

WORLD

Mission Report

Go ye . . . into all the world.

Vol. 64

Second Quarter, 1975

No. 2

EURO-AFRICA DIVISION

Projects:

- ▶ Italian Publishing House expansion, Florence, Italy.
- ▶ New union training school, Mozambique, Africa.

A view of the bindery of the Italian Publishing House. Overcrowded conditions of this printing press require urgently needed expansion so that the printed page may reach the many waiting people.



Thirteenth Sabbath Offering Overflow—June 28, 1975

The Euro-Africa Division

Dear Members of the Sabbath School:

I have been deeply impressed by the way the members of the Sabbath School family are continually helping one another. Since I have been working in the administration, I have observed in the statistical reports the wonderful results of the enthusiasm generated in our Sabbath Schools for the worldwide mission program.

Now, we in the Euro-Africa Division are the recipients. Whether we give, or whether we receive, we are all blessed by God who looks with loving favor upon His children in all lands.

Even now, before we receive your offering, we would like to thank you for your sacrifice. We will be directing the "overflow" from the thirteenth Sabbath to the following very needy projects:

1. Italian Publishing House. The sale of our literature by our literature evangelists has developed so rapidly that our publishing house is too small to cope with the needs of the work. Built in 1925 when we had only about 400 members in Italy, this fine institution has served us well. But now we must expand, and we are counting on you to assist us.

2. Union Training School—Mozambique. With 14,000 church members and 27,000 Sabbath School members, our educational program in Mozambique is stretched to the limit. We have many elementary schools, but only one secondary school, namely Munguluni Training School, established in 1957. Unfortunately, this school has no provision to enable students to earn their board or tuition. There is no scope for industry or agriculture. So a new school is to be built near Beira (ba' e-ra), which will provide a well-balanced training program for our workers. We are sure you will want to help in this project.

Will you not give generously this thirteenth Sabbath? Let us prepare for this offering, and God will bless what we do.

Sincerely yours,

Oswald Bremer
Associate Secretary
Euro-Africa Division

FACTS AND FIGURES

TO HELP YOU TELL YOUR STORY EFFECTIVELY

MOZAMBIQUE

Sometimes called Portuguese East Africa, lies opposite the large island of Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island. Stretches 1500 miles north and south. Very fertile.

Area: 302,330 square miles, which is nine times the size of Portugal, of which it is an overseas province.

Topography: Most of Mozambique is coastal plain, rising to mountains over 5,000 feet in the west. Watered and irrigated by Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers.

Population: 7,767,000. About 95 per cent are Africans. The remainder are Europeans and Asians. Only about one person in 100 can read. Most schools are run by missions.

Crops: Cashew nuts, copra, sisal, sugar, tea.

Income: Greatest income is derived from railways and ports that handle 80 per cent of Rhodesia's overseas trade. Also 47.5 per cent of the seaborne trade with the industrial heartland of South Africa passes through the capital and chief port, Lourenço Marques. About 100,000 African miners from Mozambique work in South Africa's gold and coal mines.

Government: While boundaries have changed over the years, Mozambique has been under Portuguese control since Vasco da Gama visited it in 1498.

ITALY

The historic land of Italy is the leading tourist country of Europe. Home of 55 million people.

Area: 116,304 square miles, about the size of Arizona.

Climate: Generally warm, protected by the Alps from the cold of the north. Some areas receive up to 60 inches of rain a year.

Rome: The capital with 2,500,000 people is known for its links with the past as well as headquarters for the Roman Catholic Church.

Income: The north of Italy, particularly the Po River valley, is the most productive. It is rich in agriculture and industry. It produces motor vehicles, business machines, as well as textiles. The land produces corn, rice, beets, and wheat. The south is dry, hilly, and stony, and produces citrus fruits, olives, and grapes.

SABBATH, APRIL 5

Mozambique on the Line

by Henrique Berg

[Henrique Berg studied at the Instituto Adventista de Ensino (Brazil College), Sao Paulo, Brazil, his native country. He worked in the South Brazil Union until 1972, when he accepted the call of the Euro-Africa Division to serve as president of the Mozambique Union Mission.]

Attention of Sabbath School members around the world will be focused on Mozambique, a country in southeast Africa. On the east, Mozambique's 1,700-mile coast is bathed by the blue waters of the Indian Ocean. Its broad coastal plains rise to meet the grassy, wooded highland plateaus of Central Africa, touching Tanzania and Malawi on the north, and Zambia, Rhodesia, and the Republic of South Africa on the west. The country takes its name from the town and island of Moçambique, formerly the capital and a way station on the waterway to India.

Today there are some 9 million inhabitants in Mozambique, mostly Africans (92.5 per cent) along with Portuguese and Asian minorities. The standard of living varies from extremely primitive in isolated regions to very advanced in the modern cities of Lourenço Marques, Beira (Bã'e-ra), and Nampula. In many sections the land is fertile, and the vegetation lush. In the northern savanna big game regions still exist, where lions, tigers, and elephants are found.

In rural areas the people live in

small thatched-roof, adobe houses, with uncultivated gardens at the side. They cook, eat, and sleep under the trees, using the house only at night. Their diet consists of manioc (a starchy rootstock), peanuts, corn, beans, cashew nuts, coconut, wild fruits, and vegetables. With the exception of those who have lived with Europeans, they have never seen a horse or a cow. The Africans dress like Europeans, whenever possible; however, the women use a rectangular scarf, called a *capulana*, for many purposes: a headscarf, a back-sling to carry children, a bedsheet, a market basket, and a handy cover for the knees when one is in a sitting position. The people are generally healthy, orderly, and of cheerful disposition. If it were not for alcoholic beverages, superstition, primitivism, and the promiscuity prevalent in the poor districts near cities, they would be a happy people.

The official language of the country is Portuguese, but there are more than 20 dialects and sub-dialects, sometimes as different from one another as are English and Portuguese. Although the state religion is Catholicism, there are nearly 800,000 Moslems in Mozambique, and the majority of the natives are still tied to primitive forms of worship and witchcraft. Protestant minorities include Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, and Pentecostal communities.

Adventism entered the country in 1931, when people who had received help at the Malamulo school and hospital in Malawi crossed the frontier and spread their faith in the

Zambezia region. Then in 1933 Max Webster was sent to Mozambique to consolidate the interest and organize the work. In 1935 he received official authorization to establish a mission station in the bush, 50 miles from the small village of Mocuba. The mission was named Munguluni, meaning "light" in the local dialect.

Exactly 15 years ago, 50 per cent of the second quarter, 1960, Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow was assigned to the Munguluni Mission Station. These funds permitted the building of a dispensary and of two houses and the installation of water and electricity in all the houses, classrooms, and dormitories. Our people remember with gratitude the generosity of their brethren, and in their name I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to everyone who responded to that appeal. You will be happy to know that during 1973, 2,300 consultations and 3,500 treatments were given at the Munguluni Dispensary, besides deliveries, medications, and injections. Last year 283 students studied at the Munguluni Mission School.

The work spread from this center until in 1972 the Euro-Africa Division voted to organize a union in Mozambique, made up of three missions. At the close of 1973 the membership of the union stood at 14,362, with some 27,000 Sabbath School members.

Outside the cities our churches are low rectangular adobe structures with straw roofs, built to accommodate some 200 people. The seats are dry clay benches or tree trunks. Many people sit on the floor.

People gather daily in many of these churches to study the Sabbath School lesson with those who know how to read.

One of the most effective means of evangelism in rural areas is the day school. Reading and writing classes are offered during the day in our churches, but along with these basic skills students learn the message of salvation. Although we constantly receive requests from native chiefs to open such schools in new areas, we are unable to fill most of the calls for lack of teachers. Many of the "schools" now in operation would receive official recognition if our teachers had sufficient preparation to qualify.

At the close of 1972 only 47 of the 78 salaried workers in Mozambique had completed the basic primary classes (four grades), and very few had the Bible course. A large number of our workers are recruited from among the best among the laity. Our most urgent need is to improve the educational level of our local workers.

