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The General Conference Autumn Council

by

A. V. Olson

THE Autumn Council of the General Conference Committee for the present year was held November 6 to 14 in Battle Creek, Michigan, the place where the General Conference had its headquarters from the time it was first organized in 1863 until it was moved to Washington, D. C. about thirty years ago. Most of the delegates were lodged in the Battle Creek Sanitarium, where the management furnished us rooms and meals at very moderate rates, and the meetings of the Council were held in our own commodious church building. As this was a biennial Council, all the Division Conferences except the Russian were represented.

This Council was one of the most spiritual ones that it has been my privilege to attend. From the first day, the early morning devotional hour was about the best attended service of the day. All seemed to sense as never before our great need of God. Many of the delegates met in little groups for prayer in the morning before coming to the church. Throughout the entire session, we were conscious of the sweet presence of God. Showers of blessing descended upon us, filling our hearts with joy and gladness. A spirit of brotherly love and unity reigned from the beginning to the end, making the work harmonious and pleasant. The Council was also characterized by a spirit of hope, confidence and faith.

The reports that were rendered at this Council brought cheer and courage to all in attendance. Our hearts thrilled again and again as we listened to the reports from the different parts of the world field. Notwithstanding the financial crisis that has rested so heavily upon the whole world for a

number of years, and which has compelled many mission boards to abandon important fields, our work has been kept intact all around the world. Not one single field has been abandoned. On the contrary, new fields have been entered in places where God has miraculously opened the way. Never before in the history of our work has there been such a large ingathering of souls in the same length of time as during these years of financial depression. The hardships and difficulties that God has permitted to come upon the world have caused many to turn to God for help and for salvation. In some mission fields the people are coming to us by the hundreds, and even by the thousands. They are coming in such large numbers that our few workers are at their wits' ends to know how to care for the new converts. It is evident that the spirit of God is working upon human hearts with mighty power.

From fields both near and far came urgent, touching appeals for more funds with which to employ new workers to answer some of the most pressing calls.

In his opening address to the Council, Brother Watson, the president of the General Conference, stated frankly and emphatically that he believed that in an hour such as this God expected us, in spite of hard times, to lay definite plans to enlarge our working forces; and, on the Sabbath morning, before an audience of nearly three thousand, the keynote of his stirring sermon was: "Advance." As the days passed, the conviction settled down upon the Council that we must without delay heed

the divine orders: "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes." In harmony with this profound conviction, the Council voted to ask every field, both at the home base and out in the mission lands, to make a united and determined effort to spring the mission offerings during the year 1935 from fifteen to twenty-five per cent above what they amounted to for the year 1933. It is hoped that this action will meet with a favorable response in all parts of the world field and that thus it will become possible to answer at least some of the most urgent calls for new workers. By faith in God, and confidence in our loyal and self-sacrificing people throughout the world, the Council voted a budget for 1935 calling for an expenditure of half a million dollars over and above the receipts of the General Conference for the year 1933.

The plans laid do not only call for increased funds and enlarged working forces, but also for a rededication on the part of all our workers and members everywhere to God for a larger and more intensive soul winning work. The seriousness of the times and the appalling needs of a sinsick, perishing world constitute a mighty appeal to us to press forward and to undertake greater things for God.

Before the Council closed, quite a large number of workers with their families were placed under appointment for different mission fields. This brought great joy and courage to all present. We are sure that our dear people around the world will rejoice when they learn of these plans for a forward movement all along the line.

The 1934 Autumn Council will long be remembered for its deep spiritual tone, for its spirit of unity, and for its clarion call to *Advance*.

Retreat or Advance—Which?

Message from General Conference Autumn Council

THE last days — these very days — are a time of trouble. So the prophets foretold — and so we see, upon whom "the ends of the world are come". In vision the prophet Daniel saw the time "of the end", and he thus described earth's closing events:

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Dan. 12: 1—3.

During the time of the end the messages of Rev. 14: 6—12, which constitute the finishing of God's work in the earth, and which are to go to "every nation, kindred, tongue, and people," are to be proclaimed. While angels are said to proclaim these messages, they represent the people of God, or the church. God has always used men to do His work. Or if an angel is commissioned to do a work, he becomes the invisible power, generally manifested through men who are the visible agents, to accomplish God's will.

Whatever God desires to have done, He puts it into the hearts of His chosen agents to do at the proper time. Nor is man left to work unaided and alone. Through the Holy Spirit, God guides and inspires men to do His work in His own way

and at His own time. The Macedonian cry is a compelling call that must find a response in the hearts of God's chosen people. His Holy Spirit opens doors, and the same Spirit prompts His people to enter these opened doors. The call and the answer are under the control of the same Spirit. When Cornelius was moved by the Holy Spirit to seek the Lord, he was commanded to send men to Joppa to inquire for Simon Peter. And the Holy Spirit that spoke to Cornelius in Caesarea also prepared Simon Peter in Joppa to receive the messengers of Cornelius and to return with them to preach the gospel to the centurion and his household.

