Vol. 23 - DECEMBER 1956 NUMBER 4

# QUARTERLY REVIEW

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

## Our Swiss Members Help Hungary

#### By Dr. O. Schuberth

three thousand

refugees are there

all they time. We

asked the leader

of the camp what

they needed most.

He replied that

many of the refu-

gees are in such

a nervous condi-

tion that they can

not take any food:

so it would be

acceptable if we

could bring some

oranges and ba-

nanas. The next

day we returned with 300 kilos

(600 pounds) of

oranges and ba-

nanas which were

As soon as the distress in Hungary was known, our brethren and sisters in Switzerland united to bring relief. Parcels containing food and clothing were sent to Berne from where they were to be forwarded to Budapest via Vienna. It was first thought that not relief work, accompanied the first shipment. We took this occasion to acquaint ourselves with the whole situation. Among other things we visited the camp at Traiskirchen near Vienna where the refugees are received when they arrive from the border. Some

more than two private cars would be needed to transport these packages; but when they were all collected, not even a two-ton truck was sufficient ! Still more and more packages kept coming in, and a few days later a second truckload was sent to Vienna.

J. J. Aitken. president of the Swiss Union, and the writer, Division secretary for



Refugee children receiving "strange" fruit.

Photo J. J. Aitken

given mostly to the children and the sick. We parked the car in front of the hospital and began the distribution. How the little hands were held out ! Many of the children had never seen these strange fruits and had to learn how to eat them. We distributed about one half of the fruit ourselves to the women and children who had gathered around us. The other half was donated to the hospital.

Our very best thanks to all our members who made it possible for us to bring this relief so quickly.

## Our Work at Dakar French West Africa

#### By R. Erdmann

On a certain occasion John the Baptist declared before the non-plussed Pharisees. "God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham" (Matt. 3 : 9).

We may gather great comfort from these words, which, at the same time, are a promise. The above text came to my mind when a businessman asked me why I had come to Dakar. Pointing to his cement pavement he said, "If you are looking for a place to settle down do not choose such a soil as this." Certainly not ! But this good man knew nothing of the power of God and His precious promises : "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them ; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose" (Isa. 35 : 1).

The solemn responsibility of bringing the third angel's message to the eleven million inhabitants of French West Africa demands great courage. The work is made all the more difficult because of the vastness of our territory — eleven times greater than that of France ! - and of Islam which is making great efforts to spread its alreadypreponderant influence. Who will make a real breach in this massive wall so strongly opposed to Christianity ? Which will be victorious ? the cross or the crescent? We count only upon the grace and power of our Lord, without which nothing can be accomplished. Our first convert was a Moslem. His conversion is a veritable miracle. This brother is very zealous in spreading the printed page, and is preparing to become a worker in the Lord's vinevard.

We have become known through a number of series of lectures which we have given, and the divine seed has been sown in the hearts of thousands of listeners. The radio and newspapers have been helpful in announcing these lectures. Our work has often met with the opposition of the enemies of truth, but the Lord has marvelously stood by us. We have seen His power manifest, and know for a certainty that "The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear" (Isa. 59: 1).

The publishing work has made encouraging progress. Many books and Bibles have been sold, and the good work continues. The books of the Spirit of prophecy are especially well thought of, and many persons admit that the authoress was divinely inspired.

Our members manifest an active missionary spirit. We have had ten baptisms, and our present membership is fifteen. These members are very faithful in their tithes and offerings which, moreover, are on the increase. The Harvest Ingathering campaign has always been very successful. In 1955, 224,000 colonial francs (\$ 1,277.-) were gathered for missions.

Our radio broadcasts reach a large audience, and many requests to be enrolled in the Bible correspondence course come to us from the Abidjan Mission which is not in our territory. In our own field the enrollments are fewer in number. This is due to the fact that the lessons are not so well adapted to the mentality and beliefs of the people.

#### An Experience

Nebuchadnezzar, the proud king of Babylon, had to learn the bitter lesson that "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will" (Dan. 4 : 17).

God has always held the reins of governments in His own hands, and still directs events for the carrying into effect of His eternal plan.

## Thirtieth Anniversary of the Italian Publishing House

One of the most powerful means for proclaiming the third angel's message to the fifty million inhabitants of the Italian Republic is our publishing house, Araldo della Verità (Herald of Truth). Together with the Italian Union Training School, it is one of the two Adventist institutions in the city of Florence. This year we are celebrating its thirtieth anniversary. Since this publishing house was founded in 1926, tens of thousands of truthfilled books, periodicals and pamphlets have left Via Trieste where it is located, for the four corners of the Italian field and for many other countries outside of Italy.

