

The Hand to the Plough

The Harvest Ingathering work plays no doubt an important rôle in the development and finishing of God's work on earth. Of this, the history of the campaign gives ample proof. In the years from 1908 to 1940, our faithful members all around the world collected over \$ 23,500,000. These funds have not only enabled the leadership of the denomination to sustain the work begun, but to carry the message into unentered territories. Moreover, the Harvest Ingathering papers distributed in all the world - 3,200,000 in 1940 alone have been the means of bringing the light of truth into the homes, the hearts, and the lives of men. Souls thirsting for deliverance have heard of God's message and accepted it. Numerous reports bear witness to this.

Reports regarding the beginnings of Harvest Ingathering work in the different divisions all reveal the same fact. In almost all countries hesitancy was expressed again and again in such words as these: "Harvest Ingathering is all right for such and such a field (generally a very far-away one), but it will not work here in our land. The people will not understand it aright, and will give no offering. It is simply *impossible* to start this activity here."

But the people of God have specialized themselves in making impossible things become possible. They thus follow in the footsteps of menof God in olden times. Impossible it was for Israel to come out of Egypt; impossible, too, to dare to pass through the Red Sea; impossible, still, to find bread and water for a people of about 3,000,000 in the desert. The history of God's people of all times, even until the present day, tells of moments when it could have been said: It is impossible! One thing stands true, however, and that is: the word "impossible" ever was and still is impossible with God's people. Indeed, is there anything impossible with God?

Conditions are not the most favorable for the coming Harvest Ingathering campaign, and yet this year again God's people will go out to all the world in faith, bearing this thought in mind: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Jesus makes a striking statement to His co-laborers in Luke 9:62: "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Just as the plough-man in the field cannot look backwards if he is to make a straight furrow, so those who have laid their hands to the plough of the Master's service must look and walk forward. Looking back means malediction such as came to Lot's wife. (Gen. 19: 26.) Looking about themselves, on present-day conditions and circumstances, they will take the same false steps as did Moses. (Ex. 2: 12.) He became frightened and fied.

The plough of service again this year awaits each Adventist. The soil must be broken and the seed sown. Let us put our hands to the Harvest Ingathering plough, and neither look about nor behind us. This will not only bring success to God's work in this time, but will make us "fit for the kingdom of God."

Hans STRUVE

Letters from the Cameroon

Perhaps the most difficult problem of mission administration in these days of war is that of maintaining contact with the fields. After the fall of France in June, 1940, postal communications practically came to a standstill with most overseas lands. Communication remained possible with North Africa and - though greatly delayed - with the Portuguese territories. Toward the end of 1940, letters also began to filter through from East Africa and the Indian Ocean, but for practically one whole year we were unable to make an exchange of letters with Equatorial Africa. Short cables got through from time to time, but this, of course, was very unsatisfactory. We are glad to say, however, that the situation has greatly improved of late We now know that many of our letters have reached the Cameroon, and two letters written by M. Fridlin, director of the Mission, have reached us. These letters really came through in record time; that is, within three months from date of writing.

Now, here is what we find in Brother Fridlin's letters. First of all he mentions the health of our missionaries. He says:

"We thank God that all our missionary families have remained in a good state of health despite extended service periods. Naturally, after four years of work under the tropical sun, a dangerous dose of fatigue is often apparent; but the Lord continues to renew our strength as the weeks go by."

Brother Fridlin reports that two of our lady missionaries had to undergo operations last January. This is a severe test to the strength of Europeans in the tropics, but happily both our sisters came through in good shape and are well on the way to complete recovery. Then this word regarding the material situation.

"The cost of living has greatly increased since the beginning of the war. Prices are four to five times higher than a year ago. Stocks of many indispensable articles were soon exhausted, and now most necessities must be shipped to us from America, which means an excessive cost for us. In fact, we must do without many things and consent real sacrifices.

"Our native workers are in great need. They show a magnificent Christian spirit; but to be just toward them, the 15% bonus granted us would be far too little. With double their present salary, it would not be easy for them to get on. We have had to accept restrictions on all sides and the financial problem weighs heavily upon us. We know you in the Division have done everything possible to help us, and we do not wish to complain of our lot. The Lord has provided those things necessary, and He, we know, will not abandon us in a time of need. We hope and trust that our appropriations will come through more regularly in the future."

We feel sure that the Equatorial African Mission henceforth will receive its monthly allowances more regularly. The transfer of funds now has been established on a more satisfactory basis with America, and the Southern European Division will take advantage of this possibility.