In these days when the third angel's message is due the world, the Holy Spirit has gone before the messengers, opened the doors of nations, and made all things possible for the preaching of the message. In many lands the people, long in ignorance and sin, are calling: "Come over, . . . and help us." In such hitherto inaccessible lands as Thibet and the western border lands of China, the cry is, "Send us workers." From Indo-China and the native peoples of Borneo, and from the beautiful East Indian islands, and the isles of the Caribbean, the people are uttering the Macedonian cry, "Come over, . . . and help us." From the Inca Indians in the wilds of the Andes in South America, from the vast plains of Brazil and the fever-smitten regions of the Amazon, the call is heard: "Send us help." From the mountain peaks of Colombia and Venezuela, from the hills and valleys of Central America and Mexico, the same call comes. From Nigeria to Madagascar, from the Congo, from Angola and Tanganyika in distant Africa, the cry is repeated, "Come over, . . . and help us."

Statistical Report of the Southern Europ. Div. of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending Sept. 30, 1934

Name of Conference or Mission	Number of Churches	Previous Membership	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total Gains	Apostasy	Death	Letter	Total Losses	Net Gain	Present Membership	Ord. Ministers	Lic. Ministers	Miss. Licentiates	Other Workers	Canvassers	Total Workers	Number of Sab. Schools	Sab. School Members	Average Attendance													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22													
1. SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION													6	5	8	—	—	19																
2. FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.																																		
3. Belgian Conference	11	520	13	—	2	15	2	—	1	3	12	532	3	1	2	1	—	7	19	34	18	594	486											
4. East France	16	416	9	—	6	15	3	1	4	8	7	423	5	3	4	1	11	24	17	430	347													
5. North	13	513	23	3	5	31	8	3	—	11	20	533	3	4	9	—	19	35	15	478	350													
6. South	24	546	5	—	6	11	—	1	8	9	2	548	6	3	3	—	18	30	30	420	352													
	64	1995	50	3	19	72	13	5	13	31	41	2036	22	14	22	5	67	130	80	1922	1535													
7. JUGOSLAVIAN UNION CONF.																																		
8. Danube Conference	56	1299	42	1	21	64	7	3	2	12	52	1351	4	1	3	1	—	9	27	56	1677	1289												
9. Sava	20	552	28	—	2	30	7	1	20	28	2	554	3	1	—	—	11	15	29	698	515													
10. Morava	21	618	12	—	—	12	4	2	3	9	3	621	3	1	1	—	22	27	24	712	568													
	106	2469	82	1	23	106	18	6	25	49	57	2526	15	5	4	1	53	78	109	3087	2372													
11. RUMANIAN UNION CONFERENCE																																		
12. West Muntenian Conference	112	4109	142	3	28	173	31	2	32	65	108	4217	3	3	1	2	—	9	42	111	7047	2493												
13. East	68	2095	74	8	64	146	16	5	56	77	69	2164	10	2	2	1	11	26	72	2663	1564													
14. North Moldavian	66	2121	191	9	20	220	14	3	19	36	184	2305	6	2	3	1	14	26	70	3527	2228													
15. South	49	1523	75	7	6	88	23	6	10	39	49	1572	8	3	1	1	11	24	55	2452	1157													
16. Transylvanian	118	2943	98	7	22	127	23	3	18	44	83	3026	8	—	3	5	10	26	137	4222	2650													
17. Banat	58	1502	80	9	16	105	9	5	13	27	78	1580	7	2	1	3	10	23	62	2343	1441													
	471	14293	660	43	156	859	116	24	148	288	571	14864	53	15	16	14	78	176	507	22254	11533													
18. SWISS UNION CONFERENCE																																		
19. German Swiss Conference	34	1433	10	1	6	17	34	5	5	44	-27	1406	9	1	8	5	26	49	34	1332	906													
20. Leman	20	978	9	1	2	12	1	1	5	7	5	983	5	3	1	7	16	32	24	685	614													
	54	2411	19	2	8	29	35	6	10	51	-22	2389	14	4	9	12	42	81	58	2017	1520													
21. IBERIAN UNION MISSION																																		
22. Spanish Mission	10	340	26	—	5	31	8	—	5	13	18	358	3	6	5	—	21	35	19	438	418													
23. Portuguese	6	277	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	277	2	3	2	1	13	21	5	197	226													
24. Madeira	1	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	1	1	1	—	2	5	1	65	64													
	17	657	26	—	5	31	8	—	5	13	18	675	9	11	10	1	36	67	25	700	708													
25. ITALIAN UNION MISSION																																		
26. North Italian Mission	15	364	6	—	27	33	8	2	26	36	-3	361	4	4	2	—	21	31	17	394	385													
27. South	12	284	2	—	26	28	1	1	26	28	—	284	3	3	3	2	11	22	17	289	281													
	27	648	8	—	53	61	9	3	52	64	-3	645	9	8	8	2	32	59	34	683	666													
28. NORTH AFRICAN UNION MISS.																																		
29. Algerian Mission	8	208	13	—	9	22	7	2	4	13	9	217	1	4	2	—	6	14	8	127	111													
30. Moroccan	2	56	3	—	—	3	—	—	6	6	-3	53	1	1	1	—	1	4	4	74	40													
	10	264	16	—	9	25	7	2	10	19	6	270	4	5	5	—	7	21	12	201	151													
31. FRENCH EQUAT. AFRIC. MISS. *)																																		
	2	93	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	93	1	2	2	—	—	5	27	2342	2065													
32. MADAGASCAR MISSION *)																																		
	7	249	58	8	4	70	—	4	4	8	62	311	3	1	10	2	7	23	17	677	562													
33. MAURITIUS MISSION *)																																		
	9	486	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	-2	484	2	—	12	—	1	15	33	883	599													