Thanks to the funds collected during a Big Week by the people of God all over the world, back in 1925, the brethren were able to construct the building which now houses *Araldo della Verità*. The basement is used for the print-shop and bindery. On the ground floor are the offices and composition rooms. The offices of the Italian Voice of Hope (Voice of Prophecy) and the publishing house manager's apartment are on the second floor.

As you go in through the main entrance the first office to the left is the manager's, the second that of the treasurer with her assistant. The stockroom and shipping department are on the righthand side of the hall-way. If you continue down this same hall-way you come to the periodical department. At the far-end of the hall-way are the editors' offices. First, that of the editor of Vita e Salute (Life and Health), and then the office of the editor-in-chief who is responsible for the two journals Segni dei Tempi (Signs of the Times), and Il Messaggero Avventista (Advent Messenger).

Until 1951 the books and periodicals were printed by a printer in the city. Our own bindery began to operate in August 1951, and a few months later the first books and periodicals were printed at the publishing house itself.

During the summer of 1951 the publishing house received as a gift from America an old printing-press, two job-presses and some other machines, which made it possible to improve the equipment. Another small press was bought, and a new modern press with an automatic feeder installed. This quickly increased the production capacities of the plant. But thanks to a recent gift from the General Conference Publishing Extension Fund, the management was able to procure one of the most modern automatic machines for setting type : the Intertype c-4. The brethren are grateful to God for this continual improvement in the mechanical facilities of the plant, and pledge themselves to do still greater things for the Advent cause.

A brief survey of the different departments shows that six employees are working at present in the bindery; four young men handle the presses, and three employees take care of the composition rooms. One man is in charge of the stockroom and shipping. The shipping department badly needs a means of transportation — a small pick-up. For the time being all the shipping clerk has at his disposal is an oversized scooter.

Let us briefly look back upon the history of our publishing house. A few years after World War I, the work in Italy was reorganized. From 1923 to 1926 we had a small book and Bible house. But it was soon felt that we should spread our literature more widely among this country's teeming millions. Thus, on April 14, 1926, after having received the necessary funds from the United States, our publishing house was opened. For two years the president of the Italian Union Mission and the secretary-treasurer were in charge of the new institution. This set-up lasted until 1928 when Giovani Fenz, the secretary-treasurer of the Union, was elected the first manager. For several years he acted as treasurer also, - until 1950 when Miss Maria Lippolis was appointed to this office. Since 1954 G. Ferraro has been the manager. He is ably assisted by a group of devoted workers, who are convinced that "it is God alone who can give success either in preparing or in circulating our publications". Elder A. Caracciolo is the book editor and Dr. V. Sincovich is the other editor. Elio Monzani is in charge of the pressroom.

The publishing house publishes several periodicals. L'Ultimo Messaggio (The Last Message) was the first Seventh-day Adventist periodical edited in the Italian language. It was printed in the United States as far back as 1882. It kept the same name when it was published in Italy itself, in the city of Genoa, twenty-seven years later. Soon after this the Ultimo Messaggio was transferred to Florence, and in 1921 the name was changed to L'Araldo della Verità (Herald of Truth). From 1943 to 1946, because of serious war conditions (the battle-line passed through Florence itself), it was necessary to suspend the publishing of this periodical. When it was launched again in 1946 it took the name of Segni dei Tempi (Signs of the Times). The present circulation of this paper has reached about five thousand monthly copies.

II Messaggero Avventista has been the Union church paper for the last 31 years. Its circulation is not very high. About half of the church membership are subscribers. Vita e Salute, our health magazine, was first edited in January 1952, and it has been a success from the very start. Its circulation is about 30,000 copies monthly. G. Arbore was the first editor of this magazine. Since 1955 Dr. V. Sincovich has been the editor. He is also professor of science at our Italian Union Training School which is located only about a mile and a half from the publishing house. All the editing work including the art work and the reading of the proof-sheets is done by these two editors who are ably assisted by two young girls, Marthy Maggio and Edith Karl.

Looking back over the past thirty years, which the history of our publishing house covers, we can

say that these three decades represent a story of true success. There have been hardships, there have been trials, there has been the smoke of the battlefield, but souls have been won. On this thirtieth anniversary of the Italian publishing house, the employees of this institution are happy to offer to the Italian-speaking population of the world the first Italian edition of *Desire of Ages* which has just come off the press. They have resolved under God to do their utmost so that the Italian peninsula from the snowy peaks of the Alps down to the sun-bathed shores of the island of Sicily, shall resound with the tramp of God's messengers and soon be enlightened with His glory.

