

MISSIONS QUARTERLY

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AROUSIAG AYVAZIAN
One of Our Little Armenian Refugees

Topic: Roman and Greek Catholic Europe
and the Near East

Sabbath, July 7

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "Every one on whom is shining the light of present truth is to be stirred with compassion for those who are in darkness."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 33.*

READINGS: The Official Notice.
Italy.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 482, first, second, and fifth stanzas.

PRAYER: A few short, earnest prayers in behalf of our work and workers in needy Italy.

The Official Notice

Feb. 5, 1923.

To the Sabbath School Department:

DURING the great war and since, the needs of the people of the Near East have been impressed upon our hearts. To these repeated calls for physical relief our people have responded generously. Money, food, and clothing have been sent both to our own people and many others, including a large number of orphan children.

For the spiritual help of these people we have not hitherto rendered large assistance. I am therefore passing on to you the official word of the General Conference, inviting our Sabbath schools around the world to unite on the thirteenth Sabbath of the third quarter of 1923 to raise \$85,000 toward the support of our work in Roman Catholic Europe and the Near East. Any excess of the amount

raised will also be devoted to the work in this section of the European field.

How strange that the very lands where Christ and His disciples so ardently labored, and where the flood of gospel light in the early centuries shone so brightly, should be inhabited by millions of people, many of whom have no knowledge of our blessed Lord and the gift of His life for their salvation.

We believe our Sabbath schools on the appointed day will manifest the same splendid spirit of generosity as on previous occasions, and that through their liberality the gospel may press on still farther in these lands of need.

Yours in His Service,

J. L. SHAW,

Treasurer General Conference.

Italy

A. V. OLSON

As far as we know, Italy was the first country outside of North America to hear the third angel's message. In the year 1864—just ten years before Elder J. N. Andrews, the first missionary sent out by the General Conference, sailed for Europe—a converted Polish priest who had heard and accepted the truth in the United States, returned to Italy, where he began to preach the message in the Piedmont Hills. In spite of bitter opposition, a

company of believers was raised up. Some of these are still alive and faithful.

Because of persecution, Brother Czechowski finally went across the Alps into Switzerland, and for many long years Italy was left without a preacher.

Italy has been a very difficult field, and until recently but little progress has been made. Even now the work must be carried on under difficulties, as will be seen from the following paragraphs quoted from a recent letter from Brother Werner, the superintendent of the Italian Mission:

“A year ago last spring our brethren in Montecago, Sicily, asked us to send them an evangelist. In reply to this call we sent Brother Lippolis down there. His meetings were well attended; and, when I joined him at the close of the series, we baptized six. The priests did all they could to hinder our work. When we began another series of meetings in the fall, they called a man from Palermo to take up the fight against us. He invited Brother Lippolis to a public debate. This was held the middle of September in the open air, with about two thousand persons present. The priest could not resist the word of the Lord; and feeling himself beaten, he stirred up his followers against Brother Lippolis. The poor, ignorant people tried to stone our evangelist, but the police came to his rescue and led him away in safety.

“The first of October I came to baptize

those who had accepted the truth in spite of the strenuous opposition. On my arrival I received a letter signed by five hundred persons whom the priests had stirred up. In the letter it was stated that if we did not leave the place in three days, we should consider ourselves responsible for the popular uprising that would occur. I said to Brother Lippolis, 'We will not go; God will send His angels to protect us.' And He did so. They did not touch so much as a hair of our head. God sent His angels to protect us as He did Daniel in the lions' den.

"Last June on my missionary tour through Calabria, I visited our brethren in Firmo. I held a meeting in the evening. After it was over, accompanied by a brother who lived in the village, I went to my room at the hotel. About fifteen men followed us to the hotel. Here after drinking heavily, they forced their way into my room, and tried in every way to anger me, taking away my hat and overcoat and threatening to put me in prison. Seeing the revolver in the leader's hand, I determined to act wisely so as to give them no occasion for carrying out their threats. After remaining from ten to one o'clock in the morning, they went away. God had sent His angels to protect me; for the hotel keeper's wife said to me after they had gone, 'They intended to kill you when they came.' As they left,

the mayor said, 'We will kill you if you hold another meeting tonight.'

"Today I have just received the news that there are three persons awaiting baptism in Firmo. So here in the home of the papacy, God's truth will triumph."

In spite of the opposition and rage of the enemy, there are many honest souls in this country who are hungering for the truth. A new era seems to have dawned for our work in Italy. More souls have been won to the truth during the last two years than during the previous six or eight years. In the large cities we are at present as free to carry on our work as in the cities of America. Now is the opportune time to work in Italy. But where are the workers? Think of only one ordained minister and a few licentiates for forty thousand people! How much longer must these millions wait for the message?

We beg our people in all the Sabbath schools where this is read to plead with the Lord of the harvest to provide the men and the means for a quick work in this great field.

"There are only two places in the world where we can deposit our treasures, —in God's storehouse or in Satan's. . . . The Lord designs that the means entrusted to us shall be used in building up His kingdom."— "*Testimonies*," Vol. VI, p. 448.

Sabbath, July 14

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "Now is the time for the last warning to be given. There is a special power in the presentation of the truth at the present time; but how long will it continue?—Only a little while. If there was ever a crisis, it is now."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 16.*

READING: Austrian Conditions.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 510, first stanza.

PRAYER: For the needy millions in Austria.

Austrian Conditions

G. W. SCHUBERT

GLADLY I will write about our work in the German-Austrian parts. It may be interesting to our members to know how our Lord's work is progressing in this country. In former times our meetings were persecuted. Suddenly the policeman came and took up all books which contained present truth, and put into prison several of our ministers. The work of the third angel's message was neither permitted nor prohibited. It was simply left to the decisions of the powerful Roman Church and the police. Even the sale of our books was not permitted by law.