At present only the Munguluni Training School is recognized officially. There the youth receive the first four years of primary education and three years of Bible study. But the Munguluni School is difficult to reach. Situated far from the geographical center of the country, it is also far from consumer centers. At the present location industries and agriculture are not possible. Students have no way to earn their room, board, or tuition.

With these facts in mind, the leaders of the work in Mozambique decided to open a new school. The

site chosen is twelve miles from Beira, the second largest city in Mozambique, and an important port and industrial center. Here students will be able to work in agriculture or industry, or as literature evangelists while they pursue their studies. The plan is to upgrade facilities and add years of study so that the students will go out better prepared.

APPEAL It is to build this school—the Seventh-day Adventist Educational Center of Mozambique—that we appeal to our brethren around the world this thirteenth Sabbath. Our churches are crowded with young people who long for the opportunity to prepare for the work. If we open the doors many of our youth will prove to be capable instruments in the hands of God to do a mighty work for Him. Mozambique is ready for the harvest. Political events and rumblings of war create the desire of all for security. That security only Jesus can give, and only the Seventh-day Adventist Church can share. Will you not give generously this thirteenth Sabbath? Prepare for it now, and God will bless.

SABBATH, APRIL 12

"They of Italy Salute You"

by Antonio Bueno

[President, Italian Conference]

On the shores of the Tiber is Rome, the capital of beautiful Italy. This historical city is home to the headquarters of the Italian Con-

ference of Seventh-day Adventist churches. From Rome we send greetings to the members of God's remnant church around the world, in the name of the 4,500 members of the church in Italy.

You will be interested in knowing that the Adventist Church in Italy now embraces 65 organized churches and 13 groups, a seminary whose enrollment numbers 90 students, three church schools, and a publishing house with 25 employees. Your Italian brethren are conscious of their responsibility as heirs of the first Christians, those heroic men and women who sealed their pact with God with their blood in the amphitheaters of ancient Rome, and today they are diligently working to spread the gospel of Christ to finish the work in this generation.

One of the most effective means at their disposal for taking the good news of salvation to people everywhere is the printed page. It is heartening to know that the past year Italy's 32 colporteurs sold approximately 30 million pages of Adventist literature—almost a million pages per colporteur!

Besides several books on health, social relations, and religion, the Italian Publishing House issues three monthly magazines: *Il Messaggero Avventista*, *Segni dei Tempi*, and *Vita e Salute* ("The Adventist Messenger," "Signs of the Times," and "Life and Health"). Each edition of *Vita e Salute* now numbers about 55,000 copies, which appears to have set a record.

However, the publishing work in

Italy is facing a crisis. The size of the publishing house is the problem, and it is crucial to the future of the publishing work. The necessary machinery and work area has just outgrown the space available. The building where the work began 50 years ago is the one still being used today, and it is no longer adequate. There is no space for the new machinery that should be purchased; there is no room to store the paper that should be purchased in large quantities. Employees work under tremendous pressures because there is no space for the machinery that could facilitate their work and permit greater speed and efficiency. There is not even the necessary room for people to work in a normal organized way.

The Italian Conference is thankful for the understanding of the Euro-Africa Division in naming our publishing house as one of the recipients of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow this quarter. This help from the world field will help greatly in realizing our dream of building a new publishing house, one that will be large enough to be functional. Then it will be possible to effect a more ambitious and aggressive publishing program.

It is the plan to print more religious books, especially the Spirit of Prophecy volumes, which the church does not have in Italy. The plan calls for larger issues of our periodicals, in order to take advantage of the religious liberty offered in Italy today. There is a sense of urgency that constrains God's people to take the words of salvation to every Italian home.

The remnant church should not forget the historic prayer offered by Elder and Mrs. White as they knelt beside the first edition of *The Present Truth*, a prayer that reminds us of the great importance that God has given to the publishing work from the very beginning. This movement began its march with the use of Adventist literature, and it will not finish without its strong support.

The workers here sincerely believe that the historic hour has arrived for the publishing work in Italy. No one knows how long the doors will remain open. It would be a grave mistake to squander this marvelous opportunity. But the Italian church is small in number. Its resources are limited. Although every member is ready to sacrifice, without the generous help of God's children around the world, this decisive step forward would be impossible.

APPEAL Remember that Paul, writing from the prison in Rome to his spiritual son Timothy, requested, "Bring with thee . . . the books" (2 Tim. 4:13). In the name of the 55 million inhabitants of Italy today, we use this plea for the publications containing the messages for the last of time. There are millions of spiritual prisoners in Italy who need SDA books and magazines, publications that carry a message of liberty from sin and the offer of eternal salvation. Help us, dear brothers and sisters around the world, so that we may fill Italy with the words of Christ.

Thank you for what you will make possible through your offerings and

your prayers. In closing I bring to you the verse of Scriptures that only this country can use: "They of Italy salute you" (Heb. 13:24).

SABBATH, APRIL 19

The Added Blessing

by Dario Broccadello

[Dario Broccadello studied at the Italian Secondary School, Florence, Italy, and at the French Adventist Seminary, Collonges-sous-Salève, France. He entered the work as an assistant publishing secretary for North Italy, and then in 1973 he was named publishing secretary for the entire field.]

"Four apartments and no answer! Should we go on?" questioned the beginning colporteur. "No one is at home in this building. We are wasting our time," he continued.

The wise publishing secretary met the question with an important lesson in Christian salesmanship. "A literature evangelist leaves no house or dwelling without giving the people an opportunity to accept or reject the truth he has to offer. He must knock on every door."

This experience took place in Padua, Italy, while Dario Broccadello, publishing secretary of the Italian Conference, was working with a new recruit. They had worked for three days, and God had blessed their efforts with excellent sales. However, the publishing secretary wanted something more for his new worker—a soul-winning experience. For him, the literature

ministry was primarily evangelistic. So, as they approached the end of their third day together, Brother Broccadello was silently asking God for an added blessing.

Just then a door opened. After the men identified themselves, an attractive young girl invited them into the apartment. She and her mother listened attentively as the younger worker presented the health journal *Vita e Salute* ("Life and Health"). At the close of the presentation he offered them a year's subscription to the magazine.

"Oh, sir, I am sorry, but it is impossible. We simply do not have the money," the girl explained.

Aware that something unusual was taking place in the home, the publishing secretary quietly took charge without anyone's realizing it. An experienced soul winner, he knew how to direct the conversation to spiritual themes. As he asked leading questions, the girl started to unburden her heart.

"My mother and I are strangers, living in a foreign land. We left our country, Colombia, South America, almost a year ago to come to live with my grandmother. She had urged us to come, even writing that she wanted to will us her large home and some 52 million lire (about US-\$86,666) in cash.

"We came, desirous of doing all we could to make her happy, but we found that she had not told us everything. She is a devout member of Jehovah's Witnesses. Another condition was that we join her church. We studied. We tried to understand their beliefs, but it was impossible. When grandmother saw

that we would not become Jehovah's Witnesses, she put us out.

"There we were! We had spent our money to come to Italy. We had no money, nowhere to go! But we had always tried to follow God's biddings. We prayed earnestly, confident that He would not forsake us in our hour of need. God always answers prayer. Some folk whom we did not even know came to our aid until we found work. I have been working as a governess in a family, and mother takes care of a paralytic. With what we earn we can live."

The publishing leader wisely guided the conversation to linger on God's goodness to His earthly children, His love for them, and His tender care, even though He sometimes permits suffering in order to lead to something better. As they talked on religious subjects, young Marta volunteered:

"During the time we have been in Italy, we have been receiving letters from my married sister in Bogotá telling about her new faith. She has come to know the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and she is certain that they have the truth. In every letter my sister writes, she urges mother and me to look for that church and to accept that faith. She says that Jesus is coming soon."

The literature evangelists looked at each other, almost too moved to speak. Finally the older man said, "We are Seventh-day Adventists."

"You are? You are! Mother, did you hear that?" exclaimed Marta. Mother and daughter flew into each other's arms, embracing and crying at the same time. The colporteurs

were so affected by what they were witnessing that they could not speak.