G. Ferraro - B. B. Beach.

## Slow Me Down Lord !

We are living in an age of speed and high pressure. A jet plane recently screamed through the heavens at 1,900 miles an hour. Scheduled airlines are talking about coast-to-coast flights in four hours. Automobile manufacturers are placing increased emphasis on horsepower.

Not only has transportation speeded up, but our daily lives leave us almost breathless as we hurry from place to place, meeting appointments and deadlines, driving the children to school, cramming into one day as much activity as former generations were satisfied to accomplish in two or three days, or even a week.

As Adventists we also feel under pressure and in a hurry because uppermost in our thinking is the fact that Jesus is coming soon. Time is precious. The Gospel must go to the world immediately. Earth's last warning message must be sounded everywhere in this generation. This divine assignment impels us not alone to undertake great personal missionary activity but also to give generously of our money and to pray fervently on behalf of our great overseas mission program.

Furthermore, we have anxious hearts as we consider some of our relatives and friends who are not prepared to meet Jesus. We pray for them, but are impatient to see results because we know that time is short. And thus we further develop an anxiety complex.

Satan wants us to be on the run constantly, for by so doing he can rob us of the quiet that is absolutely essential for real communion with God. But we must defeat him; we must slow down.

Perhaps we need to utter the following praver by an unknown author : "Slow me down, Lord ! Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with the vision of the eternal reach of time. Give me, amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of the everlasting hills. Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory. Teach me the art of taking minute vacations — of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book. Let me look upward into the branches of the towering oak and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well. Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values."

K. H. W. Review and Herald. November, 1, 1956

## A Gift

#### By A. Meyer

In striking contrast with the heart-rending events of today, are others, happily, which are more comforting. We would mention one : the splendid expression of sympathy and solidarity of our churches in behalf of our brethren and sisters in Hungary. Switzerland was one of the first countries to bring most admirable relief to this war-stricken land.

Upon my return from a long visit in the Cameroun, I had the privilege of addressing the members of the Adventist churches of French Switzerland, assembled in Lausanne for their annual meeting. On that occasion I made an appeal for the church at Grand-Batanga in the Kribi country, Cameroun. At the time of my visit a brick church had just replaced the primitive thatch-roofed chapel which had been destroyed by hurricanes and white ants. This new building is topped by a belfry but — there is no bell ! The African brethren had given unstintedly of their physical strength, and contributed financially as far as their means would permit, toward the erec-





tion of their sanctuary; but, alas! the windows were lacking, and the bell tower was empty.

The president of the Léman Conference, Charles Monnier, heard this appeal, and enthusiastically invited the members of his conference to donate a bell to the Grand-Batanga church. This they did, some persons in German Switzerland responding as well to the invitation. We wish to express our most hearty and sincere thanks to every donor. A beautiful bronze bell weighing seventy-five kilos (one hundred and fifty pounds) was cast, and is on its way to the Cameroun. On one side is engraved "Deo Soli Gloria" ("To God only be glory"), and on the other, "Les églises adventistes de Suisse à l'église adventiste de Grand-Batanga" ("From the Adventist churches of Switzerland to the Adventist church at Grand-Batanga").

This bell will be rung to the glory of God, calling our African brethren and sisters to worship. Its clear peals will resound across Africa's bushland inviting her heathen children to come and listen to God's message of love and salvation. Another act of solidarity ! And one which will surely tend to strengthen the ties that bind us to the family of God and make us one in Christ Jesus.

## Educational Convention Valbella Switzerland

The highlight in the Department of Education for 1956 was our Educational Convention which was held August 23-29 at Valbella in Graubünden. Here the German-Swiss Conference has rented permanently the chalet of one of our church members. It is nestled beautifully on a hill 1400 meters (4,200 feet) above sea level, and is surrounded by majestic peaks up to 3000 meters (9,000 feet) in altitude.

The convention was attended by forty-eight delegates from all parts of the field. The General Conference had sent us Professor L. R. Rasmussen of the Department of Education. Northern Europe was represented by J. A. Simonson, and Central Europe by E. Berner, both the educational secretaries of these respective divisions. The Southern European Division office had sent A. Meyer, secretary of the Ministerial Association, and the writer from the Department of Education.

The business was devoted mainly to roundtable discussions and general lectures. Everyone expressed himself freely in the discussions. The various sides of the problems were emphasized. Differences of opinion occurred, but we were all united in the one great aim of our educational work : the saving of souls. We were especially happy to have Professor Rassmussen with us, who kindly but firmly stands for the principles of Christian education.