Since the downfall of the former state privileges, we have now gained liberty for our meetings, but the colporteur work is

always a doubtful matter. It is nothing extraordinary for the police to take away the canvassers' books, and punish them. Nevertheless, we have a good number of faithful workers in Austria, and no famine, persecution, or economical troubles, could stop their good work. During three quarters of last year, we added one hundred to our membership by baptism and by vote.

Vienna, the principal town of Austria, is called the "dying town." Two million are waiting here for the message. The greatest difficulty experienced by the two churches in Vienna was that they did not own a meeting house. They were compelled to meet in very unclean inn-rooms. Last year we bought two rooms. These two companies really ought to have at least two or three more halls, where we can work undisturbed all the year round.

Amidst all the sorrows and troubles of these millions, we have not one nurse to help the thousands who are sick and in great want. We are trying to have our small sanitarium near Munich fitted for a school to train nurses so as to be able to begin medical work in Austria. In the meantime about seven hundred church members have been added to our ranks through the colporteur work and preaching; but the progress of our work depends on our being able to secure more workers, and this depends on whether or not we have sufficient means.

The Catholic countries are promising fields for our message. Once acquainted with the truth of the Bible, the former Catholic usually becomes a good Seventh-day Adventist. This makes it necessary to circulate the Bible and those books* which contain the truth, in these countries.

I will relate some experiences about this work in Austria:

An Austrian farmer became an Adventist during the time he was imprisoned in Russia. When he returned to his village, he could not be silent about that which was in his heart. Influenced by his living testimony, he gathered a circle around him. Often they met in a little town fifteen kilometers distant from the Sabbath school. The inhabitants of the village tried to prevent them from meeting by driving them apart, or even beating them. The love of the truth made them find another way, and they went one by one around their village with their tools as though for work. Afterwards they hid their tools, then met at certain places for their Sabbath meeting. The minister living in this place was ordered by the Austrian authority to leave the town, but just before this, the farmer came with nine others and asked the minister to baptize them. The worker hesitated to baptize them, but he examined them and was glad to find that they were really thoroughly informed, and that they were inspired by the Holy

Ghost. So he accepted them, and a few hours before the minister started from there, they kept together the holy communion and organized the church.

The daughter of a farmer in Austria, whose people were Greek Catholics, gave such excellent testimony of Jesus before she was baptized, that a good number of farmers come to the Bible meetings. Through this influence, twenty-one more have been brought into our truth. So these two simple people were able to win thirty within a couple of months. These experiences show the truth of the text which says, "Ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58. These cases show plainly what can be done in Catholic lands.

I have received also another report from the darkest part of German Austria. It is very hard for our workers and members to continue the work of God. Our members have no meeting places. Our worker writes: "I will tell you about the great difficulty we had in finding a room in Innsbruck. Formerly we had been meeting in inn-rooms, and most of them did not have the best names. Today we have no room at all. Neither lectures nor meetings are possible, and on Sabbath our members meet here and there in the rooms of our brethren and sisters. The Catholics are dazzled by their rich churches, and we do not own even a simple room for the precious mes-

sage of God. Innsbruck is a stronghold of the Roman Catholic Church. Its university was organized by the Jesuits. Of the 60,000 inhabitants, approximately fifty are Adventists. All is done in the most diligent way for our work, but we cannot do much without proper rooms. Many well-bred persons promised to visit our meetings, but they would not go to these rooms where the communists meet, and where there is dancing of the lowest class. The town has about twenty churches, seven monasteries, and a number of nunneries, with hundreds of monks and nuns. Ought there not to be found a shelter where our message "Fear God, and give glory to Him," may be given?

In one town there was a great lack of interest in our message. Once the worker there was praying to God for a special sign if he had a work for him to do there. "After this," said the worker, "I had to walk across a hill. Suddenly a thunderstorm rose, and there was only one refuge which I remembered. I hastened to this place, and found there eight women. I took no notice of them till I heard one of them say: 'And the first angel went, and poured out his vial upon the earth.' This was a lecture on the seven plagues. At the end of this lecture one of these women asked, 'Ah, who can explain this prophecy?' Then I offered them my services, and what an astonishment it was to all these women

to hear the message of our Saviour! Sobbing, one of them said, 'God has sent to us an angel from heaven!' This experience has often strengthened me in this difficult field."

Sabbath, July 21

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "Sound an alarm throughout the length and breadth of the earth. Tell the people that the day of the Lord is near, and hasteth greatly. Let none be left unwarned."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 32.*

READING: In Bible Lands.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 511, first and third stanzas.

PRAYER: Ask all to unite in an earnest petition for our work in Bible Lands.

In Bible Lands

W. K. ISING

WHEN these lines are read, the writer hopes to have completed an extensive journey through the lands associated with Bible history, where it was his privilege to labor during the years 1908 to 1914. Soon after my internment on the isle of Malta for a period of more than five years, Syria was left with no ordained minister to visit our members scattered at Jerusalem, Joppa, Damascus, around Mount Lebanon, and in Mesopotamia.

Many appeals have come to us during this time urging that work be taken up

again. The last plea was sent by our pharmacist brother from Mosul, which is in view of the site of ancient Nineveh. This plea was forwarded by aeroplane to the president of the General Conference at the session held in San Francisco, the first communication of its kind to be dispatched by this modern vehicle. Just recently I received a similar letter from our brother mailed at Bagdad, which had crossed over into Cairo in just two days, a journey which, in 1913, took me fully four weeks to accomplish.