Brother Fridlin then turns to the work that is being accomplished. He continues:

"All our missionaries are at their posts. At Batouri, Brethren Z. Yéretzian and P. Bénézechare at work. Brother Curmatureanu is leading out in the Ndoumbi sector. Mrs. Curmatureanu is standing up well to the climate this time. Brethren A. Cosendai and A. Nion are working with me here at Nanga-Eboko, the mission headquarters. Brother Cosendai is director of the Mission school, while Brother Nion cares for the outposts connected with the Nanga Eboko station. He also lends a hand in the Bible school, which is well organized at present. Just as far as it is possible, I keep in contact with all the stations. But travel is not an easy thing today. Gasoline has become very rare and costly, and doubly so as we must use the old truck which has become a very thirsty machine. Our new pickup was commandeered by the government.

"However, in spite of all these obstacles, the work is progressing nicely. With the Lord there can be no standing still. There must be advance. As mentioned in our cable, we had 626 baptized members at the end of the first quarter, 1941. The number of our baptized members has almost doubled. Last month (May), I was able to make a trip to Southeast Cameroon. At Metet, where a capable native evangelist has been working for about a year and a half, I was able to baptize 36 well-prepared candidates. It has not been possible for methis year to get down to Grand Batanga, on the coast. There, too, according to a report from the native worker, some fifty people are ready for baptism. At Sangmélima and in the region of Akonolinga, a new work gives promise of early success. The first fruits will be gathered within the next few months. Everywhere the work is going forward. We hope to count at least 800 baptized members by the end of this year."

A little farther on, Brother Fridlin has this to say of the school work in the Equatorial African Mission:

"Our schools are getting on quite nicely. Our hardest problem concerns the lack of school supplies. We still have a few note-books, pens, pencils, and chalk, but our stock is dwindling rapidly. Soon there will be nothing left and this will be a serious handicap for our work. Would it not be possible for you to make an appeal to our brethren in America to supply us with these materials at a rate of exchange within our reach? The native boys and girls pay for these materials, but they are more than poor and can pay but very little. We have 2150 students

Statistical Report of the Sou	thern	Eu	op.	Di	vis	ion	of	Ś.	D.	Å.	for	the	Q	uar	ter	En	dir	ıg .	Jun	e 3	D, 194	li j
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Statistical Report of the Southern Europ. Division of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending June 30, 1941

Pinancial Report of the Southern European Division of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending June 30, 1941

1 2 3 4 5 6 1 SOUTHERN EUROPERACIAN NILOS CONF. F. F., Bast France Conference		Name of Conference or Mission		Total T ithe	Total Offerings (inc.l. Specials)	Contributions for Home Miss, Work	Contributions for Local Church Work	Colporteur Book Sales
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	13.	Totals for the second quanter 1941	\$ \$ \$	46,445,-	15,998.27	 1,370.27 878.71		38,138.42

								Special Offe	r.
	Sabbath School Offerings (exc. 13th Sabbath)	13th Sabbath Offering	Harvest Ingathering	Annual Offerings	Miscellaneous Offerings	Self Denial Offerings	Big Week	Young People's Collection	(Relief Fund) Weekly
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.	6,295.90 22,176.75 11,795.90 40,263.55 1,006.71	1,305.15 5,179 3,088 9,572.15 239.31	45.232.90 43.647.50 88.880.40 2,222.01	227.80 1,675.95 1,903.75 47.59		16,646.10 8,609.70 25,255.80 631.40	9,081.20 25,048.50 13,233.75 47,363.45 1,184.08	109,10 109.10 2.73	2.0 2.0 0
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Working with God

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." (Ps. 118: 8.)

One of the principal characteristics of God's people in the last days will be, according to Revelation 14:12, the "faith of Jesus." This means that they will have just as full a confidence in God's leadings as did Jesus when He was on earth. And we must attain this prophetic height of spiritual experience if the work God has set Himself to do in our day is to be accomplished in and through us. It is one thing to believe in Jesus, quite another to live His life and experience His faith day by day, hour by hour.

"It is better to trust in the Lord . . ." We want this to be our watchword and our experience in the German Swiss Conference. Following our annual meeting in Zurich last April - a meeting which was greatly blessed of God, -- we went courageously back to our tasks, happy in the Lord. We are working with all our might, and despite the crisis conditions that prevail, a certain success is being encountered. The work is going forward. During the first quarter of this year, sixteen people entered our churches by baptism. An additional twenty were baptized in August; and in different places there are prospects of further success. True, hearts are offtimes as hard as the Alpine rocks, but God's word can break "the rock in pieces." (Jer. 23:29.)