Among the resolutions voted were the following :

#### I Scholastic Discipline

Considering on one hand the general lessening of discipline, and on the other hand, the seriousness of the times in which we live, we, educators of the Southern European Division resolve

(1) to be examples for our students in the matter of Christian conduct and personal discipline;

(2) to manifest wise firmness to a greater degree in the application of the principles of Christian discipline, in order to inculcate in the students respect for the sacred character of the law of God;

#### By. Dr. O. Schuberth

(3) to show, according to the example of our divine Master, ever more love and kindness to our students;

(4) to cooperate more closely in order to bring greater unity into the teaching staff in the application of disciplinary principles such as arc set forth in the Bible and the writings of the Spirit of prophecy.

#### II Sabbath Observance

Considering the importance of Sabbath observance to the spiritual life, and the tendency toward liberality which exists among us in this regard, we commit ourselves

(1) to giving an example in greater respect for the day of rest;

(2) to organizing, with the participation of the entire teaching staff, various educational, spiritual and missionary activities in harmony with the sacred character of this day;

(3) to prohibit all occupation and all deportment incompatible with the spirit of the Sabbath, among others being sports.

#### III Recreation, and Relations Between Young Men and Women

Considering the necessity to give particular attention to the problems of recreation and to those on the relationship between the young men and women students, we reaffirm our desire to put in practice the principles contained in the resolutions taken at Florence in 1948:

"In view of the necessity of securing for our students the best possible atmosphere of earnestness and of undisturbed application to study,

"We reccomend, 1. That the relations between students of the two sexes be etablished on the basis of wholesome comradeship and of perfect propriety,

# Adventist Response to S.O.S. Hungary

By J. J. Aitken



First relief truck arrives in Vienna, Austria from Berne, Switzerland.

Photo J. J. Aitken

Dr. O. Schuberth and J. J. Aitken arrived in Vienna on Friday evening, November 9. On Sabbath evening the first truckload of food and clothing for Hungarian relief arrived from Switzerland. This was unloaded by the young people of the Vienna church. While it was being unloaded, a young boy of about sixteen and his mother came to the church. They had trudged across the snow-covered fields of Hungary to escape death. The boy asked whether the Adventists had not thought of them : had not, perhaps, some friends in Zürich sent them something ? He had so much faith that there was something amongst all those packages for them, that we went through everything carefully, and to our great astronishment there was a package with his name and Budapest address on it. It was to have been sent to their home in Hungary, but somehow had gotten into the truckload of parcels and reached Vienna just when these weary and homeless ones arrived at the Adventist church. How marvelously God honored that boy's faith. Their home had been destroyed. His mother needed a warm coat, and she received one. It arrived almost the very moment they arrived.

The Southern European Division has authorized a committee for Hungarian relief to act in Vienna. The Adventist refugees receive their first help in that city. It is the point of contact with Hungarian help along the border. To the date of writing ever fifty Adventist refugees have received help at our Vienna headquarters. We are happy to learn that Trans-World Airlines has just sent quite a large shipment of clothing from New York to our Vienna headquarters via Zürich free of charge.

For one month Brother M. Radancevic and his family had been trying to find a way out of Hungary. When the revolution broke out the border was "sealed." Brother Radancevic helped the best he could to get food for his family. When the Russians were driven out of Budapest the carnage of the street-fighting was horrifying. Men, women and children were lying dead and dying on the streets, and were crushed by Russian tanks.

Brother Radancevic went from one embassy to another in Budapest trying to find some way to leave the country, but there was no possibility. He



Young people of the Vienna church unloading relief truck which has just arrived from Berne.

Photo J. J. Aitken

went to the International Red Cross, but they could not help him. We here at the Division office were all praying for his safety. Brother Radancevic told us that one morning they needed some bread. He went at four o'clock and stood in line until eleven. He waited that long for just a loaf of bread, to be told there was none. There was no water in the city. He tried to get some potatoes for his family. In another section of Budapest where his mother-in-law law lives, some heaps of potatoes had been stocked. Thousands of people were trying to get some of these potatoes, but when they went near, the Russian fighter planes would mow them down. Perhaps the Russian pilots thought it was a mass meeting, but it was only starving people trying to gather up a few potatoes. Brother Radancevic managed finally to get home with a few potatoes for his hungry family, without being shot. As he walked through the streets, the sight was most appalling. The dead and the dying were lying everywhere. The people were being buried right on the spot where they fell — in a public garden or any plot of ground. Most of those killed in the street fighting were young people between thirteen and eighteen.