Great joy has been brought to the hearts of our dear brethren, that their appeals are finally heard. Elder Nils Zerne of Sweden, has been selected to connect with the work in the Arabian field, locating probably at Mosul. It is here that our brother operates a pharmacy, and he has two others at Bagdad and Basora which are in charge of his brothers. They are men of influence, commanding the respect of their compatriots.

Mosul is one of the principal cities of northern Mesopotamia, with a considerable Christian constituency, chiefly adhering to the early Jacobite church. It is from this fine and simple class of people that the first Protestant Church was organized some fifty years ago, with the relatives of Brother Hasso forming the nucleus, his father being the elder until his recent death.

After a short visit with our brethren in the Land of the Nile, where several good churches have been raised up among the Copts, who number about 800,000 in all Egypt, we plan to go to Jerusalem by means of the railway which now runs through the Sinai peninsula. In our further journey north we hope to gather up the fragments left by our former work, spending some time in the vicinity of Beirut where I had been located.

According to the latest news received from these sections, tens of thousands of Armenians are flocking into this largely Christian country where they seek shelter from the persecutions of the Turks in Asia Minor. Undoubtedly many of our own people will be found among these refugees who have been driven from their homes in Cilicia to whom we must bring relief so as to enable them to settle down anew, and to gain a modest livelihood. With several hundred thousand Christians located here and on Mount Lebanon we have a large field of labor before us that is practically unworked.

Many a golden opportunity has been neglected in times past when conditions were more favorable. With the increasingly antagonistic influence occasioned by the war, missionary operations are becoming more difficult and especially will this be the case in Syria, which is now brought under the control of Catholic France, who jeal-

ously guards itself against all undesirable enterprises.

The missionary locating among these eastern peoples must, to a much larger degree than formerly, stand on the merits of the pure and simple gospel and win their respect by the integrity of his character, thus removing the stigma that is now being attached to everything foreign, when national feeling runs high and westerners are steadily losing that esteem in the eyes of the natives which they used to enjoy.

From Mosul it is planned that we proceed to Bagdad, where we will be met by Dr. Arzooian and his family, from the White Memorial Hospital of Los Angeles. In company with Brother Zakarian, who will join me on leaving Egypt, we shall travel up to Yulfa-Isphahan in Persia, their native home, where an interest has been created among the many Armenians living in this region who, at the present time are left to themselves with practically no Protestant mission established among them. Our brethren here hope to find a fruitful field of labor which is ripe unto harvest.

With the end rapidly approaching, we cannot afford to lose any more time in entering these open doors, lest they be shut never again to be opened for us. We have barely touched the work that must be done in these fields before the return of the

Master. The Lord has a people ready waiting for the message He has committed unto us. Let us respond to the calls coming from these Bible lands, whence the blessings of the gospel have gone forth to all the nations of the earth. This is the day of our opportunity. Let us be faithful to our trust.

Sabbath, July 28

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "God calls upon us to push the triumphs of the cross. . . . New fields are opening. For want of workers and money the work has been hindered; but it must be hindered no longer."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI. p. 26.

READING: The Triumphal Procession of the Gospel in Rumania.

PRAYER: In behalf of the believers in needy Rumania.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song." No. 477.

The Triumphal Procession of the Gospel in Rumania

P. P. PAULINI

TWENTY years ago, if one traveled through all the cities and villages of Rumania, he could not have found a single Adventist church. Should he have asked a Rumanian where he could find a Seventh-day Adventist or if he knew anything at all about the Adventists, he would have re-

ceived the answer: "I do not know where such a church is, neither do I know that there is such a people. In fact, I have never heard even that name before."

Today, however, twenty years after the entrance of the first Adventist into this land, the whole condition has been changed enormously. Everywhere the Adventists are spoken of in every village, as well as in the cities. A large number of people are asking about Seventh-day Adventists and when they have heard about them and have become convinced on the different points of their faith, they also become filled with the blessed hope, and with happiness and confidence they join this people.

In order to give you a clearer idea of the work which we are carrying on for the enlightening of the people, I will quote from "The Hundred and Eighteenth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society," page 80:

"Our depositary also records the activity of the Seventh-day Adventists, who buy and circulate the Scriptures in large numbers. Indeed, so energetic and persistent are their emissaries that in many districts the Bible is styled 'the Adventist's book.' The depositary tells of a certain Orthodox priest who saw a woman reading. 'What have you got hold of there?' said he. 'A Bible—the word of God,' was her answer. 'Oh, you're one of the Adventist women, are you?' rejoined the priest. 'No, I'm not a

bit of an Adventist woman; but I want to know what the Bible says, and to try to obey and follow it,' explained the woman. 'That's all very well, but it's only Adventists who read the Bible,' laughed the priest. 'What,' cried the woman, 'you mean to say that in our church nobody reads the Bible?' 'Nobody but priests and theological students,' said the priest."

Regardless of all the hindrances which the religious leaders of the people are putting in the way of the Bible circulation, the Bible is getting into the hands and homes of the people. And now, after the gospel of Jesus has been brought to the people, they must be taught how to read their Bibles, and how to live it in order to become happy. This is another great task before the Adventists. Our meeting halls are always full. We have so many friends and visitors in our Sabbath schools that we do not have sufficient room in most of our halls. The larger the hall, the quicker our church membership grows. The advancement of the work in our country is in proportion to the number of gospel workers and the size of our meeting houses. This is our greatest necessity. We pray God that He may send us workers as soon as possible in order that we might prepare a people for Him.

Sabbath, August 4

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "We are to place in the Lord's treasury all the means that we can spare. For this means, needy, unworked fields are calling. From many lands is sounding the cry, 'Come over and help us.'"—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. IX, p. 49.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 479, first and last stanzas.