The main thing is to labor with the Lord and have Him on our side. Then He can help us onward. Not only does He know the work to be done and how to do it; He also knows us better than we know ourselves. Thus He many times leads us into duty contrary to our liking. But His plan is always better than ours, and succeeds when ours has come to nought. Often, in fact, God brings us into strait circumstances that our faith may be made stronger. When selfish plans have crashed about our heads, we often acquire anew outlook — God's outlook and unfettered we can soar to a new level of achievement. So it is that we would count upon the Lord in our labor, and faithfully carry on.

In the Bernese Oberland, Brother S. Buchli and Sister M. Dutler, a Bible worker, are at work. The soil in that part of Switzerland yields reluctantly its produce; likewise much labor is required for a meager harvest of souls. The Lord is at work, however, and a nice interest is developing. The city of Berne, Switzerland's capital, is also a difficult field. Brother V. Butler, who was located there until lately, has been replaced by Elder H. Willi. Brother Butler has taken over the work in Lucerne - the city of light - which was the former field of Brother Willi. In Solothurn, a stronghold of Catholicism, the gospel is making good headway. Brother N. Stuber, one time colporteur leader, is located there. In the sector from Aarau to Langenthal, Brother). Bommer is standing guard, and many good souls are being taken captive unto

the Lord. The message is being proclaimed in Basel, the old Reformation center, by Elder H. Möschinger and Sister M. Rommel. In Zurich and certain nearby places, Brother A. Brand and Sister B. Schmidt have been laboring diligently. Now Brother Buchli is to join with them. Elder R. Bähler is having good results in Winterthur. His field extends to the Rhine Falls. Brother O. Hollenweger works in the old city of Gallus; while Brother A. Baumann is endeavoring to set new groups alight among the Grisons' mountain peaks. Only one part of our field remains entirely untouched: the primitive cantons which were the cradle, 650 years ago, of the Swiss Confederation. May we soon be able to turn our attention to those historical grounds also.

Despite hard times, our financial situation is better than in former years. We thank the Lord for His blessing and for the faithfulness of our 1409 members.

Elder H. Struve, of the Division office, is giving us good help in the Home Missionary Department. When he cannot be present in body, his suggestions and circular letters serve as an inspiration to all. It seemed difficult this year to get the Big Week work in motion, but finally all the churches rallied and our goals were reached. Now we are in the midst of another Harvest Ingathering campaign. Judging from the first reports, it will be a most successful one. No goal must remain unreached.

An enthusiastic and successful work is being done for and by our youth. Brother Möschinger, assisted very capably by Brother Paul Steiner, is giving inspiring leadership in the M.V. Department. Brother Steiner gives special attention to Junior work, developing the progressive education plan for the children. We can expect great things from the Junior movement in the near future.

As we look back over the past months, our hearts are filled with joy and hope. But we want to see more done for the advancement of God's cause. The future does not appear very bright in many ways, but the dark hours, we know, are God's way to teach trust and confidence to His children. Come what may, in all and through all His name will be glorified.

Jean Fehr

Annual Meetings

Despite war conditions, annual meetings were held in three fields during the past quarter.

The North France Conference, though occupied territory at present, headed the list. It was thought inadvisable to make an effort to bring delegates together in Paris from all parts of the Conference, and therefore two meetings were held. The first took place in Paris, July 4-6, and the second in Angers, July 11-13. Both meetings were well attended and; we are told, did inestimable good. Business sessions having been eliminated in both cases, all the time from Friday to Sunday evening was given over to spiritual interests. Only partial reports have reached us from these meetings, as no representative from the Division office attended them. We have learned, however, that as a manifestation of gratitude to God for His keeping care, those present made a real sacrifice of their means in behalf of the cause. The two Sabbath morning offerings amounted to 22,000 francs (French).

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The Léman Conference annual session convened in Lausanne, July 30-August 3. It is perhaps the one annual meeting in Southern Europe to be held this year in normal ctrcumstances. What a privilege to be able to pursue the work of God in 1941 unmolested by war!

At the opening meeting, Brother A. Meyer, president of the Conference: reviewed the work of the past year. We glean the following from his report.

"During the past year, the war has continued in Europe with unabatep fury, spreading constantly to new lands. Privations and suffering have been multiplied, ruins and misery accumulated. Many hearts are in mourning today in lands where we have brethren of like faith.

