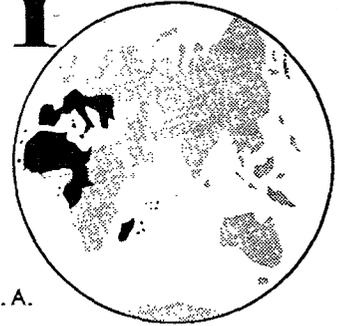


QUARTERLY REVIEW

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



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Our Most Distant Mission Field

By O. Schubert

Educational and Sabbath School Secretary, Southern European Division

The Division committee had asked M. Fridlin and the writer to visit our most distant mission field, the Indian Ocean Union Mission, during the months of March and April. We left by boat, therefore, on February 14, and exactly three weeks later we reached the first port in Madagascar, Majunga, where the union president, H. Pichot and the local mission director, E. Villeneuve, were awaiting us.

As the boat was to remain at Majunga from Thursday forenoon until Sabbath noon, we had time to visit several mission stations. We left immediately by car for the interior. After about three hours' ride over very poor roads, we reached Morovoay, where we have a small group of believers. Here we were to speak in our small chapel in the evening. But as there was still some time, we decided to visit our native worker in a small village about eight miles distant in the jungle. We had to travel by boat up a river, the banks of which were covered by tropical plants of various kinds. It was an interesting trip, especially as the peculiar shape of the boat caused it to balance precariously at the slightest movement of the passengers. The river was perhaps not so deep, but the fact that vicious crocodiles were lying hidden in the muddy water, waiting for their prey, made it rather adventurous.

After about an hour and a half, we reached the village, which is situated directly on the banks of the river. A few years ago a native worker had started an interest here, but because of lack of money it could not be followed up. Now a native teacher-evangelist has been placed here

again, and a small school will soon be opened. This has given new life to the small Adventist church, and as we were walking through the village, believers as well as others followed us to the modest little chapel where they expected to receive a message of cheer.

As we returned to Morovoay, night was falling. The next morning we went to Ambato-Boeni, a small town about fifty miles farther south, where we also have a small church. On the way we stopped at a village inhabited by the Sakalaves, a tribe among which we have not yet begun work. We have already bought a piece of land here for a school building. We talked with the chief of the village, who declared that they would be willing to erect the building if we would furnish the material. The urged us to start the school soon. The means, however, are lacking. It is distressing to see these black people asking for help and to be obliged to tell them that they must wait a little while longer. The work among the Sakalaves appears to be promising, and should be started as soon as possible.

Sabbath morning we spent with the church in Majunga, and at noon we again boarded the ship to continue our voyage toward Diego-Suarez, where we stopped for two days. A. Schnyder is working here. He took us to several villages where he has started work. In one of them the framework for a church and a school has been erected. But here again the money is lacking to complete the buildings.

On March 17, four weeks after our date of sailing, we arrived in Tamatave, where we were



H. Evard (left) and teaching staff of Mauritius seminary

to leave the boat. The climate of Tamatave is very hot and damp. It rains almost every day of the year. R. Jublin is carrying on the work in this vicinity, but as he has no means of transportation, his efforts are somewhat restricted.

From Tamatave we took train to Tananarive, the capital of Madagascar, where our union mission headquarters are located. Tananarive is about 1,300 meters above sea level. While the heat is intense near the coast, we had to change back to European clothes on the plateau. The vegetation is also different. On the coast there are bananas, sugar cane, coffee, and coconut palms. The woods through which we came are typical tropical jungles, but on the plateau it is too cold even for orange trees. In the valley the natives live in light huts made of bamboo and palm leaves. On the plateau they build regular houses of brick and clay.

Tananarive has 160,000 inhabitants. The city is quite modern and has many large brick buildings. The membership in Tananarive and surroundings is about 350. A few kilometers from the capital is our training school. The property is well located and offers opportunities for a real Seventh-day Adventist educational center, but much is still lacking. The buildings are insufficient, and the classroom furniture is primitive.

The Indian Ocean Union Mission comprises Madagascar and the islands of Réunion, Mauritius, and the Seychelles. Mauritius is about 60 kilometers long and 40 wide. Of its 450,000 inhabitants, 300,000 have come from India, while 135,000 are Creoles. The rest are Europeans. The Creoles and Europeans speak French, although Mauritius is a

British colony. There are exactly 770 church members on the island, most of whom are Creoles, but we are now also beginning work among the Indians. D. Munroop, who speaks several Indian dialects, has been asked to spend some of his time among his countrymen.

Two years ago a school was established under the direction of H. Evard, a former president of our Collonges seminary. The enrollment is about two hundred. Nine native teachers are assisting Doctor Evard. The school is well organized, and it was a real pleasure to see these children, many of whom are Mohammedans or heathen, getting their training under Adventist teachers. Our great aim, of course, is to win them and their parents to the truth.

Heathenism in its purest form is still prevalent here among these Indians. We had the opportunity of watching some of its devotees walking through the fire. A bed of burning charcoal had been prepared, across which a number of men and women walked, following their great idol which was carried ahead of them. This is an old heathen ceremony. The Bible speaks of it in Deuteronomy 18:10: « There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire. »

The annual meeting was held April 7-10 in our beautiful chapel at Beau-Bassin. On Sabbath morning about 1,100 people were present. Elder Fridlin preached the sermon, which closed with a service of consecration. Not only were hearts reconsecrated to the Lord, but also material means were offered so as to make possible the preaching of the gospel with more power



Fire-walking ceremony, Mauritius Island

than ever before during this year of special Mid-century Evangelism. The offering amounted to 13,000 rupees, or almost \$ 3,000.