READING: Russia.

PRAYER: A few sentence prayers for Russia's needy millions.

Russia

DANIEL ISAAC

RUSSIA'S millions never have had the liberty, privileges, and opportunities, which the people of the homeland enjoy. Eighty-five per cent are illiterate. But when the truth comes to them, hundreds accept and obey, and would even lay down their lives for it.

Elder Perk, who for years has labored for the Russian people, related the following experience to me. He said:

"Two weeks ago a Russian man and his wife came to our house, weeping and inquiring for the man of God who could tell them of the time in which we are living, and when Jesus will come again. They had read and heard about this striking truth. So I promised to study the Bible with them.

"Last night I was there for the third time, and while we were at our study, a mob surrounded the house and asked for 'the false prophet.' 'He must die, and cannot live any longer,' they said. As the mob with their arms approached the door, this good brother and his wife stood in the doorway and said: 'Shoot us! We will die for Jesus. But as for this man, we will not give him into your hands. He is a man of God!' And just at the last moment, before the mob had me in their hands, God sent another man, who talked with the leader, and although two shots were fired, no one was hurt and I escaped once more."

Brother Perk died not long ago at his post of duty. Nine others, including Brother Reinke, have died of spotted typhus in the last few years. All but one or two were ordained ministers. Most of our laborers and church members in Russia have had this disease, and some have had it more than once. But the mighty spirit of God works on thousands of hearts in Russia even while the people run to and fro, hungry, seeking for the daily bread in this time of great famine, pestilence, and war.

Our literature, and especially the Bible, is highly appreciated these days. A mother and her daughter, who had newly come into the truth, gave 25,000 rubles, a dress, some underwear, five pounds of butter, ten

pounds of meat, and some grain, for a common Bible which had been hidden in the bottom of a trunk. Many wanted to buy some of our books, but we had none to sell. The time of abundance was absolutely in the past. Yet, under these difficulties, we added a thousand members a year, in the last few years, to our numbers. Through the mighty hand of God, the unceasing labor of our few workers that are left, and the help of our faithful members, our membership has doubled even in the time of tribulation.

Our Sabbath schools are the only schools we have in Russia, and all come to the Sabbath school. Our young people are greatly in need of leaders. Two young girls told us that they would like to be members of the church, too, if they only had some one to teach them.

How can those who live in a country of freedom and abundance, keep their means for themselves, or make their gifts and offerings small, when our missionaries and brethren not only give their homes, conveniences, and friends, but also their lives?

Give a liberal offering to Roman and Catholic Europe and the Near East.

Sabbath, August 11

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "Self-sacrifice is the key-note of the teachings of Christ."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. IX. p. 49.

READING: The Polish Union Conference.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song." No. 520, first and second stanzas.

PRAYER: For the work and workers in this needy field.

The Polish Union Conference

L. R. CONRADI

POLAND is the size of Great Britain and has a population of thirty million, composed chiefly of Roman Catholics, but there are also Jews, Greek Catholics, and some Protestants. Our work in this country is now organized into a union, comprising the Posania Conference, the Silesia-Galicia Conference, and the Warsaw mission field, with a total constituency of one thousand one hundred. Elder John Isaac, from America, is now president of the union conference and the Posania Conference. Elder Cunitz is the president of the Silesia-Galicia Conference, and Elder Will of the Polish mission. The recent annual conference sessions were exceedingly well attended, especially the one in Silesia.

A large portion of Southeastern Poland was the scene of terrible battles, as fierce and bloody as any fought in France, with

the accompanying devastation of the land by fire and sword. Quite a number of our Sabbath keepers fled, others were removed into the interior of Russia. These people are now gradually drifting back to their old homesteads. There they find nothing but ruins and general desolation. They receive no assistance from the government to build new homes. As they come from Russia they lack not only money but also food and clothing. Elder Will, under great exposures and dangers, visited these scattered companies, and held meetings with them in their dug-outs. Many other Russians have been converted, and there is a wonderful field opening up before us. Our people greatly appreciate the clothes and money sent from the United States, without which they would have suffered. Some two hundred Sabbath keepers, mostly Russians, have been gathered from this border section, and many more await baptism. They are hungering after the bread of life.

Among the eighteen millions of the Warsaw mission field, there are now nearly four hundred Sabbath keepers and eighteen churches. But only the churches in Warsaw and Lodz have rented meeting halls. All the rest meet in their miserable dug-outs; and it would be a wonderful help if money could be given them to put up cheap meeting halls and schoolhouses. The children lack clothing and schooling. The roads are in a terrible condition. Yet

our people come long distances to the meeting on Sabbath and crowd about the feet of their spiritual shepherd. Within the last year 120 were baptized, and here too, many more await baptism.

In the former Prussian section, our conference has had a hard struggle. Some 250 of our best Sabbath keepers, several workers among them, were forced to leave the country and sell their property for small sums, and the remaining ministers filled the gaps from among the Polish speaking people moving in. But the Lord blessed their efforts with the result that more than two hundred people were converted and added to our ranks.

God has wonderfully helped in building up this union conference in this dark part of the world. But workers are needed. Preachers and canvassers are needed. Schools are needed. Headquarters are needed. Canvassing has been greatly retarded by the lack of books and periodicals. We printed twenty thousand Harvest In-gathering papers, and the Lord blessed greatly in the circulation of these beautiful papers. Several promising young men with some schooling, are now connected with our workers in the cities; but many more are needed.

God's hand is leading in the work in Poland, and let us show our gratefulness by giving freely of our means, so that the work begun may be carried forward to completion.

Sabbath, August 18

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers, so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 22.*

READING: The Message in the Levant.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 532.