"Is it not extraordinary that Switzerland has been spared until now in the midst of the tempest? In His goodness, God has protected our country, no doubt in order that it may accomplish a mission in the world. If until now the word of the prophet, 'hitherto halt the Lord helped us' (1 Sam. 7:12), has been fulfilled usward, we must discover God's purpose in it all. We believe that He has a mission for our country in the world, but we also believe that He has kept our land in peace in order that we may do a special work in behalf of God's cause in thus crisis hour.

"Despite critical times, 1940 was one of the best years in a long time for our Conference. Tithes and offerings increased in an appreciable degree. Harvest Ingathering met with particular success. A special gift of 5,000 francs (Swiss) was made by the Conference last year to our churches in France and Belgium as war relief. This was an expression of our sympathy and affection in a time of distress.

"However, war, although it be beyond our frontiers, does have direful effects upon certain of our activities. The publishing work suffered more than any other, due to the fact that many colporteurs were in military service during a good part of the year. Sales were somewhat down in 1940. But it is encouraging to note that there is a real increase for the first six months of the present year. For a time it appeared doubtful that books could be got to us from Melun; and in order to forestall any lack of literature, our tract society brought out in Lausanne a 5,000edition of the book 'Science et Cuisine.'

"Evangelistic efforts have gone forward in Geneva, Rolle, Lausanne, Clarens, Payerne, Bienne, La Chaux-de-Fonds and St. Imier. A particularly large interest seems to have developed in Bienne, both in the French and in the German work. In 1940, 50 members were added by baptism. The total membership of the Conference, per December 31, 1940, standing at 1,044.

"Without doubt, we are facing times of difficulty. It is hard to know what the future holds in store for us. But we shall not draw back in well doing. Girding the strength that God gives us with faith and courage, we shall advance to greater victories."

This year the Swiss people have celebrated the 650th anniversary of the foundation of the Confederation. At such a time, and in view of Switzerland's special situation in Europe today, the Swiss people are full of gratitude to divine providence. Our brethren join in this sentiment, with the additional thought that Switzerland is being used of God in a special way for the pursuance of His work. As a token of gratitude, a special offering was taken Sabbath morning. It brought in 6,400 francs (Swiss).

The South France Conference assembly was held on the property of our French College, in Collonges-sous-Salève, August 4-10. This was the first meeting in two years, last year's conference session naturally having been dropped out. It was a joy to meet again with representatives of that Conference and to hear from their lips the story of God's care. A goodly number of delegates were present for the entire session, and the attendance was about 300 over the week-end.

Elder J. C. Guenin, president of the Conference, and his associates presented encouraging reports of progress in the last months. Despite war and refugee conditions, there was notable progress in both tithes and offerings. This sounds like a miracle. Indeed it was! A miracle due to 60d's fidelity and to the loyalty of His children. The Sabbath offering brought in 16,000 francs (French).

I shall add that no change of importance was made in the staff of the fields covered by this report. Plans were laid, however, for future progress. Study was given to a number of problems, and in each case, some thirteen resolutions were reported back to the assembly and adopted unanimously. For full success only God's blessing is needful, and the brethren are sure that it will not be lacking.

W. R. B.

"It is the state of the heart within a man, and not the sky above him, which determines his happiness." - Seneca.

Letters from the Cameroon

(Continued from page 2)

in our schools, and we could add another 2 00 very easily were it financially possible for us to open additional stations. Everywhere there is a call today for the Seventhd-ay Adventists, and you canimagine how hard it is for us to constantly say: Wait until later."

This about the Bible training school.

"The Bible training school in Nanga-Eboko now gives us real satisfaction. More than 60 students are in attendance regularly, which means that we will be able to prepare twelve to fifteen capable native workers this year. Will there be funds to employ them? We certainly hope so. The ripening harvest field beckons us on."

Brother Fridlin closes his last letter with this little experience :

"Six weeks ago, I baptized a young native aged 25. He is a very interesting case. Somethree years ago, one of the important Protestant mission societies operating in the Cameroon granted him a ministerial interneship and he was sent to the Batouri country While there, he came into contact with our Mission, and, through Brother Z. Yéretzian, bought about all our denominational books in French. During two years he studied this literature and finally accepted the message. He is now in Nanga as a student in our Bible training school. He is above the average in intelligence, deeply consecrated to God, and no doubt will make a fine worker. This is but one of the many cases that show how God is working mightily in the hearts of the Cameroon peoples. We find our joy in what is being accomplished, and this more than compensates for all the difficulties of a material nature that confront us."

W. R. B.

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W. R. Beach Editor

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INTERESTING ITEMS

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News from Ethiopia

We are happy to be able to report to the field on the status of our work in Ethiopia, as a letter from Addis Ababa, dated April 20, 1941, has just come to hand. Elder H. Hanson, director of the Mission, removes all fears regarding the health of our missionaries, who, he states, are well and happy despite the direful vicissitudes of war.