RECAPITULATION

1. Southern European Division	64	1995	50	3	19	72	13	5	13	31	41	2036	6	5	8	—	—	19	80	1922	1535	
2. Franco-Belgian Union Conference	106	2469	82	1	23	106	18	6	25	49	57	2526	22	14	22	5	67	130	80	1922	1535	
3. Jugoslavian	106	2469	82	1	23	106	18	6	25	49	57	2526	15	5	4	1	53	78	109	3087	2372	
4. Rumanian	471	14293	660	43	156	859	116	24	148	288	571	14864	53	15	16	14	78	176	507	22254	11533	
5. Swiss	54	2411	19	2	8	29	35	6	10	51	-22	2389	14	4	9	12	42	81	58	2017	1520	
6. Iberian Union Mission	17	657	26	—	5	31	8	—	5	13	18	675	9	11	10	1	36	67	25	700	708	
7. Italian	27	648	8	—	53	61	9	3	52	64	-3	645	9	8	8	2	32	59	34	683	666	
8. North African Union Mission	10	264	16	—	9	25	7	2	10	19	6	270	4	5	5	—	7	21	12	201	151	
9. French Equat. African *)	2	93	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	93	1	2	2	—	—	5	27	2342	2065	
10. Madagascar *)	7	249	58	8	4	70	—	4	4	8	62	311	3	1	10	2	7	23	17	677	562	
11. Mauritius *)	9	486	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	-2	484	2	—	12	—	1	15	33	883	599	
Totals 3rd quarter 1934	767	23565	919	57	277	1253	206	52	267	525	728	24293	138	70	106	37	323	674	602	34766	21711	
3rd 1933	750	22274	950	63	242	1255	188	56	280	524	731	23005	133	63	110	45	331	682	877	32405	23300	

*) Report for the second quarter 1934.

Financial Report of the Southern Europ. Division of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending Sept. 30, 1934