Then Marta ran to look for the last letter from her sister. She had written that she was going to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on the 29th of that month, thus following the instruction given by Jesus for His followers. Again she pleaded with her mother and sister, "Please look for an Adventist church. Join the people who are preparing for Jesus' soon return to earth. There is very little time left. I beg you, listen to what I say. You have always loved the Lord. Now you must get ready to go home with Him."

Before leaving, the workers had prayer in that home, and they promised that they would return that very evening with the church pastor to give them their first Bible study. As they left the building a few minutes later, the young recruit said, "Now I understand that the colporteur work is more than selling books. It is truly a soul-winning work, an evangelistic effort."

Again the colporteur leader lifted his heart in praise to God for this manifestation of His concern for His work and another answer to prayer. Then he told the new literature evangelist what he had been praying. Together they marveled at the definite way in which God had answered that prayer.

The following Sabbath Marta and her mother were both in church. A baptismal service had been planned for that day, and they thrilled to see with their own eyes what the daughter in Bogotá had

been writing about. When at the close of the ceremony the pastor called for all to come forward who were interested in giving themselves to the Lord and in joining the remnant church, both of the women responded. They went forward without hesitation, with an air of confidence that in a special sense they were going home.

APPEAL Yes, God does use man to do His work. He has no other plan. He can use you and me to help finish His work. Let us consecrate our all to Him.

SABBATH, APRIL 26

Kukukuku Country

by Rosemary Way

[Mrs. Way, the wife of the president of the Papuan Gulf Mission, is a registered nurse and is in charge of the medical work of the church in the Papuan Gulf.]

(Note.—This quarter we have been bringing you stories of the work of God and its needs in the Euro-Africa Division that is to benefit from this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow, but for today let me tell you a little story about the work of God in Papua New Guinea, one of the countries of the worldwide field that benefits by our general mission offerings each week.)

While on a patrol in the Vailala (vi-lah'lah) area of the Papuan Gulf, mission president, Pastor Ritchie Way, and his assistant, Pastor Kova Kela, came upon a group of seven men from the wild Kukukuku (cook-oo-cook-oo) tribe. The Kukukukus had been on the mountain trail for one month returning

to their home village beyond the source of River Vailala. Fortunately one of the Kukukuku men was able to speak the Motu (mor'too) language, so our missionaries were able to communicate.

"Who are you, and where are you from?" the Kukukukus asked.

"We are Seven Day missionaries," replied Pastor Way.

"Seven Day missionaries have done much for many of our villages," the Kukukuku man replied. "Many of our people were sick and the Seven Day people healed them and taught them a better way of life. Please will you send a mission teacher to our village, for we are a people in great need." Nothing could be promised. Two weeks later another group of Kukukukus came down the river to sell dried cassowary meat to trade with the inland Papuans. The Kukukukus are excellent hunters, and when they want some money to buy matches, soap and other supplies, they hunt cassowaries (ostrichlike birds that stand about five feet tall), with bows and arrows. There is a ready market for the tough cassowary meat in Papuan villages.

While on their trading expedition the Kukukukus called on our missionary at Belepa and told him that they had had a village meeting and had decided unanimously to press their request for a Seventh-day Adventist teacher.

Though funds were low and workers insufficient for areas already entered, Pastor Way felt impressed to make the long journey up the river to the Kukukukus before the rains started. Three work-

ers accompanied Pastor Way. They were: Pastor Kova Kela, Matthew Singoi, a medical worker, and Kikovia Kuruas, a missionary.

Kikovia was keen to be included in the party because his grandfather was one of the first missionaries to work with the Vailala Kukukus. However, the work of Kikovia's grandfather for the Kukukus had finished in tragedy. He was shot in the side with an arrow one Sabbath while conducting Sabbath School. Kikovia wanted to step into his grandfather's shoes and recommence the work that he had begun.

The missionary patrol journeyed up a tributary to the river by canal. When the water got too shallow they tied the canoe to a tree and set out through the steaming jungle on foot. After almost an hour of difficult tramping they came upon a clearing in the jungle. Here were planted taro, bananas, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, and other native vegetables.

Beyond the gardens lay the village. They were surprised to see it wasn't a very big village. Mentioning this to the chief of the village who came out to greet them, they were told that there were many more families living out in the jungle. "Why do they not live in the village?" Pastor Way inquired.

"They used to live in the village," the chief replied, "but when many people died of a great sickness they moved away to escape from the evil spirits, which they believed were causing the deaths."

The chief again pressed his claim for a missionary to be located

among his people. To which Pastor Way replied that it would be almost impossible for our missionary to teach the people and children if they were scattered in this way all through the jungle.

The chief then told us that a few days before, a government patrol had passed through the area looking for the murderer of a Kukukuku whose arrow-pierced body had been seen floating down the river. Because of the extreme difficulty in administering such a scattered populace, the patrol officer had ordered all the people to move back into the village, and reinforced his command with the threat of punishment for those who disobeyed the order. "Surely God has prepared the way," one of the party declared. "If your missionary comes here," the chief pleaded, "our people won't be afraid of the evil spirits and will come back to the village." The missionary party decided to camp for the night near the village.

As the fires burned low, and the fireflies began to play, Kikovia, who had been exploring the village, returned to camp and said that he had been talking to the chief's son, who not long before had returned from the headwaters of the Vailala bringing back a new wife. He said that the people up there had told him that if his village ever got a missionary-teacher, to send a message to them and they would come down and join the village. At the headwaters of the river there are no clinics, no trade stores, no missionaries, and no schools. Their way of life is primitive.

SABBATH, MAY 3

The Itinerant Chaplain

by S. M. Lebesé

[Chaplain, Maluti Adventist Hospital, Lesotho.]

(Note.—Today we have a story from Lesotho, a neighboring field to some of the countries that comprise the Euro-Africa Division to which we are directing our offering overflow this quarter. Several times during the quarter it is our plan to bring reports from other parts of the world that receive help from our weekly offerings.)

In many lands, the work of a hospital chaplain is largely confined to the environs of the hospital. Those bedside prayers and words of encouragement mean so much to patients laid low by illness or disease. What a comfort it is to have a man of God pray with and for you before you face the unknown in the operating room.

However, at the Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho, that small landlocked kingdom in the south of Africa, much more is expected of the chaplain. Although the hospital has 175 beds, with an average occupancy of 130, and keeps several physicians and a general staff of over 100 busy, the chaplain finds time to make occasional missionary journeys out into the rugged mountainous country to bring blessing to those in trouble.

It was early in April when a request was sent through from Nokong, a place about sixteen miles eastward from Maluti Hospital, to say that Maletapata, the chieftainess, was very ill. She had not been visited by a minister recently, and she felt the need of a minister's

Next morning, hearing of the visit of the missionaries, many Kukukukus came in from the jungle, and while Matthew treated their sores and diseases, the chief and the missionaries marked out a site for a new village and missionary's house. Later that day the Kukukukus carried the missionary's gear down to their canoe with gifts of bananas, pawpaw, and sugar cane, and bade them farewell with the promise that all would be in readiness when a missionary was able to come and live with them.

In a remarkably short time a missionary's house was finished. It had platted walls and a roof thatched with the leaves of the nipa palm. The house was built high above the ground on seven-foot piles. Also was erected a one-room Bible school. All was indeed in readiness when Omohae Helavi (omo-high he-la'vee), a native teacher, arrived at the village to care for the people.

The Kukukukus are now moving in from the jungle, to learn for the first time about the love of Jesus. Their boys and girls sit daily at the feet of Omohae as he teaches them in his humble, thatched school.

APPEAL This story and hundreds of others like it can be possible only because of the faithfulness and support of Sabbath School members around the world who give freely of their means to promote the work of the gospel in regions longing and waiting for the gospel. Dear Sabbath School members, only eternity will reveal what your offerings have "purchased" for the kingdom of God.

visit and the blessings of the Lord's Supper. This, she claimed, would meet her immediate need, and she would rest in peace. She had been ill for about ten years. Her husband passed away some years before, and she had been left to care for her subjects alone.