PRAYER: The believers in the Levant need our prayers that they may be sustained. Pray that the Lord will incline our hearts to give liberally.

The Message in the Levant

H. ERZBERGER

THE Levant Union includes Turkey, Armenia, Greece, and Bulgaria. In the Levant the Turks are the most prominent among the independent Mohammedan nations. Being the center of the Mohammedan world, the religion of the prophet finds here its most characteristic display, and is less accessible to Christian influences. Besides the Turks, there are many thousands of Christians. Most of them, Greeks, belong to the Greek-Catholic faith, which is the national church in Bulgaria and Greece. Then there are the Armenians, who are Gregorians, with the exception of some Protestants.

How many, especially in late years, have entered an early grave and how many more have become destitute of almost everything resulting from the conflict between their aspirations and the existing condition! And to think that with all this they do not know the true hope in Jesus.

Yet our truth is bringing hope and comfort to many. Last spring in Smyrna I was called upon to visit a family. The lady, a widow, was broken down by sorrow over all she had suffered. I read to her some of God's promises concerning the hope of the resurrection and the coming of Jesus, and she asked me to read them again. Then she exclaimed, "How good it is! It makes me feel like a new person! For a long time I have not felt such hope."

Our nurse in Smyrna reported that many of the refugees who fled from the interior to settle in Smyrna, were anxious to hear the good message. But suddenly our workers had to flee, leaving everything behind, even the open Bible on the sofa. Leaving Asia Minor almost destitute of Christians, thousands of refugees have passed over to Greece. This is surely a means in the providence of God of opening doors for missionary work in this almost inaccessible country.

Here in Turkey, where in late years we lost so many faithful witnesses, the Lord is raising up new pioneers for His blessed work. One Greek brother had fled with

others from the interior to Constantinople, and became interested in the message through his aunt, who shortly before had accepted it. The genuineness of his conversion was evident by his study of God's word, his life of prayer, and the fact that he succeeded in getting Sabbath free from business, and also by the good influence he has on others. As a result of this, some of his acquaintances are studying the Bible today.

One family, before eating their meal, offered a prayer as usual. A Turkish neighbor observed them doing this. As he had never seen such a thing, it made a deep impression upon him, and he told his neighbors, "These people are better than we."

Some years ago during a revolution in which many were killed, a brother was brought before the Turkish police. When asked about his religion and nationality, he answered that he was an Adventist. Immediately the officer asked, "Is the end near?" After careful inquiries to see if he were indeed an Adventist, he let him go, telling the others, "These people are harmless."

We are confident that the Lord has a message for these people, and we ask for your help and prayers.

Sabbath, August 25

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "With untiring zeal those who have received the light of present truth should go forth to give this light to those who sit in darkness. With consecrated efforts, by self-denial and self-sacrifice, they are to labor in the strength of the God of Israel."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. IX, p. 60.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song." No. 533.

READING: Esthonia and Latvia.

PRAYER: A brief prayer in behalf of our work and workers in this field.

Esthonia and Latvia

J. C. RAFT

PRIOR to the war, Esthonia and Latvia were included in the great Russian Empire. Now they are independent republics. The threefold message has great possibilities in these countries. Large audiences are crowding our meeting halls, and people are eager to buy our books.

The experiences and trials which our people in Esthonia and Latvia passed through during the war and the revolution following, have strengthened their faith in God, and greatly advanced their spiritual life. They have not forgotten how the Lord mercifully protected them in their day of affliction. And it is interesting to hear them tell how God helped them in times of need. Here I can mention only a very few of the numerous instances that might be related.

In 1917 one of our ministers in Esthonia was arrested while holding a meeting, and taken to the police station. They threatened to shoot him, but that very day the revolution broke out, and thus he escaped death. Later, he was arrested because he would not enter the army; and it was left with him to decide whether he would go to the front or be shot. But once more the Lord saved his life, and he was permitted to return home to his sick wife and their little child. On still another occasion he, with a number of Catholic priests, was arrested, and sentenced to death. Eighty-one persons were shot in one day, but by the grace of God our brother was delivered. Since then he has won many souls for God's kingdom. During the winter of 1921-22, one hundred and five accepted the truth through his administrations.

In Latvia the Lord is working for us in the same powerful manner, and the message is making progress. During the annual meeting in Riga last summer we hired the largest hall in the city. Every night this hall was overfilled by a congregation of some two thousand hearers. Contemporaneously with these large meetings, we gathered the German-speaking friends in a smaller place, with about five hundred in attendance.

Like their Esthonian brethren and sisters, our people in Latvia can speak from experience concerning the Lord's care for

His children. As a result of a petition from our people for permission to hold a prayer meeting, which petition was refused, a governor in a certain city stated that he would see to it that the Adventists were driven out. Shortly afterwards the governor was killed. Later one of our ministers was granted permission to hold meetings in the governor's dining-room.

Another of our ministers told me some time ago that one evening in 1917, after having eaten the last morsel of food they had in the house, he and his family kneeled down to ask God to send them something to eat. The next day a man from the country came with a load of food. This man told them that the Lord had urged him to bring relief to our brother.

The people in Esthonia and Latvia are waiting for the threefold message. The fields are ripe for the harvest, but we need more workers. We are in need also of schools, printing houses, and places for our people to meet. These needs are so many calls for means. And for this reason we are praying to the Lord that He, through our faithful brethren and sisters, will send us means in order that we may accomplish the work He has entrusted to us. Many of our brethren and sisters in Esthonia and Latvia are praying to the Lord for a large Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Shall we disappoint them?