Name of Conference or Mission:		Total Tithe	Total Offerings (Incl. Special)	Contributions for Home Miss. Work	Contributions for Local Church Work	Colporteur Book Sales
I		2	3	4	5	6
1. SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION						
2. FRANCO-BELGIAN UNION CONF.						
3. Belgian Conference	F. Fr.	67,646.50	55,107.85	—.—	—.—	67,157.95
4. East France Conference	Fr.	48,498.50	63,396.40	53.75	1,024.—	49,099.35
5. North " "	Fr.	62,061.—	115,996.35	3,932.35	1,560.—	89,860.50
6. South " "	Fr.	32,646.—	92,455.45	4,008.45	34.50	83,986.75
	F. Fr.	210,852.—	326,956.05	7,994.55	2,618.50	290,104.55
	\$	8,328.70	12,914.78	315.78	103.43	11,459.14
7. JUGOSLAVIAN UNION CONF.						
8. Danube Conference	Dinar	69,244.20	30,897.75	—.—	—.—	37,129.—
9. Sava " "	"	45,054.20	14,675.—	—.—	—.—	24,250.—
10. Morava " "	"	40,516.20	17,460.26	—.—	—.—	49,409.—
	Dinar	154,814.60	63,033.01	—.—	—.—	110,788.—
	\$	2,740.20	1,115.66	—.—	—.—	1,960.92
11. RUMANIAN UNION CONFERENCE						
12. West Muntenian Conference	Lei	810,993.50	242,275.50	—.—	—.—	217,592.—
13. East " "	"	266,690.—	96,112.—	—.—	—.—	127,144.—
14. North Moldavian " "	"	207,064.70	69,349.50	—.—	—.—	121,656.—
15. South " "	"	178,532.—	60,817.50	—.—	—.—	101,346.—
16. Transylvanian " "	"	310,711.60	90,775.—	—.—	—.—	88,497.—
17. Banat " "	"	160,961.—	47,475.25	—.—	—.—	86,408.—
	Lei	1,934,952.80	606,804.75	—.—	—.—	742,643.—
	\$	11,609.70	3,640.84	—.—	—.—	4,455.86
18. SWISS UNION CONFERENCE						
19. German Swiss Conference	Sw. Fr.	41,632.—	21,764.50	2,117.—	4,863.—	36,021.—
20. Leman Conference	"	22,936.80	15,298.22	1,038.86	2,397.24	24,992.35
	Sw. Fr.	64,568.80	37,062.72	3,155.86	7,260.24	61,013.35
	\$	12,526.30	7,190.18	612.23	1,408.48	11,836.57
21. IBERIAN UNION MISSION						
22. Spanish Mission	Pesetas	10,529.60	12,885.85	—.—	—.—	39,739.50
23. Portuguese Mission	"	4,442.20	6,776.08	—.—	—.—	12,124.90
24. Madeira Mission	"	880.50	612.10	—.—	—.—	1,879.25
	Pesetas	15,852.30	20,274.03	—.—	—.—	53,743.65
	\$	2,060.80	2,635.63	—.—	—.—	6,986.66
25. ITALIAN UNION MISSION						
26. North " "	Lire	18,718.—	18,435.10	—.—	—.—	37,249.60
27. South " "	"	6,871.40	7,526.85	56.70	—.—	11,457.75
	Lire	25,589.40	25,961.95	56.70	—.—	48,707.35
	\$	1,328.10	1,347.42	2.94	—.—	2,527.91
28. NORTH AFRICAN UNION MISSION						
29. Algerian Mission	F. Fr.	30,687.—	18,555.—	—.—	669.—	14,413.50
30. Moroccan " "	"	4,110.—	836.40	—.—	—.—	9,437.50
	F. Fr.	34,797.—	19,391.40	—.—	669.—	23,851.—
	\$	1,374.—	765.95	—.—	26.42	942.12
31. FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICAN MISSION *)						
	F. Fr.	3,552.80	2,789.45	—.—	—.—	—.—
	\$	140.30	110.18	—.—	—.—	—.—
32. MADAGASCAR MISSION *)						
	F. Fr.	9,458.50	14,496.85	—.—	—.—	9,162.40
	\$	373.60	572.63	—.—	—.—	361.90
33. MAURITIUS MISSION *)						
	Rs.	3,760.10	1,286.97	5.70	142.11	189.44
	\$	1,367.20	467.95	2.07	51.67	68.88

RECAPITULATION

1. Southern European Division						
2. Franco-Belgian Union Conference	\$	8,328.70	12,914.78	315.78	103.43	11,459.14
3. Jugoslavian " "	\$\$\$	2,740.20	1,115.66	—.—	—.—	1,960.92
4. Rumanian " "	\$\$\$	11,609.70	3,640.84	—.—	—.—	4,455.86
5. Swiss " "	\$\$\$	12,526.30	7,190.18	612.23	1,408.48	11,836.57
6. Iberian " Mission	\$\$\$	2,060.80	2,635.63	—.—	—.—	6,986.66
7. Italian " "	\$\$\$	1,328.10	1,347.42	2.94	—.—	2,527.91
8. North African " "	\$\$\$	1,374.—	765.95	—.—	26.42	942.12
9. Fr. Equator. African Mission *)	\$\$\$	140.30	110.18	—.—	—.—	—.—
10. Madagascar " *)	\$\$\$	373.60	572.63	—.—	—.—	361.90
11. Mauritius " *)	\$\$\$	1,367.20	467.95	2.07	51.67	68.88
TOTALS 3rd quarter 1934	\$	41,848.90	30,761.22	933.02	1,590.—	40,599.96
" " 3rd " 1933	\$	39,352.40	28,724.79	608.47	1,431.06	39,059.04

*) Report for the second quarter 1934.