Plans for a visit to her place, Menyameng, at the foot of the Drakensberg range in Lesotho, were immediately laid. The hospital chaplain was to leave with the church elder, Mr. Samson Ramaema, by car to go as far as Nokong. From Nokong the journey would be made on horseback. Arrangements were made for three horses for the trip.

Early Sunday morning, the 28th of the month, the chaplain and Mr. Ramaema left by car for Nokong. The road to Nokong is not a golden highway at all, and so the distance of sixteen miles took an hour to cover. Upon reaching Nokong they waited awhile for the arrival of the horses and Mr. Rapapa, the leader of the local company. The horses were soon saddled and each man mounted, and for the first time in his life, the chaplain mounted too!

Off they rode, down into the valley, up and around the hill, and through the rivers. The chaplain was used to driving a car, but this time he just sat in the saddle and let the horse make its own way, following the other two. As the nine-mile journey continued, he mused and understood why Jesus loved to go up the mountains for prayer and meditation. The snow-capped mountains in front were beckoning the travelers on. Down

the side of the mountains trickled the sparkling water that cheers and refreshes the lonely and tired wayfarer. It is no wonder Lesotho is called the "Switzerland" of Southern Africa.

Their destination was reached about 1:00 P.M. The sick chieftainess rejoiced at the sight of her ministers. It seemed to her Jesus had come to visit her in person. She felt as Simeon felt at the sight of the Baby Jesus, "Lord, now lettest thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word" (Luke 2:29). A service was held and the Lord's Supper conducted for her. The chaplain thought to himself that that might be the last supper for that good Christian woman. They sang "We Have No Abiding City Here" as the closing hymn and left. Outside the humble dwelling of God's servant towered the majestic mountains that still declare the glory and unchangeableness of God.

At about 2:30 P.M. the return journey was begun. Up and down and around the hills the horses made their weary journey. About three quarters of the way from Menyameng, at Sebitia, there was another believer. She was a cripple and could not easily attend services, for the church was about half an hour's journey on horseback from her place. She called her household and neighbors together. It was about 5:00 P.M. and the sun was already setting in the western skies. The sun was bidding the rugged mountains and eroded country a farewell. The crippled old lady, at the close of the service, gave two cents as a thank offering to the

Lord, truly a widow's mite.

When the journey was resumed the sun had already set. The rain began to fall and the horses trotted on. At this time the promise in Isaiah 52:7, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth," came to the writer's mind. The travelers arrived at Nokong about 6 P.M. It was dark now so that one could not see very far, and they trusted that the horses knew where they were going.

At about 6 P.M. the people at the hospital became concerned. A distance of about fifty miles had taken the whole day, but the journey was completed in safety and the satisfaction that souls had been made glad by the visit.

APPEAL "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:38).

SABBATH, MAY 10

From the Piedmont Valley to All Italy

by Edouard Naenny

[Edouard Naenny, born in Switzerland, received his training at the French Adventist Seminary, Collonges-sous-Saleve, France. He entered the work in 1941 as a pastor/evangelist and worked successfully for several years as a church pastor. Then he served as departmental

secretary of the French Swiss Conference and the Swiss Union. In 1958 he was called to the Southern European Division (now Euro-Africa Division) as publishing secretary, which position he still holds.]

The Piedmontese Alps in northern Italy is homeland for the heroic Waldenses, who were searched out, persecuted, and martyred for nearly eight centuries, from the Middle Ages to the eighteenth century. It is the land where the blood of thousands of devout Christians flowed in their mountain fortresses, only because they wanted to live in harmony with the Word of God.

Vaudois ministers and colporteurs received their training at their Bible school, in Pra del Torno, hidden in the mountains. From there they went out to work at the risk of their lives to spread the gospel, not only in Italy but throughout all Europe. Their work prepared the way for the Reformation.

It was also in the Piedmont Valley, in 1864, that the Adventist message was preached for the first time in Europe. There the first converts were baptized, and from there the first Adventist colporteur went out. Since that beginning, the evangelization of Italy has been a long and difficult task to arrive at the 4,500 baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Italy today. But the Lord has often performed a miracle to bring about a marvelous conversion.

The experience of Bartolo Liali demonstrates what God can and will do for man, to re-create in him a heart like His. Violent, quarrel-

some Bartolo lived in Ragusa, Sicily, fighting often, even with his friends. He bragged that he always carried a knife in his pocket. Being young, he was unemployed, like many of the youth in his country. Finally he left Italy and went to St. Gallen, Switzerland, where he found work.

Bartolo was addicted to alcohol. At least twice a week he would get drunk, and then in his stupor he felt capable of taking on the whole world. While other Italian workers saved their money to send something to their families, Bartolo spent all he earned on drink and other vices. In his sober moments the youth realized the depths to which he had sunk. Although he often felt desperate about his condition, he was helpless to change his life-style. With no goal in life, nothing to look forward to in the future, he thought of suicide.

Then one day in 1967 someone knocked at his door. He opened to a tall, good-looking young man, who was courteous and friendly. He was a Seventh-day Adventist literature evangelist. The colporteur sold Bartolo the book *Vivre* ("Live"), and enrolled him in a Bible correspondence course.

Bartolo soon became very interested in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and five months later he finished the Bible course. Then a lay worker from the local church visited him and gently led him further in the Christian way. The gospel completely changed Bartolo's heart and transformed his life. Finally, Pastor Werner Bodenmann baptized him.

After baptism Bartolo returned home, desirous of sharing his new faith. Realizing that the miracle of his life had been initiated by the literature ministry, he decided to serve his Lord by becoming a literature evangelist. Today he is working on the sunny island of Sardinia, where he is placing many of our publications in the homes. He takes advantage of every opportunity to testify to what Jesus has done for him and to invite others to prepare for the kingdom of heaven. "Now," he says, "I carry a Bible in my pocket instead of a knife."

Today we have an excellent group of literature workers in Italy, but it has not always been so. Some ten years ago our work passed through a crisis. There was little literature to offer the public, and there were few capable colporteurs. The leaders gave serious consideration to closing the Italian Publishing House in Florence. But that would have been too easy a victory for Satan! Regardless of the price, the church must take advantage of the religious liberty that they enjoy today in the country where the Reformation had been wiped out. The publishing house had to be saved.

The leaders of the work in Europe decided to make this a subject of earnest and persevering prayer, and to go ahead by faith with fundamental changes and reorganization in the publishing house and in the publishing department. Those experiences are still fresh in the memories of many. The division publishing secretary helped in the countrywide visitation campaign. Every Adventist church in Italy

was visited, and appeals were made to the members to accept God's call to service in the work of literature evangelism.

The Lord answered prayer. Many new, capable, consecrated men and women joined the colporteur army. Ismaele Rimoldi was placed in charge of the publishing house, and he was permitted to call and train a staff of devoted workers. Together they have made marvelous progress, until today that press is much too small for the work it is charged with doing to meet the demands of the field for literature. Workers are obliged to labor under difficult conditions, because there is not enough space for efficient operation.

APPEAL As it is impossible to enlarge the existing building, there is no other solution. Otherwise we risk blocking the onward march of the gospel in Italy. That is why we are addressing this appeal to you, dear Sabbath School members, and we are confident that you will come to our aid with a generous offering this thirteenth Sabbath. May the Lord abundantly bless you in return.

SABBATH, MAY 17

A Brand Plucked From the Fire

by Hilal Dose

[Elder Hilal Dose has been in the work for thirty years. He has served as a pastor, Bible teacher, and president of Egypt Field. He is presently president of Iraq Field and pastor

of the Central Baghdad church.]

(Note.—Today is one of the Sabbaths on which we bring you a story from a division other than the Euro-Africa Division to which the offering overflow goes this quarter, with the purpose of keeping us in touch with the worldwide work to which our twelve Sabbath's offerings assist the cause of missions.)

