As it was very difficult to rescue the bodies of the victims in this deep rocky canyon, the United States authorities appealed to the Swiss National Mountain Rescuers for help. Among these courageous men was one of our Swiss Adventist boys, **Harald Zürcher** from Burgdorf.



J. Lopez, our worker in the international city of **Tangier**, North Africa, reports that six persons were baptized in this city on June 16, 1956.



M. Vincentelli who taught for a number of years at the Florence school, has accepted a call to serve as departmental secretary of the Italian Union Mission. Brother Vincentelli has already taken up his new work in Rome.



During the district meetings held in different localities of the Italian Union, six persons were baptized in Palermo, Sicily; three at Bari, southern Italy; and ten at Milano, northern Italy.