Specification of Mission Offerings (Column No. 3)

	Sabbath School Offerings (exc. 13th Sabbath)	13th Sabbath Offering	Harvest Ingathering	Annual Offerings	Miscellaneous Offerings	Self Denial	Special Offer.		
							Big Week	Young People's Collection	Weekly Offerings (Relief Fund)
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.									
2.									
3.	9,122.65	2,512.55	40,912.40	70.40	—	1,027.70	105.60	1,324.60	31.95
4.	6,302.30	2,777.15	54,023.65	—	—	186.30	47.50	—	59.50
5.	6,842.15	2,306.50	106,115.—	—	—	300.—	170.—	262.70	—
6.	4,668.60	1,932.65	83,713.90	—	—	1,525.30	595.—	20.—	—
	26,935.70	9,528.85	284,764.95	70.40	—	3,039.30	918.10	1,607.30	91.45
	1,063.97	376.39	11,248.22	2.78	—	120.05	36.26	63.49	3.62
7.									
8.	11,190.25	1,985.25	14,320.25	—	—	1,671.—	424.25	854.—	452.75
9.	5,841.25	1,273.50	4,857.50	—	—	1,957.50	262.75	274.75	207.75
10.	5,284.50	1,144.25	9,822.75	—	—	385.—	213.—	298.25	312.51
	22,316.—	4,403.—	29,000.50	—	—	4,013.50	900.—	1,427.—	973.01
	394.99	77.93	513.31	—	—	71.03	15.93	25.25	17.22
11.									
12.	110,195.—	22,484.25	79,065.50	4,141.—	—	7,010.—	8,972.50	2,365.25	8,042.—
13.	57,398.—	10,856.—	17,971.—	—	—	3,607.—	2,752.—	568.—	2,960.—
14.	42,474.25	7,686.25	15,123.—	65.50	—	750.—	1,592.—	113.—	1,545.50
15.	30,048.—	6,774.—	17,975.—	—	—	3,629.—	—	591.—	1,800.50
16.	46,305.—	9,492.75	25,892.50	—	—	5,186.—	2,299.—	111.—	1,488.75
17.	22,046.50	6,490.—	16,955.—	—	—	—	592.—	280.—	1,111.75
	308,466.75	63,783.25	172,982.—	4,206.50	—	20,182.—	16,207.50	4,028.25	16,948.50
	1,850.80	382.70	1,037.89	25.24	—	121.09	97.25	24.17	101.70
18.									
19.	5,545.—	1,097.—	14,561.—	—	114.—	60.—	—	231.—	156.50
20.	5,195.37	1,348.70	7,945.—	—	259.70	20.—	167.60	348.85	13.—
	10,740.37	2,445.70	22,506.—	—	373.70	80.—	167.60	579.85	169.50
	2,083.64	474.47	4,366.17	—	72.50	15.52	32.51	112.49	32.88
21.									
22.	2,758.15	723.15	7,492.15	—	14.50	1,521.—	330.50	46.40	—
23.	713.—	169.81	4,786.07	—	—	1,107.20	—	—	—
24.	165.30	39.30	—	—	—	253.55	153.95	—	—
	3,636.45	932.26	12,278.22	—	14.50	2,881.75	484.45	46.40	—
	472.74	121.19	1,596.17	—	1.88	374.63	62.98	6.04	—
25.									
26.	3,113.—	888.40	13,274.35	—	—	1,059.15	—	—	100.20
27.	1,596.55	440.70	4,821.25	—	—	435.—	200.—	33.35	—
	4,709.55	1,329.10	18,095.60	—	—	1,494.15	200.—	33.35	100.20
	244.43	68.98	939.16	—	—	77.55	10.38	1.73	5.19
28.									
29.	2,739.60	555.35	14,959.80	—	—	—	300.25	—	—
30.	504.65	331.75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,244.25	887.10	14,959.80	—	—	—	300.25	—	—
	128.14	35.04	590.91	—	—	—	11.86	—	—
31.									
	522.55	—	1,710.—	—	116.30	—	440.60	—	—
	20.64	—	67.55	—	4.59	—	17.40	—	—
32.									
	1,892.90	565.50	12,038.45	—	—	—	—	—	—
	74.77	22.34	475.52	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.									
	314.30	246.66	—	—	—	563.69	162.32	—	—
	114.28	89.69	—	—	—	204.96	59.02	—	—