The following week we spent on Réunion, a French island. It is a little larger than Mauritius, but has a much smaller population, which consists of French Europeans and Creoles. Most of the inhabitants are Catholics, but they are looking for something better. The work is prospering. About 45 persons were baptized last year. Our membership is at present 185. The people are very poor, because of the financial depression that is sweeping the island. Sylvain Meyer and R. Vertallier are working here under very trying conditions, as often the simplest necessities of life are lacking. The heat is insupportable, and the unhygienic conditions breed malaria, typhoid, and other tropical diseases.

From Réunion we returned to Madagascar, where we attended the annual session of the union committee. Plans were laid for the coming year. The brethren are of good courage, but there is one great need, more means, in order to answer the many calls

that come from these people who are in darkness but desire the light of the eternal gospel.



"Reserved for Adventist College" — a special coach transports Mauritian students to and from school.

St. Thomas Island Mission

By A. D. Gomes
President, Portuguese Union Mission

In the middle of the Gulf of Guinea, opposite the French African colony of Cameroun, are two Portuguese islands, St. Thomas and Principe. Almost in direct line with the equator, the two islands together comprise some one thousand square kilometers and have a population of about sixty thousand inhabitants, among whom the white European population forms a small minority.

The islands are of volcanic origin and are covered with luxuriant vegetation on three levels: the tall trees, the shrubs — among them those from which coffee and cacao are obtained — and a profusion of smaller plants. Water is plentiful, both from rainfall and from springs. There are no ferocious animals whatever, and no snakes, but there is an abundance of mosquitoes — unfortunately of the types which spread malaria and yellow fever.

These islands, when discovered by the Portuguese in the sixteenth century, were uninhabited. The first white men to land there, except for the discoverers, were Jews who had been expelled from Portugal. Later negroes were brought from the African continent to work on the land as slaves. At present, in addition to the native-born of St. Thomas, thousands of workers from the African coast are employed on the large plantations under the protection of the government, which requires the plantation owner to furnish medical assistance and to maintain satisfactory hygienic conditions. The largest and richest Portuguese agricultural holdings, with one or two exceptions, are found on St. Thomas Island. There are plantations employing thousands of workers and maintaining hospitals with room for hundreds of patients and operated by two doctors and a corps of

nurses. The coffee and cacao plantations are those which yield the richest returns. Every boat which calls at the island goes away with a fortune in its hold.

St. Thomas is unique among Portuguese territories in having plenty of work for its inhabitants; but as the latter are very strongly attached to their liberty and prefer to work their own land, it is necessary to import labor from the African coast. A poor Portuguese on St. Thomas lives much better than a poor Portuguese in Europe! Learning is popular, and it is rare to find a native of St. Thomas who has not completed his studies at the public school. The schools are crowded with students and are greatly appreciated by the people.

Our work began in the capital some ten years ago. At present we have in these islands an ordained minister with his wife and small daughter; two teachers; two families of native Bible workers; and a native teacher who has attended our seminary in Portugal. There are three churches, as well as two or three companies of believers, with a total of 150 baptized members. Our headquarters school, in the capital of St. Thomas, has nearly two hundred pupils, and the director tells me that we could have four hundred if we could take them — that is, if we had the space and the teachers. There are 250 young people under the direct influence of the advent message, and we are at present free, thanks to the good will of the authorities, to extend our work as much as our finances and personnel will permit.

It must not be forgotten that up to the present we have had to combat the very natural idea that we are simply transients, here today and gone to-mor-

row. We have not been able to produce any evidence of permanency. Therefore, now that we have a splendid opportunity to purchase at a reasonable price a building on a large lot in the center of the capital, we are praying that God will make it an effective instrument for His work in St. Thomas. The day is not far off when we shall be able to count 1,500 members on this island. Already we are seeing indications of such a possibility.

We have carried on our work in St. Thomas — an African island — with European methods: public lectures, some given in the open air under the banana trees; distribution of literature; Bible studies. But the trouble starts when the listeners are workers on the plantations and ask for the Sabbath free! It is the same as in Portugal. In order to avoid these difficulties, it would be a good thing if we had an Adventist-operated plantation. It seems to us that such an enterprise could be made a source of profit, or at least self-supporting.

Our European missionaries are enthusiastic. In

spite of the unfavorable climate, they are seeing the arm of the Lord outstretched. One of them told me that he had decided to make St. Thomas his adopted country; that while he would gladly revisit Portugal from time to time, he wants to work in St. Thomas all his life. With such a spirit, great results can be hoped for from this mission.

We need to open another school in the Trindade church, where the local authority has assured us of its support. The church wants a school where sewing and dressmaking can be taught to the girls. Our St. Thomas colonists have practical ideas! The union committee has voted to extend a call to another missionary couple who can carry out this plan.

Of the whole Portuguese Union, this is the mission with the most brilliant prospects and the most positive results. They reach all the financial goals set by the union with enviable and highly satisfying speed and success.

We ask that you remember in your prayers the leaders of God's work in these two equatorial islands.

Our Day of Opportunity in the Cameroun

By J. J. Aitken

Y. P. M. V. Secretary, Southern European Division

During the past two months it has been my privilege to visit our mission stations in the French Cameroun. In spite of sweltering heat and the rigors of traveling over 7,500 kilometers, from desert sand to virgin jungle forest, I found a great many reasons for encouragement in this interesting mission field.