From Babylon, the land of the ancient heroes, where "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat," but would worship God alone; where the three Hebrew lads refused to worship the image, and where the burning fiery furnace of Nebuchadnezzar could not make them change their minds; from Ur of the Chaldees, where Abraham received his first call, left his parents and fellow men and became the first missionary who left his homeland to witness for God; from Nineveh, to which Jonah at first refused to go in order to give God's warning, but instead bought a ticket to Tarshish in order to escape from the face of the Lord, later to return to it unwillingly in a special "submarine"; here in the land of Iraq, which was a theater for those unyielding heroes of the Bible, the everlasting gospel, signs of the times and present truth are being proclaimed today. God's saving grace is still performing miracles now. Here is a brief story giving a sample of the work of God in this land.

In an attempt to attract Christians and others to attend, a series of religious meetings was started in our Baghdad Seventh-day Adventist church with some films about the life of Christ. The church was full to capacity and among

those in attendance were two sisters. Alice Yacoub (ya-coob), the elder one, is teacher in a public school in the Anbar area. The younger one, Sabeeha Yacoub, had recently graduated from college and was expecting employment as a teacher in a government school. With them was a young man named Fouzy Nayef who is a physics teacher in a government school in the Daily area and who is a member of the Yazedeyeen (ya-ze-de-yeen') sect, well known in North Iraq for worshipping Satan.

When the speaker noticed that they were really interested in God's message, he requested permission to visit their home for prayer and study of God's Word. He was welcomed to their home for several weeks, but when the father learned of this he was greatly opposed to the idea and asked his daughters to stop allowing these visits. The elder sister, Alice, says: "When my father behaved in this manner, I felt as if our home was facing God's judgment and I was afraid, yet I thanked the pastor and his assistant for continuing their visits to us." Then she started attending the meetings alone, and after a few weeks she purposed to keep the Sabbath and decided not to go to school on Saturdays. In an attempt to change her mind the government school administration took some severe measures against her, such as warnings, cutting her salary, threatening to dismiss her, and continuous investigations, but all to no avail. When the parents learned of this, they too began to blame and threaten her. Her won-

derful steadfastness and the signs of joy and grace on her countenance left a deep impression on her sister, Sabeeha, who joined her in studying God's Word in the pastor's house with Mr. Fouzy, the Yazedeyeen physics teacher. They both decided to keep Sabbath, come what may.

Finally the time came when the younger sister, Sabeeha, was appointed as a teacher in one of the northern areas that is called Dhouk (thook). Because she refused to work on Sabbath, the same actions as were taken against her older sister were also taken against her: cutting of her salary, warnings, and threatenings. The same thing took place with Mr. Fouzy Nayef in the Daily area. After so many investigations and consultations, the government officials decided to grant them the privilege of not working on Sabbaths. They were very happy for that.

God has rewarded the faithfulness of these two sisters. The Holy Spirit touched the heart of their brother, Aram, who was a student at the university. He had opposed them very bitterly at home; but at last he accepted the truth. When he found it impossible to keep Sabbath and continue his studies at the university, he left it and decided to study theology in order to prepare himself for the service of God. Afterward, their younger brother, Anwar, left the School of Industrial Arts and attended our secondary institution where he could keep the Sabbath. They were all baptized and joined the church.

Yes, the Spirit of God that

worked through Daniel and his three friends works today in the hearts of the faithful ones in order that they might prepare the people for His second coming. This is a sample of the problems that face those who accept the present truth in this country where the official holiday is Friday and where many people long for employment by the government. The result is that everyone who accepts the Adventist faith faces difficult tests and learns to be dependent upon God.

APPEAL Dear Sabbath School members, Iraq is eagerly looking for a Saviour. It is our duty to present Christ to all, for He is the only liberator and His cross is the symbol of liberation. Jesus has given us the ministry of reconciliation to proclaim "liberty to the captives." We do recognize, dear brethren, that the value of the soul is beyond estimation. This soul will perish forever if it does not accept Christ. In relating this experience Brother Dose is reminded of what an infidel once said: "If I were to believe in what you believe, I would have crept on my bleeding fingers to preach Him to poor sinners. So why don't you do what really shows your faith in Christ?"

Jesus, who alone appreciates the value of the human soul in the sight of God and heaven, has said: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26), for all the wealth of the world cannot buy one single soul. Jesus alone has paid His royal blood as a price. He alone can buy it.

As we consider the pressing needs in God's work these days, we request your prayers and sacrifices. We trust that

you will give liberally for the Thirtieth Sabbath Offering, that we may be able to call faithful reapers for these last days to work in the many areas that are not yet reached by the message. We will never regret that we gave liberally and sacrificially for the finishing of God's work. May the Lord help us to do all in our power to finish His work today so that at the time of His glorious appearing we may have no regrets.

SABBATH, MAY 24

Pearls in the Indian Ocean

by Edgard Villeneuve

[Edgard Villeneuve, the writer of this article, has been a missionary in Madagascar since early in 1935. He is the editor of our paper in Malagache, and is also the lay activities and Sabbath School department secretary as well as being a field secretary for the Indian Ocean Union Mission.]

There are more than a dozen islands, large and small, in the Indian Ocean that have been for a long time away from the main ocean travel routes. When the Suez Canal was closed, however, they became of great strategic significance.

The Adventist message has entered the four main islands, namely Madagascar, Maritius, La Réunion, and Rodrigues. On Madagascar is located the headquarters of the Indian Ocean Union Mission, with its 190 churches and 8,700 members. La Réunion, with its 500,000 inhabitants, is a part of the French overseas territories, and is noted for its

magnificent scenic beauty that attracts thousands of tourists. For a long time it has been a stronghold of Catholicism, but in the past few years it has opened its doors to the third angel's message. This report gives some examples that show how the Spirit of the Lord cannot be hindered by political or ecclesiastical opposition and that His power is at work in the islands.

In the principal town, St. Denis (population 66,000), our church set aside the first half of February for initiating the Vacation Bible Schools in previously unentered towns. At Petite-Ile there were 15 enrolled for a morning school, and at Mouffia 25 registered for an afternoon session. Everything went well for the first week, and the children were very enthusiastic about the new things they heard. But cyclone Dolly came within 60 miles of the island and brought torrential rain, so that it was impossible to carry on the programs during the second week.

No sooner had good weather returned, allowing the children to recommence their Bible school, than another cyclone, Eugenia, arrived right over the island. This threatened serious flooding. Warnings were given by radio at hourly intervals, and the climax came on a Sabbath morning. Our believers seized the promise of the apostle James and prayed together earnestly and were rewarded by their faith in seeing the cyclone suddenly change direction in the afternoon and pass by the coast of Réunion. However, by this time the tent that housed the Bible school

had collapsed, and the roof of the garage that had also been used for a meeting place had suffered some damage. Our young people willingly gave a day's work to repair this damage, so that both schools could continue their activities and complete them during the ensuing good weather. On the last Sabbath all the children were taken to the church by the pastor and the instructors in their cars. Later these two Vacation Sabbath Schools in Petite-Ile and Mouffia were combined, and they will, under the blessing of God, become a regular Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath School that will prepare the children of today to become the church of tomorrow.

When Pastor S. F. Monnier conducted a series of meetings in St. André, one woman, 73 years of age, who was the only non-Adventist in her family and who had always opposed the message, consented to attend the meetings. She surrendered her heart to the Lord and was baptized. Despite her advanced age, she is of good courage and is witnessing of her new-found faith to whomever she meets.

Another sister, who was never weary of well-doing, had to spend some time in the Plaine-des-Palmistes. In a dream she saw a special house where there was a family whom she should visit. But where was the house? She began to search, going from house to house, until at the end of a small street she recognized the house of her dream. On calling she found a woman in her middle-thirties who readily accepted the tract that was offered to

her and after some conversation asked our sister from which church she came. When she replied, "Seventh-day Adventist," the woman invited the Adventist inside. Once inside she immediately recognized the corner of the room where in her dream the old gentleman had been sitting. She asked several questions and discovered the father had died two years before. However, he had been very impressed by a tract given him before his death. On being shown the tract, our sister recognized it as one of our church publications and rejoiced to hear that the household had prayed ever since to the God described in the tract.

Further visits followed and Bible studies were arranged. Neighbors also were invited in. The pastor is now holding a cottage meeting every week, and already one family has requested baptism; a promising start for the establishment of a church in Plaine-des-Palmistes.