Finally, after pleading with Yugoslavian Embassy officials (Brother Radancevic is a Yugoslavian; his wife is Hungarian) to get them out of



Refugee camp, Traiskirchen, near Austro-Hungarian border. Center, W. A. Wild, Southern European Division Home Missionary and Sabbath school secretary.

Photo J. J. Aitken



Right, J. J. Aitken; standing beside him is the boy from Budapest with the "faith package" under his arm. Second from left, this boy's mother.

Photo J. J. Aitken

Hungary into Switzerland, he was told they could get him into Yugoslavia, but not into Switzerland; but that would not have helped him. Through a man who spoke French and had been educated in France, he was able to get in touch with the Hungarian Red Cross. For some unknown reason this man became very friendly. At the Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters this gentleman said, "Come back tomorrow." When Brother Radancevic returned the next day, he had to fill out a lot of papers. The gentleman who had been so kind said. "If you want to go, then you must go *immediately.*" "But," Brother Radancevic answered, "my wife and daughter are on the other side of the city. I cannot go without then." "We have a limousine at your disposal," was the response. Brother Radaucevic walked out of that mau's office and found a beautiful Russian motorcar, with an Hungarian chauffeur sitting at the wheel, waiting for him. "This is the car that will take you to the border," he was told. They drove quickly across the city to pick up Mrs. Radancevic and the daughter. They threw their luggage into the car, and then the real flight to freedom and safety began. On the way to the border they were controlled ten times by the Russians, who threatened a number of times to stop them; but Brother and Sister Radancevic were praying earnestly. Speeding along at over one hundred kilometers an hour they reached the Austro-Hungarian border. After



Eistributing oranges and bananas to refugee children. Center, D<sup>r</sup>. O. Schuberth, Division secretary for Hungarian Relief.



Photo J. J. Aitken Homeless in a big world!

waiting there one and a half hours, they were finally given their passports and told they could proceed on foot over the border. Hundreds of others who had hoped to get across had to remain behind.

Brother Radancevic feels that an angel of God certainly delivered them in their time of trouble, when their was no means of transportation or gasoline available. How thankful we are for God's loving care for His children.



Photo J. J. Aitken The Radancevic family

#### EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION VALBELLA SWITZERLAND (Continued from page 6)

No student can claim the rights and privileges commonly understood as pertaining to the marriage engagement.

"2. That in case two young people already engaged to be married are accepted in the same institution. it be understood that none of these rights are accorded them, and that they must conduct themselves, in their relations to each other, as if they were not engaged. If they do not conform to this rule, one of the two must leave the institution.

"3. That marriages during the school year not be permitted."

#### A WORD FROM ISRAEL

We count it a privilege to work in Israel — that land where the blessed Bible lives. We are continually thrilled as we walk over the same ground as our Master, His followers, and the prophets of old walked.

Just before our home is Mount Zion. On this mountain is the place where our Master gathered His closest friends, the disciples, for the Last Supper. It is just outside the old city walls. Beyond the city, as you look eastward, is the Mount of Olives where our Master ascended to heaven, and where He will return to take His faithful redeemed ones with Him to the glorious mansions He is preparing above. Then we shall sit at another repast — the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Only with God's protection is one safe to go about in Israel of late. We never know when the guerillas from Arab countries all around us will meet us. They attack busses, killing those who are not able to escape. They stop cars right on the highway, and kill all the people, so no one can report. They attack trains, trying to shoot and kill the engineer as the train travels along, so the train will overturn in the mountains and all the passengers be killed. Sometimes people who are out in their orchards picking oranges or olives, are shot and cut to pieces. The guerillas take a piece of their bodies back over the line to show they have accomplished their mission. Open-air lectures at places of excavations, have been disturbed by shooting into the crowd; and people are killed as they listen. It could be that innocent people are made to do this.

We love all of these people regardless of their race, and pray that all shall learn to know and trust our wonderful God. With His help we are going forward, and we thank you for your prayers, which we solicit.

## Morocco – Land of the Setting Sun

Morocco or "the land of the setting sun" has just passed through the two most momentous years of its history. We have been associated personally and directly with the convulsions of a state which little by little has gained its political independence. What distress and dangers of every description !

One Sabbath during church service the windows of the shops nearby were shattered by a frenetic mob, while the police looked on, powerless to cope with the situation. At the end of the service our members were able to return to their homes undisturbed.

A veritable "epidemic" of departures has broken out among the population. We must stem this defeatest current even among our church members, remembering that God rules also in Morocco whatever the régime may be. Under such circumstances confidence in God is a priceless treasure.