The French Cameroun is located in the real heart of Africa, and I am happy to say that the Adventist mission stations there truly resemble a great heart, throbbing with vigor and strength and sending out impulses of hope to the heathen about them.

Perhaps never before in the history of this field have we seen doors of opportunity opening before us as we find today. During my trip by truck, I found that administrators and French government officials in both the north and the south appreciate the work that Seventh-day Adventists are doing. There seemed to be a spirit of liberty where Adventist missions are located.

Progress in this field has been extremely difficult since 1928 when R. L. Jones and W. H. Anderson opened up the work and chose the mission property at Nanga-Eboko. Many faithful missionaries have since given of their best to bring the gospel to the Cameroun. Today we see the results of their labors. They have laid a firm foundation upon which we must rapidly build.

From an administrative point of view, this field has been somewhat neglected, due to conditions brought about by World War II. The various changes of administration have of course made the struggle to establish strong missions here all the more difficult. The Southern European Division is doing all in its power to rehabilitate the work in this important area.

Naturally, one of my prime interests in visiting this field was its youth. The advent movement is a growing movement, and with growth we think of the youth, upon which God depends for the advancement of His work. I was determined to find out whether Adventist youth existed in the Cameroun, and if so I wanted to see at first hand their faith and courage in spreading the gospel as good Missionary Volunteers. I was not disappointed in what I found.

On March 13 I arrived in Douala by boat and was greeted by our Missionary Volunteer secretary, P. Bernard, and also by K. Scheidegger, the union secretary-treasurer, and R. Hirschy, director of the Batouri Mission.

After leaving Douala, the first mission station we visited was Nanga-Eboko, where our French West and Equatorial African Union Mission headquarters are temporarily located. Some two or three kilometers before arriving at Nanga-Eboko, I found young people lining the roads, waving their hands and smiling as they gave us a most cordial greeting. All the way to the door of our mission station, we drove through a cordon of honor formed by our native boys and girls. Then, at the door, we were greeted by the union president, J. A. de Caenel, who had come down from France to take charge of our mission work here in this field.

It was a real joy to me to see the happiness on the faces of these hundreds of young people and to see how the gospel had brought into their lives a new hope and courage. As far as their clothes were concerned, I could see that they were poor indeed; but in their hearts was a joy which expressed itself in words and in song.

As we stepped out of the car, more than four

hundred of our youth and also church members of the Nanga-Eboko station greeted us enthusiastically. How wonderful it is, after a long, hard trip among strangers, suddenly to find oneself surrounded by the warmth and brotherhood of the advent movement! A special program of reception had been prepared, and I shall never forget the excellent singing of our native boys and girls as they told us in song of what God had done for them. When God distributed the various gifts to the human race, our African Missionary Volunteers were especially blessed. Without instruments, they have a harmony and rhythm which is most remarkable.

In one of the songs which they sang, it seemed to me I caught a special message to all those interested in the development of our mission program. The melody of the French song was the same as one we often sing in English: « I have the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart. » And they sang, « There is joy in my heart because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. » When one realizes that not long ago most of these Missionary Volunteers were heathen savages, and when one hears them now singing songs of joy and praise, it is clear that missions really pay. How often this thought recurred to my mind during my trip in the Cameroun: Missions do pay. And then a second thought came to me as I saw open doors of opportunity: Why don't we invest more? for surely we shall receive a hundredfold in fruitage for the kingdom of heaven.

In the entire field I was most happy to find more than three thousand eager boys and girls, young men and young women, who expressed their fervent desire to join the great army of Missionary Volunteers in all the world. During our itinerary through the field, from north to south, Brother Bernard and I witnessed how God is using these three thousand young people with their songs to bring light and hope into hundreds of villages where heathen superstition still holds the

people in its cruel clutches. Hundreds of villages in this field are learning of Jesus Christ through the testimony of these young voices lifted up in praise to God for what the Adventist mission has done for them; and through their testimony, the Adventist mission is becoming popular in village after village, and new calls are constantly coming to us.

After leaving Nanga-Eboko, we traveled east over one hundred kilometers to our Ndoumbi station. This main station is directed at present by a native pastor. For more than five years the mission home here has been vacant because of the lack of a missionary family. We are happy to say that a family from France will soon arrive to begin a most important work in this station which has struggled alone for so long.

During the Sabbath service, when I was at Ndoumbi, the chief, who represented more than ten thousand natives, stood up and told me of the great desire of his people for a missionary family. During the past five years, disease has taken its toll, and the vacant mission home has been a source of disappointment. The chief would not sit down until we assured him that help was on the way and that we hoped to set up a maternity and health clinic upon the arrival of the missionary family. At the door of our chapel, the chief grasped my hand and said, « Please don't forget your promise. We are counting on the Adventist mission. It is the only mission which can bring us real help today. » I cannot forget the chief's words. Here is a door through which we must pass as quickly as possible.

Leaving Ndoumbi, we turned our faces north toward Lake Chad. After three tedious days of hot, dusty roads, we arrived at our Dogba station, near the city of Maroua. It was at Dogba that we installed Brother and Sister A. Matton and children in their new mission home. I had accompanied this family all the way from France on the boat, and I was glad to see at first hand how God blessed their arrival in their new field of labor.