Ellen G. White saw in vision the extension of the gospel message in all the world. "I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God's word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed throughout the world."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 28, 29.

APPEAL Dear Sabbath School members, how many cities and villages are left where the truth has not yet been preached? This is not the time to diminish our efforts, for the angels are holding back the winds of strife. Let us ask God to give us the spirit of

sacrifice, so that with true missionary zeal we may give the gospel to all the inhabitants of the beautiful islands of the Indian Ocean.

SABBATH, MAY 31

From Witch Doctor to Soul Winner

[Departmental Secretary, North Mozambique Mission]

Every face reflected the emotion the people felt. Some tears fell. What encouraging news! "A part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow will come to our union to help us realize the dream of a Seventh-day Adventist educational center in Mozambique." Although the first toddling steps had been taken to build such a school near Beira, the geographical center of the country, it would be almost impossible to carry through their plans alone.

In this hour of joy and enthusiasm, members of the North Mission again remembered the worker who had pioneered the sowing of the gospel seed in their country. With sincere gratitude they recalled his dedication, sacrifice, and missionary fervor on their behalf. In spite of difficulties and setbacks, he established the church on a firm foundation in their mission and gave impetus to the evangelistic, medical, and educational work. "Thank you, Maxwell Mephaphan Webster," they said. "You showed us that the gospel is the

power of God to change lives and to bring about a new and happy way of living."

A forceful example of a changed life is that of Napua Mueliua (na-poo-a moo-eh-lee-oo-ah). In a country where witchcraft is one of the biggest problems, he realizes as do few others the supernatural power it exercises over people, the seductive and diabolic hold it has on its followers, filling their lives with fear. Jesus assured His followers, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27). In Africa many have proved this promise. Men and women have resisted the charm of black magic and become new creatures in Jesus, living witnesses of the power of the gospel to all who know them. This was the experience of Napua Mueliua.

When Max Webster was trying to establish the Seventh-day Adventist church in Ile, Zambezi district, Mozambique, he knocked on the door of Napua Mueliua, the powerful *macangueiro* (ma-kan-karo') ("witch doctor"), and spoke to him about salvation through Jesus Christ. He invited Napua to abandon the life of sorcery and working with evil spirits, and to follow Jesus, who loved him and died to save him. Although the *macangueiro* was impressed, he did not want to believe. So he continued his work of deception.

A short time later when adversity and problems made it impossible for Elder Webster to establish a station in Ile, he went to Munguluni, where he was successful in establishing a mission station that became the

center of mission activities in North Mozambique. Meanwhile the *macangueiro* also moved. He searched out another area in which to establish his *macanga* (ma-kan'ga) business. Where? In Munguluni!

The witch doctor had never forgotten the missionary's appeal. It was different—influential and powerful words! But still he resisted. He did not want to be convinced. He cherished his lucrative business, and if he were to give it up, what would he do? How could he live? "No! No!" he would argue with himself. "I cannot. . . ."

In Munguluni the missionary often visited the *macangueiro*. He took the man's sons to study at the small Adventist school. Although he was not aware of it, the influence of the gospel on Napua's heart was great. A stubborn and suspicious man, the battle was fierce, but the struggle was nearing its climax. The Holy Spirit kept him troubled, uncomfortable. He would soon have to come to terms with his conscience.

One day the missionary said to him, "Amigo Napua, come to Sabbath School this week. I will wait for you Sabbath morning."

Sabbath dawned bright and beautiful, and Napua decided to accept the missionary's invitation. All present stirred when the powerful witch doctor entered the straw hut that served as God's temple. The theme of the Sabbath School lesson that week was "Witchery and the Believer." It was obvious that the Holy Spirit was working. Visibly shaken, the *macangueiro* finally confessed, "I am convinced."

When Napua went home that day he gathered all the tools used in his magic and took them to the missionary's home. There he gave Elder Webster all that the devil had given him. Then he said, "I want to be a Seventh-day Adventist. I want to follow, serve, and love Jesus." He enrolled in a beginner's Bible study class, and then in the baptismal class. Finally he was baptized.

Napua Mueliua became a new creature in Christ Jesus. He often accompanied the missionary on his visits, telling people about the wonder-working power of the gospel and the immeasurable love of Jesus. He confessed that his conversion was brought about through the persistent work of the Holy Spirit on his heart and the dedicated and persevering efforts of the missionary.

Napua is now old and tired, but he has three sons who serve in the Lord's cause. Although he does not know how old he is, he does know and constantly repeats the blessed hope of all believers, that very soon our Saviour will return to earth for His own.

Dear brothers and sisters, friends around the world, we are awaiting your answer this thirteenth Sabbath. Among the 9 million inhabitants of Mozambique are hundreds who are anxious to know the gospel. Doors are open. The Holy Spirit is active. Heaven commands us to advance. But in today's world we need well-prepared workers to do God's work, and for that the Seventh-day Adventist educational center must become a reality.

Our present training school at Munguluni is completely inadequate, and plans are well laid for a new training school to be located twelve miles from Beira, the second largest city in Mozambique. The site chosen will allow students to earn their board and tuition fees by working in the gardens, or in industry. At present this is impossible at Munguluni.

It is also planned to upgrade the standard of education so that students will be more adequately equipped to face the problems in this fast developing society.

APPEAL Please be generous this thirteenth Sabbath. Your gifts and your prayers will win Mozambique for Jesus.

To all of you we say, "*Zikomo Nonse*" (zee-komo non-se), . . . "*Obri-gado Atene*" (obree-godo a-ten ee), . . . "Thank you" in the native dialects.

SABBATH, JUNE 7

Portrait of a Young Rebel

by Mrs. J. B. Villagomez

[Mrs. Villagomez as an educator in the Philippines has served at Naga (noh'goh) View Academy as matron, dean of women, registrar and English teacher. She is now an assistant professor of English at Philippine Union College.]

(Note.—Several times during the quarter it is our plan to bring you reports from other divisions that benefit by our weekly offerings to missions other than the division to which we shall devote our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow. Today let me tell you a story of a young woman's perseverance for a Christian education in the Philippines.)

To the members of her family,

Erlinda appeared to be a rebel of the worst sort. In spite of her father's wishes, she was determined to leave her home on Palawan (pah-lah'whan), the farthest west of the 7,100 islands that comprise the Republic of the Philippines, and attend school at Naga View Academy, more than 1,000 miles away to the east on the island of Luzon.

What had brought on the family crisis was a promise from T. C. Murdoch, president of the North Philippine Union Mission, that he would help her attend the academy. She had talked to Pastor Murdoch at the close of an educational rally on Palawan, and now her mind was made up. She had wanted to attend an Adventist school from the time she had become a member of the church. She was determined not to miss out now.

But was she right in her desire? This thought kept coming to her mind, even while she was trying to win over her father.

"What do you mean you have to have more education? You've already got as much schooling as anyone in the family," her father said angrily. "And what will you use for money? Answer me that."

"But I want to be a teacher, Papa, and for that I have to get more education," Erlinda said patiently, trying not to make her father any angrier. She had to admit that she was asking a lot. None of her brothers or sisters, all older than she was, had gone beyond elementary school. And here she was thinking of leaving home to go to school while the others stayed behind and worked to help the family.

But she felt a *call* to teach. It was more than just a selfish whim. She *had* to do it.

"Well, what about Carlos? Do you think he's going to sit around and twiddle his thumbs while you run off to school so many miles away?" her father said. "If I were you, I'd give marrying Carlos now some serious thought. Look what he has to offer—he owns a piece of good land, he's got carabao to work it with, and he's got a steady job as a tailor. I wouldn't toss all that aside if I were you, young lady."

Carlos was a fine young man—and she really loved him. That's what made things so hard. What if he didn't want to wait for her? And how long a wait was she talking about? In the back of her mind she had already determined not only to finish academy but also to finish college.

"If Carlos loves me, he'll understand," was all she could answer to that. She was, however, convinced in spite of her misgivings that things would work out between her and Carlos if it was God's will. And it *was* His will, she kept telling herself.