An isolated sister living in the Rif — a mountainous territory of northern Morocco asked to be visited. The guerillas were ravaging that part of the country. What should we do? Relying only upon the protection of the Almighty, we set out to visit this sister, with the bread and wine for the Lord's Supper. After travelling seventyfive miles over a winding mountainous road, we finally reached Rhafsai. What a joy to meet our dear sister ! She is the only Adventist living in all that region, and cannot easily leave her home. With what solemnity we took part in that simple communion service ! Death could have overtaken us at any moment. God is good to lay up for us such blessed moments of refreshing.

Towards evening, as we were returning homewards, we noticed a number of groups of people along the roadside, but we continued on

our way unmolested. The next day the newspapers announced that grave incidents of guerilla warfare had taken place in the very sector where we had passed, but we had not even been aware of it. Surely God takes care of His own.

The two hundred and fifteen members in Morocco are divided into six groups or churches. Two new groups are being organized in the cities of Marrakech and Agadir. We hope to be able to place a missionary in one of these centers. Many Europeans are leaving the country, and this reduces our field of activity. Notwithstanding there will always be precious souls to save in this promising territory.

Casablanca is still the largest city of Morocco. with nearly 800,000 inhabitants. We have here a villa in which the pastor has his home, and where the mission offices are also located. Our meetinghall is dark, ill-ventilated, and too small to accommodate the members who crowd in every Sabbath. We are considering the construction of a mission headquarters. The land has been bought, the plans are being drawn up, and we hope to receive a special appropriation for the building itself. We are counting upon God's promises, and that our leading brethren of the General Conference and the Southern European Division will understand and make provision for our needs. We owe it to the cause of God in Morocco to keep pace with the progress of development in this great city. Our liberties may soon be restricted, so should we not make haste while the doors are still open?

We solicit the sustaining prayers of our brethren and sisters the world around, for we are working under exceptional conditions which demand, likewise, exceptional blessings.

Ch. Cornaz.

"We are not to let the future, with its hard problems, its unsatisfying prospects, make our hearts faint, our knees tremble. our hands hang down.... Those who surrender their lives to His guidance and to His service will never be placed in a position for which He has not made provision. Whatever our situation, if we are doers of His word, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexity, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend."

- The Ministry of Healing, p. 248.

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

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## Dedication of the Adventist Church, Fianarantsoa, Madagascar

#### By H. Salzmann

For many years Fianarantsoa, the capital of southern Madagascar, had hoped for this day. The visiting Division brethren had never failed to show their interest in the construction of a church building in this city, and to encourage us to work towards this goal.

Our members at Fianarantsoa and vicinity had joyfully and generously contributed for the purchase of the land which we bought in October 1953. We then thought that the work of construction would begin immediately, since the church building at Antsirabé had just been completed; but, alas ! we had to wait patiently, for it was only three years later that we could gather to take part in the dedicatory service of this new chapel. "It is without doubt the most modern Adventist church on the island," someone remarked.

For this occasion delegates were present from nearly all over Madagascar — from Antsirabé in the north to Tuléar in the south. P. Girard and R. Collin from the union were with us, and it was with great pleasure that we welcomed these many visitors.

P. Girard, union president, gave the dedicatory sermon, in which he emphasized that what makes a place of worship pleasing to God is the "sweet incense" that must fill the entire house — the love of God shed abroad in our hearts and overflowing in blessing to others. After the dedicatory prayer a thank-offering was taken which was set apart for another house of worship elsewhere. Then our songs of praise and gratitude ascended to God, for it is He who has given us this house of prayer.

It was in 1932 that permission was given us to open a church in Fianarantsoa, and Brother P. Haran, true Missionary Volunteer that he was, took care of the interest. In 1946 only, the first worker from the mission, Brother J. Rajoelison. came to settle here. While looking for souls. he ever kept before him the vision of an Adventist church in this city. He and his brother, J. Rabarijoël who replaced him in 1948, were with us for this happy occasion, and we listened attentively to the interesting experiences they had to relate. As we had combined this dedication and a district meeting, the services from Friday to Sunday evening were attended by the members and interested friends. A very impressive baptism, when fifteen new members were baptized, took place on the Sabbath afternoon. The investiture of a number of Missionary Volunteers, held in both Malagasy and French, was another interesting feature of the program. Brother Rajoelison who is responsible for the evangelistic work being done by means of the radio and Bible correspondence course, gave us a very vivid picture of this activity that is reaching every part of Madagascar. And still so much remains to be done !

