

QUARTERLY REVIEW

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



A Tour of Inspection

By **M. V. Campbell**

President, Southern European Division

The mission fields of the Southern European Division cover an immense territory, and with their large populations constitute a great challenge to the Advent people. This was made very clear to me as I visited them for a period of three months in company with Elder M. Fridlin. We spent some time at nearly every mission station in the French Cameroun, Angola, Mozambique and the islands of Mauritius, Reunion and Madagascar. It was my first contact with any of these fields and it was Elder Fridlin's first visit to Angola and Mozambique.

Several heroes of our mission work are still laboring where, many years ago, they pioneered the way. News of their activities and sacrifices had reached me over the years as accounts of mission progress were given by division leaders at Autumn Council sessions. I looked forward to the trip as a time when I could see these men actually engaged in their mission work. Several of them I had met briefly at General Conference sessions or Division Councils. But this trip offered opportunity to see them in their fields and to witness the fruit of their labors.

I had seen pictures of Elder R. Bergström and remembered the accounts I had heard and read of the early work which he and his late wife undertook to bring the gospel to the wild pagan tribes living in the mountains of North French Cameroun. We

spent five days with this man of God at the Dogba and Koza Missions. It was at Dogba that Brother and Sister Bergström started their work twenty-five years ago among people who knew nothing of Christianity. They lived in a temporary house for eighteen years. Then, when they had a strong church organization and had erected a good mission house, they left it and this well-established station to another missionary and pushed farther into the mountains to Koza, in order, again, to be able to bring Jesus to people who had never heard His name. Following his wife's death, two years ago, Brother Bergström continued all alone in this primitive field.

Soon, however, others joined him. The Division, in fact, decided to make the Koza station, located as it is among perhaps the most primitive tribes of Africa, an important medical center. First, Doctor and Mrs. Brennwald and Miss H. Tierce were sent, and now Doctor and Mrs. A. Bergman are also on their way. Doctor Brennwald took his medical course in Switzerland and later was connected with the Washington Sanitarium. Miss Tierce took her nurses' course at the Gland Sanitarium. Doctor Bergman took his degree in medicine at the College of Medical Evangelists. Both Doctor Brennwald and Mrs. Bergman are children of Elder F. Brennwald, formerly treasurer of this Division and now associate auditor of the General Conference.

At the time Brother Fridlin and I visited Koza we found Elder Bergström, Dr. and Mrs. Brennwald and their baby, and Miss Tierce all living in a four-room house which will, eventually, become the school. A mission house was under construction and the site for the hospital had been selected, the ground cleared and the stones for the structure had been gathered. There was a small building which was being used as a dispensary, though many of the treatments were given in the open air. The new hospital will soon be under construction as well as homes for the physicians.

In a few months, Elder Bergström's dream of a strong medical center will be realized. He is himself a nurse, as was also his late wife, and it was through their medical work that they won their way at Dogba. He feels that a hospital with a Godly missionary staff will be the means of bringing the savage people in the vicinity of Koza to a knowledge of the Great Physician. Soon there will be at this station two medical doctors and, including Elder Bergström and Mrs. Brennwald, five graduate nurses. At present the native people are coming to the dispensary in large numbers. Thus far they have had no experience with major surgery. There are no beds for the patients at the dispensary and few, if any of these people, have ever seen a bed. By the time the hospital is finished and equipped it is hoped and fully expected that those who are in need of major surgery will by then have enough confidence in the physicians to submit to it.

From the North Cameroun we went south to Yaoundé, the headquarters of our work in French Equatorial Africa. Elder A. Cosendai, the Union president, who has served in the Cameroun for the past eighteen years, had been with us during our visit to the Dogba and Koza Missions and now in his Willys four-wheel-drive car he took us to the mission stations at Sangmélina, Bertoua, Batouri and Nanga-Eboko. At Sangmélina, we met Elder and Mrs. I. Curmatureau and their two younger children. They have been missionaries in this field for eighteen years. Here we found a large and comfortable mission house and a school. The church is a temporary building, actually only a thatched roof on poles. A new church building had been started, but construction was halted and cannot be taken up again until further funds become available. It was at this church, at the Sabbath service, that Elder Fridlin introduced me to a lady, the story of whose conversion interested me greatly. Many years ago, when Brother Fridlin was the leader of our work in Southern Cameroun, he opened a new outstation at Kongo. To get there it was necessary to pass through his lady's village. She stopped him to inquire how she might learn the gospel. He told her the only way he knew would be for her to

go to Kongo as often as possible and attend the classes. In spite of the fact that this is a distance of forty kilometers or twenty-five miles, she walked there every Friday and spent the Sabbath, and then walked back to her village again on Sunday. She did this regularly for the long period it took to complete the learners' and baptismal classes. Now for many years she has been a faithful church member.

Before leaving Sangmélina the national worker took us to visit a leper village where he interpreted while Elder Fridlin preached to these unfortunate people. The pastor obtained permission from the village chief, himself a leper, to conduct regular meetings at the village. We learned one reason for the pastor's interest when we met his brother and leper wife who live there.