Sabbath, September 1

(Suggestions for the Missionary Feature)

SEED THOUGHT: "The signs that foretell the second coming of Christ are fast fulfilling. Shall the people be left in ignorance of the great event before them, and have to meet that awful day unprepared? Heaven has made a complete offering for the salvation of the world. Shall those who profess to love God and keep His commandments, be indifferent to the souls of men? No, no! they cannot be."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 60.

READING: Salonica, Greece.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 547.

PRAYER: A few sentence prayers that the Lord at this time will especially bless and help our workers in Greece.

Salonica, Greece

R. S. GREAVES

IN Protestant countries one is not surprised to see a cross on a church, or sometimes worn as a religious emblem; but in Greece one sees it almost everywhere. Soldiers have a small badge on their caps with a cross marked on it. Small sailing ships often have one at the masthead. When the framework of a new house has been erected, it is no uncommon thing to see two short boards nailed together in the shape of a cross and fastened to the top of the building. A short time ago a large steamer was sunk in the harbor, and when it was being salvaged, they soon had a

large conspicuous wooden cross fastened on the part that began to appear above the surface of the water.

But in spite of this outward sign of religion, the people generally are in darkness, from childhood. They want salvation, and the church offers it to them; but it is through a host of images, candles, and saints. In this way the path to the Saviour is darkened and obscured. But through this mist the glorious light of the gospel is breaking forth, and people are being attracted to better things. Children come to the Sabbath school and repeat their verses with real delight, and thus their youthful minds are being stored with gospel truths.

We have one dear brother who formerly was a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, and a firm believer in its teachings and superstitions. When he was only a boy, his mother died. They owed three and a half month's rent, and the landlady came for the money. As they could not pay it, she accepted an *ikon* (a small slab of wood on which is painted the picture of a saint) in a case, for the amount due, which was thirty-five francs. The home was broken up, and our brother went to another place; but years afterwards when he had grown up he returned to his native town. He had money and his thoughts went back to that *ikon*, although it was twenty years since it was taken. He hunted up the old landlady, paid the thirty-five francs, and brought

the *ikon* home as one of the most precious things in the world.

When this brother heard of our message, he collected all his *ikons* and burned them. It was my privilege to baptize this brother, and he is surely one of earth's jewels. He has printed verses of scripture on sheets of paper, and has them hung in his room. He dug a well, and God blessed him by giving him a plentiful supply of good water, to which he freely allows his neighbors to help themselves. Just over the well he has fastened a small wooden slab with some very nice words written in Greek, in which he thanks God for the water and gives praise to Him. Few people come into contact with him without having their attention drawn to the living God who made heaven and earth. When people enter his room and see the verses of scripture tacked up all around, they say, "What kind of man is this?"

At present, Greece is passing through some hard trials, having troubles within and without. In this condition many are turning their eyes towards heaven and we are looking forward with courage and hope to a brighter future for our work.

Have you reached your quota of thirty cents a week per church member?

Sabbath, September 8

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHTS: "Our watchword is to be, Onward, ever onward. The angels of God will go before us to prepare the way. Our burden for the 'regions beyond' can never 'be laid down until the whole earth shall be lightened with the glory of the Lord.'"—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 29.

READING: The Lithuanian Mission Field.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Hold on Firmly," p. 45 of this quarterly.

PRAYER: In behalf of our work and workers in this field, have a few sentence prayers.

The Lithuanian Mission Field

H. F. SCHUBERTH

THE Lithuanian Mission Field which is being cared for by the East German Union, consists of the Memel district, which belonged formerly to Germany, and Lithuania itself, the political lines of which are not yet drawn. The population of more than two millions is composed of Lithuanians, Poles, Letts, Russians, Jews, and Germans. The religion is mainly Roman Catholic.

Our work has just begun and we struggle against many difficulties. At the present time we have six churches with eighty-five members, the largest being Memel, which has a membership of thirty-nine. Besides the leader, Brother Enseleit, who is a Lithuanian, we have one ordained min-

ister working among the Russians and Germans, and two Bible workers who are able to speak the language of the country. The work is also crippled through lack of our literature in the Lithuanian language, although there is everywhere a great demand for it.

One incident illustrates the missionary zeal our people possess. As Brother Strohl was in Russia when the Bolshevists took the government into their hands, he left for his homeland, Lettland. But through unfortunate circumstances, he had to leave his home and go to Zagarren, in Lithuania, where he found a small company of believers. Before this, a sister from Lettland went there, and being all alone she prayed the Lord to send her some one of the same faith. The Lord answered her prayers, and when our brother came, a few sisters were there already.

Encouraged by these sisters, Brother Strohl began public labor. He fixed up one room of his dwelling for a meeting hall and invited all his neighbors and friends to come and listen to the message he had to bring them. The Lord blessed his efforts greatly, and some gave themselves to God and were baptized, and today we have a little company of fifteen members there.

I will mention another instance of God's leading. Brother Zander became acquainted with a Jewish lady at Kowno, who had just become a Christian. He called her at-

tention to the seventh day Sabbath, but died before he could teach the whole truth for this time. By God's providence she came again in touch with our people, and met Brother Enseleit, who could give her further instruction until she was baptized and became one of our members. This experience taught her that the Lord is not only the physician of the soul, but also of the body.

This field, which has just been entered by our missionaries, greatly needs meeting halls at four different places, for the people in this country have a great prejudice against gatherings in private houses. In Memel we have just completed a little church, which will be a great help in giving the truth to others. We ought also to have literature in the Lithuanian, Polish, and Russian languages. We trust that all our people everywhere will take a great interest in this needy mission field, and help by their prayers and liberal gifts.

Sabbath, September 15

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "Love for lost souls brought Christ to Calvary's cross. Love for souls will lead us to self-denial and sacrifice, for the saving of that which is lost."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 59.