RECAPITULATION

1.									
2.	1,063.97	376.39	11,248.22	2.78	—	120.05	36.26	63.49	3.62
3.	394.99	77.93	513.31	—	—	71.03	15.93	25.25	17.22
4.	1,850.80	382.70	1,037.89	25.24	—	121.09	97.25	24.17	101.70
5.	2,083.64	474.47	4,366.17	—	72.50	15.52	32.51	112.49	32.88
6.	472.74	121.19	1,596.17	—	1.88	374.63	62.98	6.04	—
7.	244.43	68.98	939.16	—	—	77.55	10.38	1.73	5.19
8.	128.14	35.04	590.91	—	—	—	11.86	—	—
9.	20.64	—	67.55	—	4.59	—	17.40	—	—
10.	74.77	22.34	475.52	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	114.28	89.69	—	—	—	204.96	59.02	—	—
	6,448.40	1,648.73	20,834.90	28.02	78.97	984.83	343.59	233.17	160.61
	6,785.81	1,623.67	18,855.71	26.20	81.19	651.11	280.25	242.48	178.37

How strange that all these calls for help should come from the four quarters of the earth at this very time — the time when the judgment-hour message is due the world! — unless the Holy Spirit is controlling in this work. It would be impossible to explain how our people, without previous mission experience, and poor as we are, could have occupied such strategic centers as we now occupy, with well-trained, consecrated workers numbered by the thousands; how we could have opened more than 2,000 schools and made provision for the education and training of more than 95,000 students; how our printing houses could be printing literature on this message in 161 languages; how our working force numbering more than 22,000 could be supported by this denomination; how we could provide and operate sixty-six sanitariums and fifty seven treatment rooms and dispensaries; — how can all this be explained — these agencies and facilities for spreading the truth at the very time when the doors of all the world are swinging wide open inviting us to enter — if God has not prepared the world for the message and also at the same time inspired His people to prepare to finish His work.

Why should our sons and daughters, educated and trained in our own schools, wait year after year for an opportunity to enter the hardest fields of the world to preach the gospel, when they are willing and anxious to go? They are not afraid of arduous work. New languages to be mastered, unfavorable climatic conditions to be met, dangers and hardship, do not turn them from their desire to answer these calls. There is but one deterrent for failing to fill these providential openings — the lack of funds.

Never have there been such rapid gains in membership as during the last four years. During this time our membership has increased 84,596. This means that during the past four years we have increased our church membership by as many members as we had in all the world up to the year 1908.

What does this mean? Shall the call for help go unanswered when the Holy Spirit is so manifestly at work? "Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power" (Ps. 110:3) is the promise, — a promise that has again and again been verified. The Exodus, the return from Captivity, and the conversions on the day of Pentecost — all demonstrate that God directs and controls His work in the earth.

Shall We Advance?

Shall we advance? Ten thousands of voices answer, "Yes!" Our watchword must ever be, "No retreat!" On one of earth's great battlefields, it is said, the men of a great general were falling back; the enemy appeared to have gained the victory. The army leader raised his field glasses, and saw the disaster. He called a young bugler,

and commanded him, "Play the retreat". The young man began playing an "Advance", and in answer to that music the retreating forces halted. The general rebuked the young man, saying, "I commanded you to play a retreat, and you are playing an advance." The youth replied, "General, my commander never taught me how to play a retreat, but I can blow an advance till every soldier will rally, and we will defeat the enemy." And in response to his bugle call, the retreating forces turned on the enemy and gained a great victory.

So far, in the eighty-nine years of our work, Seventh-day Adventists have not learned to retreat. They do not engage in that kind of warfare — they know only to advance. With cut appropriations during 1933, we opened work in twenty countries and islands, and in nineteen new languages. The truth is taking possession of men's minds and hearts for their salvation. It is for our conquering King we labor and sacrifice. He died for us. Our meager service of sacrifice and faith, weak as they may be, are His greatest joy. And the angelic hosts rejoice over each sinner who is brought to repentance.

Our great Commander said, "Go, . . . make Christians of all nations." This we are to do, at every cost and sacrifice; this is our duty and assigned task — to finish God's work. He has said that He will finish His work, and we know that He will finish it with the aid of His loyal servants. God will see completed what He has purposed. He never forgets. He may be delayed or hindered by His people, but all His promises will be fulfilled.

Our own eternal reward is dependent on what we do personally. The winning of souls, the witnessing for Christ in helping to lead men to faith, is our highest privilege, and will bring to us our supreme reward. "They that be wise shall shine as the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Dan. 12:4.

The Work Advancing

THE General Conference statistical report for the year ending December 31, 1933, has just been compiled. Its figures tell a very vivid and cheerful story about the continued advancement of God's work in all parts of the great harvest field. In fact the entire report with its many and carefully worked out tables and figures — when considered in actual, living accomplishment — sounds like most beautiful music, reverberating upon thousands of instruments around the world. We can but call attention to a few of the most outstanding and hope-inspiring facts revealed by this report:

The membership of the 7,640 churches of the denomination throughout the world, December 31, 1933, was 384,151. This is a gain of 269,594 during the past twenty years, or 162,277 during the past

ten years, or 98,858 during the past five years. This makes a net gain during the past five years of 19,771 annually. The net gain during the past year was 22,050. The number added during 1933 by baptism was 37,824, and on profession of faith, 3,128, a total of new members received during the year of 40,952.