When word of Erlinda's decision to go to Naga View Academy got out, a steady stream of relatives came to argue her out of it. The consensus that was passed on to her parents was that she was crazy. They should simply refuse to let her go, and that should be that.

And poor Carlos, how sad his pleas that she marry him immediately.

What really shook up Erlinda was her father's crushing statement just

a few days before she was to leave home.

"If you leave," he had said, "then you will be considered as being dead. You can't expect any help from me."

All Erlinda could do was to rush out of the room to cry.

"You are the only child of mine who is rebellious, stubborn, and hardheaded," he said bitterly. "I've already lost face before my friends because of you."

Saying good-by to her family and her home almost broke Erlinda's heart, and only the conviction that she was doing the will of God gave her enough courage to pick up her suitcase and go. True to his word, her father refused to give her any money. She had only two pesos, thirty centavos (35 cents) in her purse. The trip by boat from Palawan to Luzon, and then by train and bus on to Naga View Academy would cost 50 pesos (US\$7.50). What in the world was she going to do? she wondered. But she was going to school, and that was settled.

When she was out of sight of the house, and the rest of the family had gone inside, one of her brothers ran after her and gave her 80 pesos (\$12). She learned later that the money had come from Carlos.

The boat Erlinda took from Palawan across to Luzon caught fire, and there was a long delay of the trip. Then when she was finally aboard the train on Luzon, two men sat down beside her and began talking to her. Soon several policemen came into the car she was in and arrested the two men for steal-

ing the luggage of one of the passengers. After the police left, the man who had been robbed by the pair sat down beside Erlinda and jabbed a knife toward her, accusing her of complicity with the robbers. He said he had seen them sitting with her and talking with her. All Erlinda could do was to close her eyes and pray. When she opened her eyes, the man was gone, and exhausted, she fell asleep.

When she finally arrived at Naga station she sat in the waiting room, not knowing what else to do. She had no idea how to get to the academy. Again, she closed her eyes and prayed that God would send someone to help her find the school. After a few minutes a middle-aged man came up and asked where she wanted to go. He proved to be a friendly bank executive. When she told him where she was going he took her to the right bus and rode with her to the academy.

Naga View Academy principal, A. A. Poblete (poh-blai-tay), and his wife took Erlinda into their home and gave her some light chores so she could earn her school expenses. During the three years she was at Naga View, Erlinda wrote letters home regularly, but not once did she receive a reply.

After graduation Erlinda went down to Philippine Union College near Manila, again without funds but full of determination and faith that things would work out. In a few days after her arrival at the college, friends of the Pobletes in another country sent enough money to cover Erlinda's tuition for the first year, and from then on she had

enough of a financial headstart that she was able to work and pay her way.

While she was at Philippine Union College, Erlinda learned that an Adventist academy had been opened on Palawan, her home island, and she learned also that Carlos had enrolled. Then Carlos went on to the new extension campus of Philippine Union College, now established at Naga View, to take college work.

Erlinda has now finished college and has a teaching certificate, and Carlos is finishing his college degree in commerce. They will be married as soon as he receives his degree, and plan to work together in God's service.

When Erlinda finally returned home for a visit after being away for seven years, she was welcomed as though she were a queen by her family and friends. No longer did her father consider her a rebel. He was proudest of all that his daughter had had the courage to follow her own convictions and get so much education.

APPEAL Erlinda's example has led many other young people from her hometown to go on to academy and college to obtain all the education they can. But the schools to which more and more Adventist young people are going need to be improved in many ways. Some need classrooms and dormitories and equipment. The Thirtieth Sabbath Offering overflow will open a new training school in Mozambique, Africa, so badly needed to prepare workers in that vast field. Your gifts on June 28 will prove to be a wise investment.

SABBATH, JUNE 14

A Stronger Light for Italy

by Ismaele Rimoldi

[Ismaele Rimoldi studied at the Italian Seminary in Florence, Italy, and at the French Adventist Seminary, Collonges-sous-Saleve, France. He has served as an evangelist, as temperance secretary of the Italian church, and for 17 years he was in charge of the radio work in Italy. Since 1958 he has been serving as editor of *Vita e Salute* ("Life and Health," in the Italian language). In 1964 he was named also as manager of the publishing house.]

Exactly 50 years ago a small community of Seventh-day Adventists, numbering less than 400 members, decided to start a publishing house in Catholic Italy, where 98 per cent of the people are adherents of Catholicism. They named the budding institution "L'Araldo della Verita," (The Herald of Truth).

The General Conference quickly approved the plan and assigned the Big Week offering in 1925 to the project. The city chosen for the location of the publishing house was Florence. Situated in the center of the Italian Peninsula, Florence is the capital of Tuscany, ancient land of the Etruscans (e-trus-kans). The beginnings of this Roman city date back to several centuries before Christ.

Initial steps were small, well measured to fit the capabilities of a growing church with a large faith. The first presses, received as gifts from sister publishing houses in the United States, were slow, but they served well to train workers, who were chosen from among the Italian Seminary students. Soon other

equipment was added for bookbinding and typesetting. But not until 1970 was the first offset press introduced, and other automatic machinery came even later.

This work, begun in such a humble way, has been successful beyond the fondest dreams of the pioneers. Production has reached a high level of quality and quantity. Through the wide circulation of the literature published here, hundreds have learned God's truth for this day, and new members are being added daily to the remnant church. Literature evangelists have been successful in raising up several new groups.

Today the Italian church numbers 4,500 baptized members, eleven times what it was at the time of the founding of the publishing house. Through the combined efforts of colporteurs, the ministry, and the laity, Seventh-day Adventist literature is being widely distributed among Italy's 55 million inhabitants.

The editorial program of the press is ambitious: three monthly papers and a set of 14 educational books in the fields of religion, health, child care, and youth problems. The health journal, *Vita e Salute*, has reached a monthly circulation of 55,000 copies. During a recent Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking all publicity expense was covered by the sale of the health magazine.

In 1973 the press printed 60,000 anti-smoking posters that became famous throughout Italy. The director of the Roman bureau for Air France requested one for his office

and one for headquarters office in Paris. Recently, in recognition of the outstanding work being accomplished by *Vita e Salute*, the editor, along with three journalists working for large Italian dailies, was invited by the British Government to make a ten-day study tour of Great Britain.

The emphasis of *Segni dei Tempi* ("Signs of the Times") is on presenting a clear interpretation of the Adventist message to those living in the stronghold of the Catholic faith. A late number of the magazine was devoted to the prophecies of Daniel, with a documented explanation of the *little horn*.

Complete liberty of press in Italy today presents unparalleled opportunities for proclaiming God's final message for the world today; however, the Italian church knows that this privilege may not last. Our leaders feel that there is no time to lose. *The Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy*, and *The Ministry of Healing* are all in different stages of preparation for publication. The book that has enjoyed the widest circulation is the first volume of an Ellen G. White work, *Con Gesù da Betlemme al Calvario* ("With Jesus From Bethlehem to Calvary"), which has sold 250,000 copies to date. This attractive paperback is made up of portions of *The Desire of Ages*.

The building inaugurated in 1926 is still in service, as well as the publishing house offices, the former Italian Mission offices, and several apartments. But still the publishing house is literally bursting at the

seams. There is no more space for badly needed new machinery, nor for paper or stock. In the worship room, the halls, under the stairs, there are high stacks of books. Paper is stored in workers' garages; cars remain on the streets! They have rented a store two miles from the press, and it is full.

New workers, all Adventists, have come to enlarge the family of press workers. Dario Meschini was baptized as the result of a MISSION '73 effort. Formerly a bartender, he has become a bookbinder. Before coming to work as a type composer Antonio Atzeni was a wine maker on the island of Sardinia. One employee, Maria Lipopolis, has literally grown up with the press. She has been working here since 1929.

We wish that we could introduce all of the 25 employees to you, one by one. They are a wonderful group. All realize that they are daily working a miracle by finding solutions to almost unsolvable problems caused by the lack of space. This is why a new publishing house is indispensable.