READING: Needs and Opportunities in France.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Hold on Firmly," found on p. 45 of this quarterly.

PRAYER: In behalf of the teachers and students in our training school in France.

Needs and Opportunities in France

L. L. CAVINESS

A NEW day is dawning for the work in this field. Last year God's hand was plainly seen in the providences which gave us a union training school at Collonges sous Saleve, Haute Savoie, France, on property admirably suited to our needs. Two hotels were purchased; one serves as a dormitory for the girls, and the other for the boys. A cafe-restaurant has been transformed into a class building, which will serve quite well until a main school building can be erected. Some land was purchased in addition to that which went with the hotel properties, and the school garden which has been made has already been the subject of favorable comment by the neighbors. Two cows have been bought for the college herd, to which we hope to add later, when it will supply all the milk needed by the school. There is urgent need for a good barn, and for more land for pasture and cultivation.

Another indication that God is about to do a quick work in this field, is the response of the young people to the call for a preparation for service. The school enrollment last year represented almost one-sixth of all the young people in the whole union. The need for workers was so great that fifteen of the students of last year

were drafted into service before they had finished their courses.

Something previously unheard of in the work in this field has happened. At the close of the first year of the existence of the Collonges Seminary, a colporteurs' institute was held, and half the students went out into the canvassing field, the larger share of them *to sell a religious book in France*. They not only succeeded in doing what many had said would be impossible, but a large number earned scholarships. This was no easy task, but it was achieved by much prayer and hard work. Only when the books of heaven are opened will all the struggles and victories be known. Some worked for weeks with no success, but they struggled on till God honored their faith.

One girl who had done but little for a number of days, became discouraged and returned in the middle of the afternoon to the room where she was staying. She had about decided to give up; but there she found a letter which God had inspired a friend to write. She was so struck by the statement in this letter that "discouragement is the devil's trap" that she decided to start canvassing again though it was already four o'clock. She went back to the very houses where her courage had failed her, and at the very first presentation received an order for a full leather binding. Before supper she had three orders.

A young man who had lost several orders through the opposition of the priest, decided to call on the man and ask for an explanation. After an hour's visit during which they discussed the various points of our faith, the young man so overcame the priest's animosity that on bidding him good-by, the priest remarked that he only wished there were some of the same zeal and earnestness among the Catholic young people.

Now is the time to carry the message to the waiting millions in France. A work can be done now which could not be done before. Where there is one worker there should be twenty. We have the young people in training. Will you help supply the money for their support in the field?

Sabbath, September 22

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "We plead for the money that is spent on needless things. You may think these little sums do not amount to much, but many littles will make a great whole. Cut off every extravagant expenditure. Indulge in nothing that is simply for display."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 55.

READING: A Sabbath School in Russia.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Hold on Firmly," on p. 45 of this quarterly.

PRAYER: In behalf of the believers in Russia. Pray, too, that the Lord will help us to give liberally to this needy field.

A Sabbath School in Soviet Russia

L. H. CHRISTIAN

RUSSIA had been a closed country for five years or more. We knew but little of conditions there, although now and then through some one who had come out of the country, we received news from our own people and work. Some things have been favorable for the gospel cause, as our membership has increased from 5,500 in 1914 to over 10,000 at the present time. In spite of revolution, plague, and famine, our brethren remained faithful to the message. It was reported that tons and tons of religious literature and nearly all Bibles had been destroyed—made into paperpulp for new books. The first Sabbath schools we attended in Soviet Russia were those at Moscow and Saratov, in March, 1922, when we went in to bring relief to the famine sufferers. We shall speak more fully of the one in Moscow.

It was a Sabbath school with no lesson leaflets, no *Sabbath School Worker*, *Little Friend*, or other Sabbath school helps. The school with an attendance of 140 was held in a dark, dingy room with little air, light, or heat. Moscow is a city with a population of two millions. It is widely scattered, and has but few street-car facilities, so that all had to walk. The school convened early in the day, but everybody, old and young, was on time. Being without regu-

lar lessons, our brethren had taken up the study of the Book of Daniel, using an old pamphlet of Bible readings as a basis. The lesson was on the sanctuary question, and the review on the 2,300 days. It was a study of the eighth chapter of Daniel. Apparently every one was ready to answer. Even the children seemed able to figure out the various parts of that long prophetic period. Some had learned the chapter by heart. Both the class exercises and the review were translated for us, and we were impressed with the many spiritual lessons brought out. The people seemed not only to study the lesson in theory, but to get much practical help for their service of the Lord.

Those who attended were clean and neat, but their clothes and their faces bore visible marks of dire poverty. Though Moscow is as cold as Winnipeg, Canada, many of them had lived a whole winter without one warm meal, and with no heat in their stoves. Still they all gave something. Their offerings ran from 10 to 1,000 rubles. Those sums may seem small, as it took 2,000,000 rubles to make a dollar, but to these hungry, destitute people, every offering meant giving up something that they really needed for the plainest food and clothing. All adult church members were present. We were pleased to see that the church elder and the minister took a kindly interest in the children. We shall

never forget their simple, hearty singing. The opening song was "Beautiful Valley of Eden." They sang with tears in their eyes, for those dear people do long for the coming Eden.

Our first literature to arrive in Russia after the war, was the Sabbath school lessons sent from America. We are now able to print Russian Sabbath school lessons in the country itself—the beginning of our present printing there. Our brethren in Russia should have more literature on all phases of our work and message. During the past month a great religious revival has swept the country. Hundreds and thousands of people are coming into the message and will be baptized as quickly as they can be properly instructed. We sadly need a training school as well as more workers and other facilities in Russia. But the people are poor. They cannot furnish all the money for these enterprises.