#### The Fianarantsoa Mission

The Fianarantsoa Mission is the largest on the island when it comes to territory. It comprises nearly one half of Madagascar. With ten pastors and evangelists dispersed over this vast field, we are trying to reach the 1,500,000 inhabitants. Our three hundred members are not sufficient to meet the financial needs of the mission. and we are still dependent in a large measure upon help from the union. On the high tablelands, where the influence of Christianity has made itself felt for many years, our efforts to evangelize bring fruitage rather readily. Of course the enemy is at work here too; but it is easier to present our message to a people



Adventist church, Fianarantsoa, Madagascar

who are acquainted with God and His Word than to tribes who are totally ignorant of the Gospel, or whose only knowledge of it is through an unfortunate experience with some so-called "Christians." So our mission field is quite varied — the sea-coast and the high tablelands.

Immediately following our annual meeting at Fianarantsoa, we left with Brother P. Girard for the south where the most primitive tribes on the island are to be found. We have had a worker at Tuléar for the past two years only. A native teacher helps him. With his motorcycle he travels over his immense parish. We had the great joy of taking part in a most moving baptismal ceremony, when the firstfruits of the work carried on under great difficulties in the Malagasy bush, were garnered. How touching to see these old men and women, direct from heathenism, go down to the baptismal waters, asking God to purify them, and to accept them as members of His family ! Can you imagine anything more impressive ?

In our humble meeting-place in Tuléar the members and friends come together regularly. It was a great pleasure for us to worship with these brethren and sisters, and to bring them a message from the Word of God. This town, which is growing rapidly, surely calls for something more representative of the Advent cause than a straw hut to shelter our members. May God help us find the means to erect another church to His honor on Malagasy soil.

Southern Madagascar, with its immense desertic stretches, is a great mission problem. How shall we reach these people, so lovable, but so dispersed ? By far too many cannot read. Our colporteurs who from time to time canvass this territory, reach but a very small percentage of these tribes. It is especially government employees who buy our books, and who can listen to our radio broadcasts. And these others? Have they no right to the blessed hope? to eternal life? We should be able to visit them often, to settle down amongst them, to build schools - perhaps even a mission center with a school for boarding pupils. We need consecrated men and women, and the funds necessary to send them into all of southern Madagascar which from Tuléar to Fort-Dauphin covers a distance of more than five hundred miles by the road. Here in the south it is impossible to visit certain groups and isolated members during the rainy season. What a striking illustration of the night which is fast approaching, and when no man can work !

Madagascar ! A great mission field ? Indeed ! And the Advent message must go to all its tribes in this generation.

#### OUR WORK AT DAKAR FRENCH WEST AFRICA (Continued from page 2)

We had scarcely commenced our radio broadcasts when our enemies interposed. False reports about our work influenced the director of the radio to stop our emissions, but after some explanations we were permitted to continue them with only a very brief interruption.

Soon after this incident the radio director was transferred to another city. His successor was quite friendly until the day our adversaries renewed their attacks, with the result that our broadcasts were to be suppressed on a fixed date. But once again the Lord intervened. The second director was also transferred before he could carry out his plan, and our emissions continued. But the wrath of the enemy was not yet satisfied. The third director was determined to suppress or at least reduce the number of religious programs. He told us, "We do not need to broadcast two Protestant services." I left it with the Lord to settle the matter, which He did without delay. This man fell ill and had to change his residence. Our programs continued and are being broadcast regularly. To fight against God can only end in defeat and shame. David well expressed it in these words : "The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him : for He seeth that his day is coming" (Ps. 37 : 11, 12).

We face the future with faith and courage, regardless of the gathering clouds on the horizon. Our greatest need is the baptism of the Holy Spirit to help us to be God's faithful witnesses, and to finish His work while it is yet day. We have need of consecrated workers in our vast field where we are quite alone at present. We should open a school to train African workers who can carry the good news to those of their own race, so that "every creature" may hear the last message of grace before God's judgments fall upon this impenitent world. Dear reader, will you not unite your prayers with our own that we may experience a new Pentecost to spread the triumph of the cross ?

#### SOUTHERN EUROPEAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

Organ of the Southern European Division
of Seventh-day Adventists published every quarter
Address of Editor (to whom all manuscripts should be sent)
Hôheweg 17, Berne, Switzerland.
M. Fridlin Edite
Editorial Secretar

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The three **Division officers**, M. V. Campbell, M. Fridlin, and Ř. Gerber, **returned** safely to headquarters in Berne the middle of November after having attended the Biennial Council of the General Conference in Washington, D. C., where a marvelous spirit prevailed.