It was here in Dogba that R. Bergström, our veteran missionary in the north, began mission work among the savage Kirdi tribe, well over twenty years ago. This tribe is considered by the French government officials as one of the most savage, and I was interested in learning that the Adventist mission has had more success in this virgin territory than any other mission. Brother Bergström is the only white man who can penetrate without fear into the mountain fortresses where the Kirdi tribesmen live. In times past it was not uncommon for white men to lose their heads in these mountains, where the Kirdi tribesmen carry on as they have for hundreds of years. Recently a government doctor who feared for his life if he should venture back into the mountains asked if our missionary would not accompany



African Missionary Volunteers welcome their visitors.

him on his medical visit. He said that he felt much safer with an Adventist missionary. The Kirdi tribesmen have a high respect for the work which the Adventist mission has done among them. It is in this area that we find the frontier of our mission work today.

If we should draw a line from Dakar over to the Lake Chad area and then to the limit of our mission field, and then draw another line to the south and on out to the Atlantic Ocean along the Congo, we would find an area almost as large as the United States which must be evangelized. This huge area in the heart of Africa is a tremendous challenge to the advent movement. On the northern limits of this territory, Brother Bergström is just now opening a new mission station at Koza, eighty kilometers distant from our established station in Dogba.

As I visited the Kirdi tribesmen at the new Koza station, I could see a tremendous difference between those who had learned of the gospel and those who are still bound by heathen practices. Those who have come to know of the light of truth have changed their lives through the power of God, and they are putting away heathen practices. They are cleaning up their native homes, and they are putting on clothes. I remember noticing, while visiting a converted Kirdi family, a picture tacked up on the wall of the home. It was an illustration of our English book *Truth Triumphant*. These two words, «Truth Triumphant,» seemed to take on new meaning for me as I stood in this native hut which had been so greatly changed by the gospel. The truth had indeed been triumphant in this home.

Space does not permit me to give a detailed report of my entire itinerary to our Batouri, Sangmélina, and Kribi mission stations. However, as I left our northern mission stations, at Dogba and Koza, and again journeyed south, I was happy to find a flourishing program of evangelization being carried on at Batouri. Batouri is located out near the border of the great Ubangi-Shari territory. Brother Hirschy is the mission director, and there are eighteen jungle mission stations manned by native workers. I visited a number of these jungle stations and saw a real pioneer mission work being carried on with success in spite of tremendous handicaps.

In these eighteen stations we have more than 1,500 Missionary Volunteers in our training schools. They are bright youngsters. In this mission alone we could increase the number of boys and girls in training to 3,000 if we only had more means with which to train and send out new workers. Lack of funds for medical work also holds us back here, as in many other parts of the Cameroun. We are happy that definite plans are under way to strengthen this most important branch of our work.

An old heathen chief, 150 kilometers back in the forest, pled with us to send his village a native worker. He told me he had put his hope in the witch doctor



Mrs. R. Hirschy with her class of native girls.

but had not found peace. The name of Jesus has never been heard in his village, but today he has thrown open the door to the the Adventist mission work, and we must not disappoint him.

In our Sangmélina Mission, we have met with discouragements in the past, but today this station is growing with hope and courage. Almost two years ago a serious fire destroyed our mission chapel and home. But out of the ashes of that fire, new buildings are arising.

In the area around Kribi, a new interest is being awakened. Here along the Atlantic coast we have a real beachhead mission covering about thirty kilometers. The construction of a mission station at Kribi is now under way, and we soon hope to have a beautiful station located in a coconut grove on the coast.

It was just south of Kribi, along the coast, that our work was started by a native who found an Ingathering pamphlet in Spanish Guinea in 1935. God has richly blessed the seed which fell upon fertile ground, and today we have a flourishing church at Grand Batanga.

The Southern European Division is doing all in its power to strengthen our mission stations throughout the entire Cameroun and our West African field. There is still much to be done. This field needs the earnest prayers of God's people everywhere. At the present time, a total of ten thousand people are attending meetings regularly in our mission stations. Last year, in the Cameroun alone, we had over four hundred baptisms. Our baptized membership in the Cameroun is now approaching the two-thousand mark. We have almost ten thousand Sabbath school members; and, as stated above, we have an army of youth totaling over three thousand, who are march-

(Please turn to page 11)

Statistical Report of the Southern European Division of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending March 31, 1950.

Table with 24 columns: 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, Credentialed Missionaries, Licensed Missionaries, Bible Instr., Elem. School Teachers, Canvassers, Total Laborers, Number of Sab. Schools, Sab. School Membership, Average Attendance. Rows include various regional conferences such as Southern European Div., Czechoslovakian U. C., Franco-Belgian U. C., Hungarian U. C., Yugoslavian U. C., Rumanian U. C., Swiss U. C., French West and Eq. Afr., Indian Ocean Un. Mission, Italian Union Mission, North African Un. Mission, Portuguese Union Mission, and Bulgarian Conference.