Russia today presents a wideopen door for every kind of evangelistic endeavor, such as no other country has presented since the spirit-filled days of the apostolic age. It is the greatest miracle and opportunity of modern gospel work. The Greek-Catholic Church has been disestablished as a state church, so that in some ways we have more liberty. There is an unutterable longing in the hearts of the Russian people for the living God. We are grate-

ful to know that the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for this quarter will help our work in this, the largest Greek-Catholic country in the world.

Sabbath, September 29

[Suggestions for the Missionary Feature]

SEED THOUGHT: "The light of truth is to shine to the ends of the earth. Greater and still greater light is beaming with celestial brightness from the Redeemer's face upon His representatives, to be diffused through the darkness of a benighted world."— *"Testimonies," Vol. VIII, p. 40.*

RECITATION: If Christ Were There.

DIALOGUE: What Will You Do for Others?

SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 545.

RECITATION: Ten Little Fingers.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

RECITATION: The Gospel Call.

SONG: "Hold on Firmly," p. 45 of this quarterly.

OFFERING.

PRAYER: That God may bless our gifts to needy Europe.

If Christ Were There

MRS. J. F. MOSER

If Christ were in Rumania, Bulgaria, or Greece,
In Turkey, or in Russia, without bread,
What would you do? Would you not gladly share
with Him your piece?
And help provide a shelter for His head?

If Jesus were in prison somewhere, over there,
today,
Or walked the frozen streets with poor bare feet,
What would you do? Would you not gladly work
as well as pray?
And show your love by sending something meet?

Our Saviour is today in blood-stained Europe, and
the East.

His pleading, outstretched hands, can you not
see?

"If you will do it unto one of these—the very
least—

You'll do it, my dear children, unto Me!"

What Will You Do For Others?

(A Missionary exercise requiring six scholars.)

First Child—

What would you do if you had bread—

Yes, plenty of bread to spare—

And some poor children, ready to starve,

Should ask for a little share?

All (chorus)—

We would give, gladly give, unto those in need,
And the poor and the hungry would haste to feed.

Second Child—

What would you do if in your hand

You carried a healing cup,

And all around you the sick and sad

In pitiful pain looked up?

All (chorus)—

We would give, gladly give, unto those in need,
If the sick and the suffering for help should plead.

Third Child—

What would you do if you were rich,

And if you were strong and wise,

While others near you were weak and poor

With no one to help them rise?

All (chorus)—

We would give, gladly give, unto those in need,
We would help all the lowly, the weak would lead.

Fourth Child—

What *will* you do? for you have bread—
The bread of life—and to spare.
There are millions who need what you have now;
How much for them do you care?

Fifth Child—

What will you do? You have each a chance,
Though not very rich or great.
There are heathen at home and heathen abroad;
For what you can give they wait.

Sixth Child—

What will you do? Will you give what you have
And do what you can today?
What will you do? for they die so fast.
You must not, dare not, delay.

All (chorus)—

We will give, freely give, unto those in need.
The command of the Saviour we'll gladly heed.

The six then should repeat in concert: "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

—*Julia H. Johnson,*
In Westminster Quarterly.

Hold On Firmly

J. HARKER

(For tune see "Christ in Song," No. 530)

Hearts and hand united in the great campaign,
Witnessing to all and gathering in the grain,
While a thousand voices swell the glad refrain,
Joyfully we'll "hold the ropes."

Chorus:

Hold on firmly! Hear our brethren plead;
Hold on firmly! See the world's deep need;
Hold on firmly! Now the call we heed;
We will "hold the ropes" till the work is done.

In the task appointed we can each be true,
Men have gone before us, strong to dare and do;
Jesus is our Captain, grace He will renew,
Loyally we'll "hold the ropes."

Looking to our Leader, we are sure to win,
With His cross before us, and His peace within;
Pressing ever forward, fearing naught but sin,
Valiantly we'll "hold the ropes."

Ten Little Fingers

Only ten little fingers! (*Hold them up*)
Not very strong, 'tis true;
Yet there is work for Jesus
Such little hands may do.
What though it be but humble,
Winning no word of praise;
We are but little children,
Working in little ways.

Only ten little fingers!
But little things may grow,
And little hands now helpless
Will not be always so.
And if we train them early
Unto His work alone
They will do greater service
When they are stronger grown.

—Selected.

The Gospel Call

PRINTHA E. STILWELL

From benighted, distant regions,
Comes a wistful, wailing cry;
From the millions now in darkness,
"Come and save us, ere we die."
How our hearts do burn within us,
As we hear this plaintive plea;
Hark! from far and near they call us,
They are calling you and me.

From the borders of Hungary,
From Siberia's ice-bound shore;
From the rugged coasts of Italy,
Where the surging billows roar.
From Rumania, France and Russia,
Poland, Turkey and from Greece;
They are pleading "Come and tell us
Of the Mighty Prince of Peace."

See, the "harvest fields are whitening,
Now the doors are opened wide;
To the vineyard we must hasten,
Angel hosts will be our guide.
"Feed My Lambs" the Saviour bids us,
There are precious souls to win;
We must work and wait with patience,
The heavenly gates to enter in.

Yes, this gospel of the Kingdom
Must be preached unto *all* men;
Then the Saviour in His glory,
With the angels will descend.
Soon, this pilgrim journey ended,
Life's rough, stormy billows past;
Safe in Heaven with the faithful,
We'll be gathered home at last.



This map will be found very useful if it is copied on a blackboard or printed as a chart, and kept constantly before the school. As articles are read, the countries mentioned may be pointed out.