Our work is now conducted in 295 countries and islands, by 22,254 evangelistic and institutional laborers (an increase of 1,539 during 1933), who are using in their work 504 languages and dialects. The increase in languages during the last seven years is 248, or one new language added on an average of every ten days. This is an increase of 20 countries and islands in which we began work during 1933, and of 19 new languages in which laborers are conducting work.

Denominational literature is now produced in 161 languages, in the form of 6,902 books, periodicals, pamphlets, and tracts, containing 510,952 pages, one copy of each costing \$ 2,004.87. The number of persons employed by the 69 publishing houses producing this literature is 1,060; and the number of persons employed in its circulation is 3,107. The value of denominational literature sold in 1933 was \$ 3,387,682.66; since 1863, \$ 99,362,717.42.

The number of primary schools is now 2,064, with 2,807 teachers, and an enrolment of 71,579. There are 207 advanced schools, employing 2,325 teachers, with an enrolment of 23,481; or a total of 2,271 schools, with 5,132 teachers, having an enrolment in all the schools conducted by the denomination throughout the world of 95,060. In other words, the total enrolment is equivalent to one fourth of the total membership of churches.

There are 66 sanitariums, 57 treatment rooms and dispensaries, a total of 123 institutions where the sick are cared for, employing a total of 4,466 physicians and nurses, treating during the year 423,576 persons, and giving charity to the extent of \$ 440,967.10.

Our work is conducted through 12 world divisions. At the end of December 1933 their membership and new members added for the year were as follows:

Division	Membership	New Members added 1933
Australasian	15,186	1,439
Central European	49,709	4,065
China	13,381	2,037
Far Eastern	21,425	2,483
Inter-American	23,667	3,895
North American	143,777	14,480
Northern European	29,986	3,292
South American	24,842	2,793
Southern African	21,140	3,210
Southern Asia	4,157	535
Southern European	23,172	2,723
U. S. S. R.	13,709
	<u>384,151</u>	<u>40,952</u>

In addition to the above church membership of 384,151 there are tens of thousands of people enrolled in baptismal classes and in our Sabbath schools not counted here. The Sabbath school membership in 11,466 schools totals 465,755. The number of our Missionary Volunteer societies has increased to 4,730 with a membership of 107,861. For the growth, development and progress we render grateful praise to the Author and the Finisher of the work. S. R.

Pioneering Adventure

AT the time of the recent General Conference Autumn Council held in Battle Creek during the month of November, Elder C. H. Watson made brief reference to a most interesting report which had recently come to hand from the Australasian Division, telling of the establishment of the work among a people and tribe hitherto unknown and living in the interior of the great island of New Guinea.

It seems as though the people living in that remote region have hitherto succeeded in keeping themselves entirely separated from contact with the white race and modern civilization; this being due to the fact that no roads lead through the great forests and wilderness entirely surrounding the territory in which they are located.

Having heard, however, of the existence of such a primitive people on a plateau in the interior of New Guinea, one of our workers, Brother G. McLaren, recently decided to pay a visit to this tribe. A government aeroplane was placed at his disposal. Describing their venture, McLaren writes:

"We came in by 'plane last week. Since then we have had a good look around. The place exceeds all expectations. The natives are very primitive and wild, but we have made successful contact. There are hundreds of them everywhere.

"Yesterday I marked out a proposed mission site quite close to the aerodrome. The boys have already erected a small house, and are now working on a larger house for the white worker." S. R.

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STEEN RASMUSSEN Editor

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NEWS NOTES

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We are very happy to announce that it has been arranged for Elder W. A. Spicer, general Field Secretary of the General Conference, to attend our Division Winter Council to be held at Gland, December 13—20. It was our privilege also to have Elder Spicer with us during our council a year ago, and his inspiring, helpful studies and messages as well as his counsel generally were greatly appreciated. We know that his ministry in connection with our meeting this year will be as helpful and appreciated as ever.

At the time of the General Conference Autumn Council in Battle Creek, a number of important additions were made to the General Conference staff. Some changes were also made in two of the Division fields. N. C. Wilson, president of the South African Union Conference, will become president of the Southern Asia Division. J. J. Strahle, who has served for the last few years as Publishing secretary of the Northern Division, was appointed associate secretary of the Publishing department of the General Conference. J. E. Weaver, Educational and Missionary Volunteer secretary of the Southern Union, was appointed associate Educational secretary of the General Conference. W. A. Nelson, president of the New Jersey Conference, was asked to become associate Home Missionary secretary of the General Conference. J. A. P. Green, associate Publishing secretary of the General Conference, was appointed Publishing secretary of the South American Division.