RECAPITULATION

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	Credentialed Missionaries	Licensed Missionaries	Bible Instr.	Elem. School Teachers	Canyassers	Total Laborers	Number of Sab. Schools	Sab. School Membership	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1. SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV. . .															15	2	5	22	—	—	44		
2. Austrian Union Conference	39	2515	14	5	49	68	14	16	54	84	-16	2499	17	1	3	3	4	—	22	50	39	2685	199
3. Czechoslovakian »	114	5521				NO REPORT						5521	33	3	2	3	19	—	8	68	160	5445	520
4. Franco-Belgian »	73	3450	37	9	50	96	61	17	85	163	-67	3383	32	25	2	38	8	3	153	261	66	2337	185
5. Hungarian »	155	6201				NO REPORT						6201	26	10	4	15	35	—	75	165	155	6058	431
6. Yugoslavian »	157	6250				NO REPORT						6250	12	5	—	13	—	—	—	30	177	6200	450
7. Rumanian »	551	30000				NO REPORT						30000	78	11	—	47	—	—	—	136	560	32500	2980
8. Swiss »	57	3023	7	4	27	38	18	9	27	54	-16	3007	22	5	4	17	—	3	45	96	55	2417	178
9. French West and Eq. Afr. U. M.	8	1796				NO REPORT						1796	6	5	1	17	66	96	—	191	157	9701	1080
10. Indian Ocean Union Mission	48	1714	18	5	2	25	14	5	—	19	6	1720	21	8	12	21	2	8	12	84	55	2923	254
11. Italian »	48	1682	13	2	64	79	12	9	66	87	-8	1674	18	2	3	26	3	—	59	111	60	2108	170
12. North African »	16	594	1	—	2	3	2	1	9	12	-9	585	8	1	—	14	2	1	17	43	23	541	48
13. Portuguese »	26	1450	—	—	9	9	7	4	10	21	-12	1438	12	5	3	3	5	4	14	46	32	1924	148
14. Bulgarian Conference	39	1851	—	—	—	NO REPORT						1851	9	4	—	10	—	—	—	23	29	901	71
15. Grecian Mission	5	166	—	—	—	NO REPORT						166	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	6	5	160	18
16. Spanish Mission	10	660	—	—	—	NO REPORT						660	5	—	2	11	1	1	10	30	13	668	63
TOTALS FOR 1st QUARTER, 1950 :	1346	66873	90	25	203	318	128	61	251	440	-122	66751	316	88	42	260	146	116	416	1384	1586	76568	6800
TOTALS FOR 1st QUARTER, 1949 :	1326	59014	499	34	1769	2302	129	101	1817	2047	255	59269	305	100	49	229	166	13	459	1321	1479	67241	5656

Adventist School in French Prison

By J. C. Guenin
President, Franco-Belgian Union

A chain of rather peculiar circumstances has put us in touch with a large number of political prisoners in France. By means of our literature and the Bible, several of them have found salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and the great truths of the advent message.

The most remarkable case is that of a group of prisoners who not only meet each Sabbath afternoon for a church service, but have organized a real mission school. Here are some excerpts from a letter received from the group leader :

« How happy I was to be able to pass on to my comrades your letter concerning the interest shown by the conference in our little isolated Adventist community ! Since my last letter, there have been many changes — departures, arrivals, and transfers . . . The present enrollment is 21. The program is as follows :

« Theology : Three lessons per week, written and oral, using the textbook by A. Vaucher. I have charge of this course. We are also making a thorough study of Genesis, Exodus, the Decalogue, and the whole New Testament, chapter by chapter. I prepare each lesson, and on Sabbath when we are together at choir practice I conduct an hour's drill ; then we go off into a corner to conduct our church service, with prayer and a sermon (we take turns, and points are given for pronunciation, bearing, syntax, and reasoning). We then plan together the program for the coming week.

« Medical studies : Scout First Aid certificate required . . . Course in anatomy and theoretical pathol-

ogy by our medical student (who was ready for his thesis when he was arrested and has prepared an outstanding thesis on leprosy). I conduct courses in chemistry, biology, and pharmacy.

« General instruction : Course in natural sciences and mathematics. Three languages obligatory, English, Spanish, and German. Thorough study of Central Africa and Equatorial America.

« Pedagogy and psychology, two hours per week.

« Ethnology : Study of the characteristics of the Bantu and Sudan negroes, the Spanish-American Indians, the Sakalavos, Betsilios, Malayans, and other peoples. Studies on the Russian people by our 'Tartar' (who holds the equivalent of an M. A. degree). Five of our group are studying Russian with him.

« This very regular and methodical program, carefully balanced so as not to detract from the most important study, theology, may seem rather heavily loaded, but such is not the case. Our work is not exhausting, and after a day spent amid the infernal noise of the machines, the mind is fresh and in full vigor . . . Besides, we are firmly resolved not to knock at the door of Collonges without a good store of knowledge . . . What a wonderful day it will be when, once more at liberty, we are united with our brethren and can at last sing the songs of faith and victory — victory over ourselves as well as the final victory upon which we are about to enter. »

Surely it is worth our while to pray for these prisoners, that God may use them later in the advancement of His cause.

Réunion Island

By R. Vertallier

Missionary, Réunion Island

Réunion Island — an infinitesimal speck on the map of the world — abounds in natural beauties: deep, wild valleys, waterfalls, volcanic mountain peaks, green hills where tree-ferns dominate the lower forms of vegetation. Enthusiastic admirers have called it a little Eden, « Pearl of the Indian Ocean, » « the enchanted island.»

Looking at it a little more closely, and from the viewpoint of a missionary rather than from that of a tourist, one sees at once that everything is not perfection in this paradise. The sun may shed its generous rays from day to day on the teeming beauties of nature; the inhabitants walk in the darkness of ignorance, superstition, and sin. Poverty, both moral and material, characterizes most of the Creoles, who live and die in unhealthy surroundings. Often what they call a hut is simply a collection of boards and gasoline cans, the roof consisting of pieces of tin, or thatch for the very poor. The inside of the hut is papered with newspapers, which immediately reveal the political views of the tenants.