"There is not one victim of bombardments," continues Elder Hanson, "among our missionaries. No one has lacked food and all have kept their courage intact. We are happy that the turnover here could take place calmly, practically without a struggle. The city, as a matter of fact, suffered but little hardship. Neither the new electric plant nor the water system were damaged in any way. The aviation grounds, some four miles from the city, were the principal target of the raiding bombers."

Elder Hanson speaks at length of the present needs of the Ethiopian Mission. Due to the special circumstances which have prevailed during the past few years, all our hospitals were forced to close their doors; but today there is an urgent request that they be opened again. Two clinics, operated by two of our courageous nurses, have continued their work through the past months. These two institutions care for some fifty patients daily at present.

The future is promising for our missionary endeavor in Ethiopia as there seems to be a rapid return to normal conditions. An adequate medical staff must be found again and a group of missionaries capable of restoring our former activity must be brought into the field. Judging from first contacts with the present administration of the country, no serious obstacle will be placed in our way.

Youth Camps

Two youth camps were held in the Swiss Union during the month of August. The first, at Unterägeri, was for the young people of the German Swiss Conference. The camp, which had a maximum attendance of about sixty, was under the direction of Paul Steiner, assistant M. V. leader in the Conference. Elder J. Fehr, president of the Conference, and Elder Robert Gerber, president of the Union, lent valuable help in making the comp a success.

The second camp was organized by the Léman Conference and was held at "Le Maupas," Corcelles / Payerne, in the valley of the Broye. This valley is one of the old historical sections of Switzerland, for Aventicum (today Avanches), the Roman capital of Helvetia, is but a few miles from the site of the camp. Where the Roman legions marched to the defense of the northern frontiers, a group of more than fifty Juniors spent two weeks in preparation to take their place in that great army of youth which is to finish the work of God on earth.

Baptisms

It is always a pleasure to learn that men and women have accepted Christ and entered His church by baptism. Only partial reports come to us at present, of course, but these are sufficient to show that evangelistic efforts are meeting with considerable success in various parts of the field. Two baptismal ceremonies are reported from Madagascar. The first took place in Majunga, where Brother Edgar Villeneuve has baptized seven people; the second included a group of five in the village of Andilatoby, near Ambatondrazaka, the district seat of government. One of the group was the government doctor for the district. This is the first Malagasy doctor to be baptized on the island.

A report from the Madeira Mission tells of a baptismal ceremony in Funchal. The church there has had an increase of twenty-two members by baptism. Twenty-five candidates are enrolled in the baptismal class. Baptisms are also reported from the Azores and Saint Thomas Islands. Twelve people have been baptized at Ponta Delgada, Azores, and the church in Saint Thomas lists eleven members. received by baptism. A similar success is expected shortly for the Island of Fogo, in the Cape Verde archipelago. Some twenty people are meeting regularly for the Sabbath services and a week night meeting Since the return of Brother A. Raposo to Portugal, Brother J. Esteves is caring for this group, while pursuing the work at mission headquarters on the Island of Brava.

One of the most encouraging reports of late has come from Belgium. Elder A. Roeland, president of the Belgian Conference, writes that a baptismal ceremony has been held in Brussels, with twentyeight candidates. Several of the near-by churches had a part in this success. Elder Roeland adds that like ceremonies are soon to take place in other parts of Belgium. In Gent, for instance, Elder A. de Ligne has a baptismal classes are well attended in all the churches.

Publishing Items

Encouraging information is to be noted in connection with the publishing work. The French publishing house's financial report for the first semester 1941, for instance, shows a net gain of 66,890.- francs (French). This can be considered under present circumstances as a marked blessing from God. We are informed that the house has been able to make arrangements for the shipment of printed matter to the Brussels branch. If this plan is found satisfactory, our colporteurevangelists in Belgium henceforth will be able to carry on their work unhampered by a lack of books and papers.

A recent report from Jugoslavia mentions a 60 % increase in colporteur sales during the past weeks. At present, forty-nine colp or teur-evangelists are at work in that territory. Brother Z. Krdjalic, the courageous secretary for the Publishing Department of the Union, and his intrepid co-workers are taking advantage of every occasion to place our printed matter in the hands of their fellow citizens.

Encouraging publishing reports have come in from other fields, including Switzerland, Rumania and Portugal. The tendency most everywhere is toward an increase in the number of colporteurs and in sales.