Writing under date of September 17, Brother A. J. Girou, superintendent of the Mauritius Mission, states: "Last Sabbath, September 15, it was my privilege to baptize sixteen souls. The candidates were from Port Louis and Rose Hill. The chapel at Port Louis, where the baptismal service was held, was full to overflowing. We had many visitors present. I expect to have another baptismal class in that city as well as in Rose Hill and hope to have another baptism before the end of the year. The work in Port Louis, the capital, is very promising. Even though we are not spending any money for advertising the meetings, we nevertheless have a splendid attendance. The new church building which we are constructing in a little town between Port Louis and Rose Hill will soon be finished in spite of difficulties that we have experienced of late." The Lord has wonderfully blessed the work in Mauritius and the other islands belonging to that mission during the last few years. The membership, counting those recently baptized, has now reached the 500 mark.

Elders A. V. Olson and Steen Rasmussen returned to Division headquarters November 30 from the United States where they have been attending the Autumn Council of the General Conference held in Battle Creek, Mich., during the latter part of October and the first part of November. The council was attended by representatives from all parts of the world field and proved to be one of great spiritual refreshing and uplift. Elder C. H. Watson and other leaders of the General Conference sounded a strong note of advance in both spiritual experience as well as in extending the work into new and unentered fields. A rallying call was sent forth to workers and lay-members around the world to arise and step into the many providences of God opening on every hand. The response on the part of responsible leaders throughout North America and the world field generally to this program and appeal, and the assurance given for increased support of the work, cause us to believe in greater things to be done during the year before us.

Most interesting and inspiring letters have recently reached our Division office from Brethren M. Raspal and A. Sallée, telling of a recent itinerating trip which they have made into the northern part of Cameroon. In writing us they say: "We are just returning from a trip to Bétaré-Oya, 180 km north from Batouri. It took us seventeen days on foot and by sedan-chair to make the trip back and forth. There is no road constructed as yet, but the government has begun the building of a splendid road from Bertua and north, expecting to have it finished within two or three years. Bétaré promises to become a very important center on account of the gold mines which have just been opened this year. Thousands of native workers are employed in the mines already. We are the first missionaries to visit the villages between Batouri and Bétaré. Wherever we stopped for the night we preached to the people. We had good meetings and many chiefs attended the services. At Bétaré-Oya the people gave us a royal welcome. We had a meeting under a big tree in front of the chief's hut. About 350 people were present. We have chosen a small concession of about 25 hectares on a high plateau 950 meters above sea level and some 10 km from Bétaré, very close to the road running down to Bertua and another road going into Bangui. As far as the climate is concerned the place has a very favorable location. There are not only prospects here of having a splendid

plantation, but we shall also be able to have a herd of cattle and do dairy farming. The concession is outside of the sleeping sickness area. We have left one of our oldest and most experienced catechists at the place, Brother Thomas and his wife." This is indeed another encouraging omen of the leadings of the Spirit of God in extending the work into new and unentered territory. Brother Sallée writes further that the new school year has just opened at Batouri, with 150 children in attendance, among them 25 girls. Concluding his letter he says: "Cameroon is waking up. Strong, consecrated young people are needed to come and join us, to learn the native languages and to devote themselves to strong, aggressive work. Pray for us and for this great country, that the Lord may send out more workers into his harvest field."

It is with sincere and deep sorrow that we announce the sudden death of Elder Guy Dail, who passed away in Berlin, Germany, November 12. Brother Dail was connected with the work in Europe for a long period of time both before and after the World War. For some years he served as secretary of the European Division Conference following its organization in 1913. After the World War he spent some years in North America, teaching Bible in one of our training schools, but again returned to Europe a few years later to head up the Bible department in the Baltic Union school. When the Central European Division was organized in 1928, Brother Dail was elected secretary, in which capacity he served for some years. In recent years he was in charge of the work in Bulgaria, also supervising the work in some of the other Balkan states until he returned to Berlin about a year ago to become office secretary of the Central European Division. Brother Dail was greatly beloved by all who knew him, and his intimate acquaintances with workers and his knowledge of the work throughout Europe made him a very valuable worker and counsellor. He will be greatly missed not only by his dear companion and his children, but by thousands of friends, fellow-workers and believers in many parts of the world, especially in Central Europe where he gave so many years of fruitful, unselfish and faithful service. We express to Sister Dail and her two sons who are both living in America, and to other sorrowing relatives our sincerest and deepest Christian sympathy in this hour of bereavement.