Slaves only yesterday, free citizens today, few have escaped falling into yet another bondage, that of alcohol. Every day — and especially on Sunday — it is distressing to meet men, women, and even children under the influence of liquor. Last week a heartbreaking scene took place just a few yards from our home. A drunken man, after having torn up the stones of the sidewalk and thrown them into the street, stretched himself out on the ground to sleep in the blazing sunlight. Beside him his motherless five-year-old daughter was crying and begging « Papa, wake up! » as she stroked his cheek. There is a great work of health reform to be accomplished here.

The religion of the island is Roman Catholicism, with its processions, its medals, and its altars. The worship of God in spirit and in truth is almost unknown. In order to make sure of getting to heaven, many practice two religions at the same time. Thus they participate in the firewalking ceremony and in the Malabar sacrifices before going to mass.

In this professedly Christian but actually pagan land, the standard of truth has been solidly planted. Real conversions have taken place, and lives have been transformed. It is heartening to note that here too are men and women who have gladly made great sacrifices for their faith.

One of our immediate objectives is to win the battle of prejudice. How many shun us because they are misinformed! Gross and ridiculous slanders are circulated about Adventists: they do not believe in Christ, they trample on the cross, etc. In an endeavor to clear up these misconceptions, we have held meetings wherever possible, illustrated with slides, on the life of Christ. Hundreds of people have thus been enlightened on this point as well as on other great truths of God's word. Even though our hearers do not always understand everything, it is seldom

that they continue to speak ill of Adventists, once they are better acquainted with us. The reflections one overhears at the close of such a meeting are sometimes amusing: « Adventists are just like Catholics, only they don't believe in priests! » or « They are telling the truth about that at least. »

At St. Denis the people responded to our invitation in large numbers. The meetings held there were attended by an average of three hundred, and many of our former enemies are now numbered among our friends. The day will surely come when they will take their stand for the message. This year the harvest has been abundant; forty new converts have been baptized, making 1949 the best year since the beginning of the work in Réunion.

The reactions of our enemies are often anything but cordial. In one place where I was to hold a meeting, I was greeted with a volley of stones, and one person threatened me with an axe to keep me from passing in front of his house. Thanks to God's protection, I escaped unhurt except for a stone which struck me in the shoulder, and I was able to rejoin my friends, rejoicing at having been « counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. » In this village five persons now belong to our church.

There are always fanatics who never let slip an opportunity to trouble us. While a gate was being constructed in the wall of our property at St. Denis, practical jokers came several times to loosen the hinges and to scribble « Dirty Protestants » in the still fresh concrete. We were finally obliged to keep watch on the goings and comings. It reminded us of the time when Zerubbabel's men were rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, with a trowel in one hand and a sword in other. On other occasions the sign giving the time of our meetings was covered with filth from the gutter, or was torn down. We were forced to request the presence of the police at our lectures in order to avoid disturbances. We cannot take time here to enumerate all the intimidations resorted to by those who love darkness rather than light. In spite of everything, the church built on the solid Rock endures.

Réunion is not yet a paradise; rather, it is part of the great battlefield on which the forces of good and evil meet. There are on this island many precious pearls. It is for us as missionaries and as church members to search for them while God's grace lingers. You can help us with your prayers and your offerings.

A dispensary has been opened at St. Pierre, and more should be started, for the sick are many. At Le Port we have just purchased a building which formerly served as a liquor warehouse, and which can be remodeled to contain a chapel, a school, and a dispensary. However, we lack a doctor, nurses, and teachers. Who will volunteer to help in dethroning Bacchus and in enlisting his subjects under the banner of Prince Emmanuel?

The Bible Correspondence Course and Its Results

By M. Fridlin

Secretary, Press and Radio Department

As our readers are probably aware, it is only during the last two years that the Bible Correspondence Course has been instituted in several fields of our Division, in the confident expectation that it would prove an effective method of winning souls. This hope has not been disappointed. In 1949 there were 113 baptisms directly resulting from the course. These were divided among the various unions as follows: Austria stands at the head with 30; then comes one of our eastern fields with 26, Italy with 21, Switzerland with 16, France with 12, and Portugal with 8. The total enrollments amount to more than 21,000, of whom more than 8,000 are regularly studying the lessons.

J. Fehr, director of the Bible Correspondence School in German Switzerland, wrote a short time ago: « The Bible Correspondence Course is really a great blessing, and God is working on the hearts of those who study the lessons. In addition to the thirteen who have already been baptized, we have recently turned over a long list of names to our evangelists for follow-up work. »

Brother Fehr gives a number of excerpts from letters sent in with the lessons:

« This Bible course gets more and more interesting as it goes along, and often I find it hard to wait for the next lesson. My heartiest thanks! »

« Is this in the Bible, 'Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law'? I am almost convinced that the Sabbath is the right day. God grant me the strength to keep it! »

A doctor of philosophy writes: « I am finding your Bible course very interesting. People who speak contemptuously of the Bible have always seemed to me rather insipid. But when one reads the Bible for oneself, he unconsciously selects the passages which appeal particularly to him. Through these Bible lessons one is forced to read other parts as well, even the Old Testament, which was formerly odious to me, with the exception of the Psalms... Thanks again! »