The total appropriations voted at this Council amounted to \$22,823,758.19. This **1957 budget** is the largest ever voted since the denomination exists, and is an increase of \$2,008,956.95 over the year 1956.

\*

The annual meeting of the Division Committee was held this year, as last, at our Gland sanitarium in Switzerland. December 10-16. The General Conference was represented by Elder V. T. Armstrong, one of the general field secretaries; and Elder E. E. Roenfelt, one of the associate secretaries. We felt that God richly blessed this important meeting.

\*

We were greatly saddened this past month to learn of the alarming health condition of Mrs. A. Richli; but now we are glad to report that our sister is out of danger. However, the doctor has advised the permanent return of these missionaries. Elder Richli has served faithfully as president of the Phœnix school on Mauritius Island in the Indian Ocean. The Richli family are expected to return to Europe early in 1957.

#### $\star$

D'. H. Evard, who since July 1954 has been the chief editor at our French publishing house at Dammarie-les-Lys, has accepted the call to replace Elder Richli as head of the Phœnix school in Mauritius. This responsibility will not be a new one for Dr. Evard, for it was he who, in 1948 founded this institution. We are happy and thankful that Dr. and Mrs. Evard are willing to leave for a so-far-away mission field once again. We wish them God's richest blessing during their second term on Mauritius Island. At the same time we extend to the Richli family our best wishes for recuperated health in the homeland.

An offering for Hungarian Relief was taken in all the churches of the Southern European Division on December 15, 1956. In addition to its own funds which the Division granted for relief in Hungary, the General Conference Committee cabled that they will help also from their Relief Fund with \$10,000.

#### $\star$

Miss Christiane Evard, who was connected with the Division office in Berne as office secretary for a number of years, and later spent one year at he Collonges Seminary to get her teacher's diploma, accepted a cali some months ago to serve as a teacher and head of the new girls' dormitory at Nanga-Eboko, French Cameroun, On November 4 Miss Evard was united in marriage with Gérard Poublan, a ministerial graduate of the Collonges Seminary. His services have also been requested by the same union. Inasmuch as this couple is so urgently needed in our educational work in the Cameroun. they left by plane on December 4 for their new duties. May God's blessing be upon this young couple as they begin a new experience in this interesting mission field.

#### \*

M. Lourinho, the president of the Portuguese African Union Mission, has returned to Europe for his regular furlough after a five-year period of faithful service in this great mission territory. We were happy to have Elder Lourinho present for the annual meeting of the Division. Committee at Gland, Switzerland. We extend to him and his family our best wishes for a profitable furlough in Portugal their homeland.

#### \*

According to news which has reached us from our leaders in North Africa, the winter public evangelistic campaign began on October 21. The Harvest Ingathering was started at the beginning of the same month. It is indeed heartening to see the work of God moving onward in Algeria in spite of the dangerous situation. We know this progress is due to the courage and consecration of our faithful workers and church members.

Pastor M. Radancevic and his family have spent some months of furlough in France and England after their first term in the French Cameroun. Last October this family went to Hungary to visit Mrs. Radancevic's parents who live in Budapest. They arrived there just the day before the revolution broke out. After one month of tragic events, when they were exposed to so many dangers. they could leave the country on November 18 th. They arrived in Berne the following day. Their experience was really a miraculous one. Brother Radancevic brought us the good news that not one of our workers or church members in Hungary had lost his life or even been wounded during the violent fighting. We have some churches and office buildings in Budapest, and none of them was damaged. We are so thankful to the Lord for His protecting hand that has been over our dear people and work in Hungary.

Mr. and Mrs. Radancevic and their daughter sailed December 13 from Bordeaux on the S.S. Brazza to return to the Cameroun. Elder Radancevic will take over this term the leadership of the Sangmelima Mission, which was left vacant through the permanent return of the Curmatureanu family who are working at present in southern France.

\*

H. Long, who has served in general mission and educational work at the new Befandriana Mission, Madagascar, for one term, is spending his furlough in his homeland, northern Italy. Unfortunately Mrs. Long's health is not too good, but we hope it will improve during this period of rest and that she and her husband will be able to return to the mission field. We wish this second generation of missionaries a happy furlough in the home of Brother Long's parents at Torre Pellice. Our readers may remember that Henri Long's father also served for about eighteen years as a missionary on the island of Madagascar.

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Elder P. Girard, president of the Indian Ocean Union Mission, reports that there have been one hundred **baptisms** in the **Tananarive Mission** since the beginning of 1956.

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