In 1976 the Italian Publishing House will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. It was by an act of faith that a modest publishing house was inaugurated in 1926. Today, also by faith, we are preparing to open wide the doors of a modern publishing house, organized for efficient production of truth-filled literature, books and papers, which everyone—colporteurs, laity, and ministers—can distribute like “leaves of autumn” from the Alps to Sicily and to Italian-speaking

peoples everywhere. The common message of our publications will be an announcement of the coming of our Lord and Saviour, and an invitation to “Come out of her, my people.” We in Italy, living in the very shadow of the “Eternal City,” must preach this warning.

APPEAL Will you not, dear Sabbath School members around the world, work with us to achieve these goals by persevering in prayer and giving generously—even sacrificially—this next thirteenth Sabbath?

Thank You!

SABBATH, JUNE 21

This Happened in Rome

by Edouard Naenny

[Edouard Naenny, born in German Switzerland, received his training for the ministry at the French Adventist Seminary, Collonges-sous-Saleve, France. He entered the work in 1941 as a pastor/evangelist and worked successfully for several years as a church pastor. Then he served as departmental secretary of the French Swiss Conference and the Swiss Union. In 1958 he was called to the Southern European Division (now the Euro-Africa Division) as publishing secretary, which position he still holds.]

Rome—the city that awakens so many memories that its very name makes one tremble and dream at the same time! Every Seventh-day Adventist student of Bible prophecy around the world knows its history. Today, a large city of over two million inhabitants, Rome is a challenge to the preaching of God's last message for sinful man. But our Italian ministers are courageous,

enterprising workers.

In 1964 the fact that there was only one Seventh-day Adventist church in Rome made Pastor Domenico Visigalli decide to undertake something daring for his Lord. He would hold an evangelistic campaign in the shadow of Saint John Lateran (*S. Giovanni in Laterano*), the cathedral church of Rome. He rented a large theater situated a short distance from the celebrated holy staircase (*Scala Sancta*) of the Lateran Palace. (There are those who believe the old tradition that identifies these 28 stone steps as the very ones that Jesus Christ Himself mounted to appear before Pontius Pilate. Angels are *supposed* to have miraculously transported them from Jerusalem to Rome!) Through the centuries, thousands of pilgrims have mounted the *Scala Sancta* on their knees to obtain remission of sins. In the early sixteenth century, Martin Luther was climbing those steps when he heard a voice saying, "And the just shall live by faith." Many state that the Reformation was born in his heart at that moment.

Pastor Visigalli organized his evangelistic team, including six literature evangelists—his shock troops! Before beginning his public meetings, scheduled for ten o'clock every Sunday morning, the colporteurs prepared the way by visiting every home in the area. A month before the opening they started going from door to door, presenting our publications to the people, talking to them about world events and Bible truths, and distributing 40,000 invitations to the meetings. A

person might think that they would encounter strong opposition to Protestant meetings in Catholic circles. Not in Rome. The biggest difficulty lay in the apathy and indifference of the people toward anything religious.

Just before the opening the workers wondered if there would be enough audience to make a showing in the large theater. What joy was theirs when the people started arriving—long before the hour cited! Finally the theater was filled to capacity with more than 500 hearers.

The campaign was a success. Ministers and hearers experienced a wonderful outpouring of God's blessings. Before they left the area the workers were able to organize a new Seventh-day Adventist church in the very shadow of the "Eternal City."

Pastor Visigalli attributed 80 per cent of the beginning success of that effort to the work of the literature evangelists and our literature. Since that time colporteurs have cooperated with the ministers in the work of evangelism in Italy. In other large cities—Pisa, Florence, Palermo, Torre Pellice in the Vaudois valleys, and finally in Turin, in the large auditorium, which seats 1,000 people—these shock troops prepared the way.

But today the literature work faces a serious problem in Italy. In noting the growing number of colporteurs and their success in selling our literature, Ismaele Rimoldi, editor and manager of the Italian Publishing House, is deeply concerned. "This has to be the result of God's working," he admits. "In no

other way could orders increase 65 per cent in one month, but how can we continue to fill them?" he asks.

Already too small to meet actual needs, there is no way for the press to expand in its present location. Built as a home, not as a publishing plant, the building is not conducive to efficient operation. Materials and machinery are crowded together, making it impossible for employees to work well. In the bindery area, for example, certain machinery has had to be mounted on wheels so that it can be moved to make room for other procedures. A new, more functional building is requisite to producing the literature needed by colporteurs and church members in Italy and parts of Switzerland.

APPEAL On thirteenth Sabbath, one fourth of all the Sabbath School offering given around the world is designated the "overflow." This quarter, the overflow is to be used to build a new publishing house in Italy and a new secondary school—a place of training for workers in Mozambique. These are among the most needy projects to be found anywhere in the Euro-Africa Division.

SABBATH, JUNE 28

Examples of Christian Courage

by Alberto Nunes

[A Portuguese by birth, Alberto Nunes studied for the ministry at the French Adventist

Seminary, Collonges-sous-Saleve, France. He has served in Mozambique Mission.]

Daina's perseverance and loyalty make her experience one of the most notable examples of African courage and faith of our day. Her steadfastness is a promise of the African potential in Mozambique, and her faithfulness in the face of difficulties reflects the validity of the Christian life.

Converted in 1959, Daina belonged to a small group of 40 Adventists in Manga, some 10 miles from Beira (bā'e-ra), the second city of the country of Mozambique. At that time Catholicism was strong. Intolerant and oppressive, the popular church did not look kindly upon our believers, who were severely persecuted. Some of the members fled to less troubled areas; others were imprisoned and maltreated. Some apostatized. As a result of persecution, the church was dissolved.

In 1965 a missionary went to Beira to revive the work in the area. Whenever he asked about the nearby group in Manga, the answer was always that there was no longer any work there, that the group no longer existed. However, although there were no more Seventh-day Adventists in Manga, the property still belonged to the church.

One Sabbath afternoon the missionary decided to visit the former church. As he arrived, he observed that there were signs that the little church was being used. The property was clean. He noticed the half-open door to the hut that served as the church after the church itself

was destroyed. Moved by curiosity, the minister looked inside to see what was taking place. There he saw a woman kneeling in worship. Then through a translator, the visitor learned that every Friday during the years since the group had dispersed she had come to sweep and clean the mud chapel, and on Sabbath, usually alone, she came to worship. Never did she forsake that sacred place.

The missionary was greatly moved. Silently he thanked God for the faithfulness of this child of His. Then he told her who he was. Daina could hardly believe it. Here was a missionary after all those years! With African exclamations of joy and eyes betraying her happiness, Daina warmly welcomed him in her native Shindaua language.

Today there are again 40 baptized members in the Manga church, along with 150 Sabbath School members. Daina is one of the deaconesses, a strong pillar in her church.

But interest is focused on Manga for another reason. This is the very place that the new Seventh-day Adventist Center of Education is to be constructed. Today, we live in a different era, and there has been complete cooperation with every plan we have presented. Beira is giving the Seventh-day Adventist Church a friendly welcome to its area. All plans center on the preparing of young Seventh-day Adventists, East Portuguese men and women—Africans, Europeans, mestizos, and Indians—to take the message of salvation to the people of their country.

Already, although under difficult circumstances, these youth are working hard in the construction of a dispensary with classrooms for the teaching of health, child care, alcoholic rehabilitation classes. In this institution are concentrated the dearest hopes of the church in Mozambique.

Faced with the challenge offered by the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow, the workers in Mozambique are filled with strong emotions. There is the sincere gratitude that all feel to those who designated this field as one of the recipients of this offering. Then there is appreciation to the leaders who are courageously planning big for the progress of God's church in Mozambique. And finally there is profound thankfulness for the generosity and willingness to sacrifice, which characterizes our church members around the world. Faithful Seventh-day Adventists are veritable examples of the practical kindness that is essential to the survival of God's work.

APPEAL Mozambique's needs are many, but the greatest is the need for workers. Who will go? Many youth are eager to answer the call to service. But how can they go unless they are sent? Will you not help to send these youth into God's vineyard by making it possible for them to receive an adequate preparation?

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