Another says: « I hasten to express my heartfelt thanks for your broadcast of yesterday. I am now very happy, since I know what must be confessed to one's fellow men and what not. This has been troubling my mind for a long time. I have cherished a longing for light on this point, and it has fallen to my lot so unexpectedly that I simply must give expression to my joy. This broadcast brought balm to my wounded heart. I had begun to confess my sins to God and to men, but there were still some things which I was not sure whether or not I needed to confess before men. Now I am clear on the subject, and shall soon have made my covenant with God through baptism. I have no hesitation in saying that the Bible Correspondence Course has also contributed to this in large measure. It has removed many of my doubts, and I am learning to understand God's

word better and better and to find joy in reading and studying it. »

Charles Kamm, who is giving enthusiastic and careful leadership to the Bible Correspondence School in Alsace, sends the following stirring testimonies received from radio listeners:

« Through your Bible course and the radio broadcasts I have become a changed man. You may believe me when I tell you that often after one of your broadcasts I shed bitter tears of remorse for my sins; I cannot understand it, since ordinarily I do not cry easily. I tremble at the thought of how often we heedlessly neglect God's love. I hope many people will take part in this Bible course and so share in the spiritual blessings which result from it. »

« In four years God sent me four children. I could never attend a church service, since there was always a child needing its mother's care. A few weeks ago my four-year-old boy turned on the radio. I was about to scold him when I heard the hymn, « A Mighty Fortress Is Our God. » Hungrily I listened to the words. Not a Wednesday goes by now that I do not turn on « Die Stimme der Hoffnung » (The Voice of Hope). Was it an accident that my little boy went to the radio? No, a providence! »

These testimonies furnish a powerful evidence that the Bible Correspondence Course is an instrument placed in our hands by God to put us in contact with souls who could be reached in no other way.

By coincidence, a letter arrives at this moment from A. De Ligne, director of the Flemish Bible Correspondence School in Brussels. Brother De Ligne speaks also of victory. Eight persons, won through the Bible Correspondence Course alone, have just been baptized. A young woman who received the Flemish Bible lessons in a convent has left the convent as a result of the light received, and has been baptized.

A Carmelite priest, who has already forsaken monastic life, is continuing to study the correspondence lessons with great interest.

In Antwerp a college teacher is using the course for the religious instruction he gives his daughter each morning.

It is such experiences as these that demonstrate the possibilities lying within our grasp if we will utilize fully the resources of the Bible Correspondence Course. All our workers and members should take advantage of every opportunity to enroll new prospects, as well as to call attention to the radio program.

In closing we should mention that the Bible Correspondence Course has become a reality in far-off Madagascar. Already there are 150 enrollments for the French course and 400 for the one in Malagasy.

May the Lord continue to bless this interesting work, and may the people of God feel an ever-increasing burden for its development and promotion, until the day of glorious victory.

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First Impressions of Collonges

While observing the physical needs of our members in various parts of Europe, I have also had occasion to visit some of our training schools and seminaries. It seems to be true that distance lends enchantment, for one of the last schools on which I have called is the nearest one — the Séminaire Adventiste du Salève, at Collonges, France. However, last week, accompanied by my wife, I paid a short visit to that school too, and I should like to share with you our impressions.

Since we arrived on the campus at just about supper time, one of the first things that impressed us about the school was the cook. A guest, of course, is not supposed to eat very much of any one thing, but I simply did not want to stop with two of those crunchy oatmeal fritters!

We did not have opportunity to become personally acquainted with all of the faculty members in the short time that we were at the school, but we did observe the progress that they had made. Surprisingly enough, all of the advanced students could carry on a conversation in English, and it was interesting to discover the background and the aspirations of various students. We soon learned that the school has a definitely international character, because students are there from North Africa, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, and of course France.

Sitting in his room at a table which was well stacked with books and important-looking exercises, Adolphe Quirici from North Africa told us that he is preparing for the ministry. When his education is completed, he plans to return to his homeland and carry on evangelism. During the summer he had canvassed to earn his school expenses, which was a good thing, as much of his spare time while at the school is taken up by the progressive class work for the young people in that area.

Daniel Dorotich had all the chairs in the library stacked up on top of the tables and was proceeding to give the room a thorough cleaning when we accosted him. He explained to us that he was from Jugoslavia but that he is making France his second home. During the summer he too had canvassed, and he went on to tell us that one day each week, even during the school year, the students go out into the surrounding villages and towns to sell our literature. Brother Dorotich is also preparing for the ministry, and along with his present studies he finds time to keep in order the well-arranged library of 5,000 volumes,

It is seldom that a school can have an industry that greatly enhances the beauty of the school plant, but such is the case in Collonges. The whole landscape has been turned into a huge flower garden where a large number of students find pleasant and gainful employment; for, in spite of the fact that Collonges is separated from Geneva by a national boundary, I am told that great masses of these flowers find their way into that large metropolis and that people are willing to pay good prices for the lovely bouquets.

The assistant preceptor, Boris Paschkulew, expressed to us his concern over the coming examinations, but we are sure that from the studious, consecrated spirit he manifested, he will get through the examinations all right.

The preceptress, Miss Odette Mathey, took great pains to make us comfortable during our short stay at the school, and as we left, my wife and I agreed that the enthusiasm and consecration of the students in Collonges is second to none. We are confident that God is greatly blessing the work of the teachers and students in that institution.

D. G. ROSE
Director of European Relief.

Our Day of Opportunity in the Cameroun

Continued from page 6

ing forward and carrying the light of truth to hundreds of villages.

Upon returning to the office here in Berne, I find a letter that has just arrived, announcing that our Missionary Volunteers in Africa have just brought the message to five new villages by their testimony and their songs. A great « Share Your Faith » movement is also sweeping Africa, just as it is sweeping Europe and America.

Yes, in the heart of Africa today, doors of opportunity are open to us. We must find the needed missionaries and the funds in order to strengthen our work here in this field before it is forever too late. If we can strengthen the work which we are now doing, I am sure God will reveal to us a great miracle in souls won to the truth. Let us pray that God may use our faithful missionaries and each of us in gathering in the harvest.

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* * *
HERE AND THERE
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W. R. Beach and J. J. Aitken have returned from a mission trip to the Cameroun, and M. Fridlin and O. Schuberth from a trip to the Indian Ocean Union missions. They brought back inspiring reports concerning the progress of the work in our mission fields. Everywhere a special « Midcentury Evangelism » effort has been organized and launched. 1950 promises to be an outstanding year of soul winning in our union missions.

W. A. Butler, associate secretary of the General Conference Home Missionary Department, spent April and May in the Southern European Division. In addition to home missionary conventions held in France, Italy, and Austria, Elder Butler attended the annual meeting of the German-Swiss Conference, held in Berné, as well as that of the Belgian Conference at Brussels.

F. D. Nichol, editor of the **Review and Herald**, recently passed through Portugal, Spain, France, and Belgium on his way back to Washington from a trip which has taken him through the Australasian and Southern Asia divisions and the Middle East Union.

Our Malagasy radio program in Madagascar, which was started a little more than a year ago, is greatly appreciated by the management of the Madagascar broadcasting station. The director has offered us 45 minutes free time each week, instead of the 15 minutes we have had heretofore. This is a further proof that our program will make its way. Already 1,150 students have been enrolled in the Malagasy Bible Correspondence Course.

Two of our secretaries, Miss Isabelle Meyer and Miss Yvette Bénézech, are about to leave the Division office where Miss Meyer has worked so faithfully for ten years and Miss Bénézech for one year. Both, we are happy to say, are marrying evangelists and will undoubtedly be of much help to their husbands in the evangelistic work. The Division family wishes them Godspeed and God's blessing.

During the past weeks, a number of evangelistic centers, chapels, and institutions have been dedicated: Rome, April 1; the polyclinic and church hall at Bordeaux, April 15; an old people's home on April 18, at Pignan, South France; on April 22, a splendid church and evangelistic center at Nice; on May 6, our mission headquarters and evangelistic center in Athens. Some 500 people attended the Athens service. May 13 was the date for Vienna, Austria. In the heart of the city, at Nussdorferstrasse 5, we now have a fine building with space for union and publishing house headquarters, dwellings, youth facilities, and a fine church hall with 500 seats. The mayor of Vienna had his personal representative at the service. W. R. Beach, R. Gerber, A. Meyer, Dr. J. Nussbaum, Dr. H. Müller, and G. Haberey of the Division staff attended all or part of these dedicatory services.

Among the visitors passing through Berné on their way to the United States have been the following missionary families and others: Elder and Mrs. S. V. Stratford and B. O. Johanson of the Australasian Division; the Henry Meissner and R. H. Dinsbier families of the China Division; the R. B. Watts family, Dr. D. P. La Tourette and family, Elder and Mrs. P. L. Williams, Miss Elizabeth Rogers, Miss Irene Wakeham, Miss Nellie Ferree, and Edgar Cleveland of the Far Eastern Division; and the E. L. Branson and B. J. Mondics families of the Middle East Union Mission.

The « Voix de l'Espérance » male quartet recently gave a series of concerts in eight cities of the East France Conference. The attendance on the whole was very satisfactory, and the audience contributed generously to the collections which were taken. One interesting sidelight afforded by this personal contact of the quartet with its radio listeners was that a number of nurses in various places expressed their appreciation for the good which the « Voix de l'Espérance » program is doing their patients each Friday.

R. Bentz, who for thirteen years has worked faithfully in French Indo-China, was forced by circumstances to leave this field and return to his homeland. Brother Bentz has now accepted our invitation to serve in the French Cameroun and will leave France at the beginning of July. He is to be stationed at the Ndoumbi Mission, which has been without a missionary for the past five years. Sister Bentz, an efficient nurse, will have charge of the medical work in the Ndoumbi district.

One of our finest evangelistic centers is nearing completion in Algiers, North Africa. In order to take full advantage of this new building and to give a new impulse to the evangelistic work in North Africa, the North African Union Mission has requested the services of one of our most experienced and successful French evangelists, Charles Winandy, to hold a large evangelistic effort for one or two years in Algiers. Elder Winandy is expected to arrive in Algiers at the beginning of September. He will be accompanied by Brother and Sister A. Aulin, who will assist in the effort. Miss Irene Gerber, of the Gland Sanitarium, has been asked to serve in the institution « Vie et Santé » in Algiers and should reach her new field of labor toward the middle of September. We feel sure that these new workers will prove a real asset to the North African Union Mission.

P. Nouan, accompanied by his wife and child, left Paris by Air France on April 19, enroute to Tahiti by way of Australia. Elder Nouan will be in charge of the work in the Society Islands Mission, a group of islands belonging to the French government.

E. H. Knautt has had to give up his work in Austria as president of the Alpine Conference, due to a physical condition which necessitates his returning to the States. He has given good service during the past two years and more, and it is with much regret that the Alpine Conference workers and members, as well as the Division, bid farewell to Elder Knautt and his family. We wish him all possible success in his future labors.