At Bertoua, Elder and Mrs. R. Benz are laboring for the Mata tribe. At this station we now have 300 members. There is a small dispensary and a school. Before coming to Africa, Brother and Sister Benz were missionaries in French Indochina.

Our visit to the Batouri mission was just before Elder and Mrs. Matton left for Europe, where they have returned permanently due to Mrs. Matton's health. This station is in the Kaka tribe, which has practised cannibalism until recent years. People of the neighboring Baya tribe are still cannibals. Among them, too, we have active work. Elders Cosendai, Matton, Fridlin and I spent a day in a Baya village and found that our national evangelist who is working there is having good success. He introduced us to six baptized members and we also inspected a school which one of our teachers is conducting in this village.

Nanga-Eboko for many years was the headquarters of our work in the French Cameroun. Only in recent years was it transferred to Yaoundé. At Nanga-Eboko we have a large school under the direction of Professor P. Bernard. In addition there is a training school being conducted by Elder S. Meyer, the mission president. At the time of our visit, Brother and Sister M. Fayard were assisting there awaiting assignment to a mission of their own. It was decided by the union committee to send them to Batouri to follow Elder and Mrs. Matton.

At Nanga-Eboko, for nearly a week all the missionaries both European and African assembled to study ways to strengthen our work in French Equatorial Africa. It was decided to open educational work for African girls. Until the present time there has been provision only for boys at our schools, except for the girls who are near enough to live at home. It is now planned to build a dormitory for young ladies that they, too, may have the

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Our Newest Mission Field

By Otto Schubert

Recently the General Conference took an action assigning a new mission field to the Southern European Division. Because of the tension existing between Israel and her neighbor, it is impossible for the Middle East Division to care for this former field. Consequently, until now it has been administered by the General Conference itself. The distance between Washington and Jerusalem being so great, we have been asked to take over this mission. To make the first contact, R. Gerber, Division treasurer and the writer visited Israel the beginning of May of this year.

Just our plane landed at Tel-Aviv at half past five in the morning, a native employee of the airport stepped on board and welcomed us in English and Hebrew to Israel's soil.

J. O. Wilson, president of the mission, was waiting for us at the exit with his car, and in the beautiful early morning we drove to Jerusalem, a distance eastward of about sixty-two miles. On the way we saw a few deserted Arab villages and several new Jewish settlements. The latter are usually a number of small, modest, one-family houses.

In Jerusalem I found that a great many changes had taken place since I worked there eighteen years ago. The mission headquarters building is still standing; but the colorful oriental life, with its donkeys, camels, and Arab population as in the time of Christ, has been toned down to sober, commonplace, almost entirely European street scenes.

The «new» Jerusalem has grown tremendously. The entrance to the old city with its temple site is barricaded with barbed wire entanglements.

We were accommodated in the Y. M. C. A. building which is just across the street from the mission headquarters. This building is said to be the second largest of this organization in the world — the one in Chicago being the largest. It is a beautiful structure. The rooms are very clean with hot and cold running water. Here one sees no trace of oriental negligence. The hotel manager is an American, and most of the employees are Christian Arabs.

After a short rest we were ready for work. The president is assisted by a converted Jewish minister who worked for a number of years in our Jewish mission school in New York. With them we counselled together and laid plans for the future. The following day E. E. Roenfelt, the representative to whom the General Conference had entrusted the administration of this mission, arrived in Jerusalem, returning from Australia to Washington. The official transfer of the field then took place.



Israel Mission headquarters, Jerusalem

Evenings and on Sabbath we met with the members in the mission headquarters hall, which has a seating capacity of eighty. On Sabbath forty members, practically all of whom are of Jewish extraction, were present. The Bulgarian immigrants were the most numerous in the congregation, but there were also Yugoslavians, Rumanians, and Germans — all of whom had sought a new home in Israel following World War II.

The English sermon was translated into Bulgarian, Rumanian, and German. The Lord richly blessed our small gathering. The members were cheered, and solemnly vowed that in the future they would be truer than ever to the third angel's message.

On Sunday we made a tour of the country, visiting Nazareth, Cana, and the Sea of Galilee. This region is still partly populated by Arabs as fewer Jewish immigrants have settled here, with the exception of Tiberias which has grown into a flourishing modern city.

In Nazareth we were shown the place where the house is supposed to have stood where Joseph, Mary and their Son Jesus lived; and in Cana a chapel has been built over the spot where it is believed Jesus performed His first miracle at the marriage feast. Arab women in their colorful dress were drawing water at a near-by fountain — perhaps the very fountain where the water Jesus turned into wine was drawn.

On Monday we counselled together for the last time before our departure.

The work in Israel must be carried forward with judicious planning in order to avoid all difficulties. We must announce the last message of hope and warning in this land also, for surely here as elsewhere many souls are seeking for salvation.

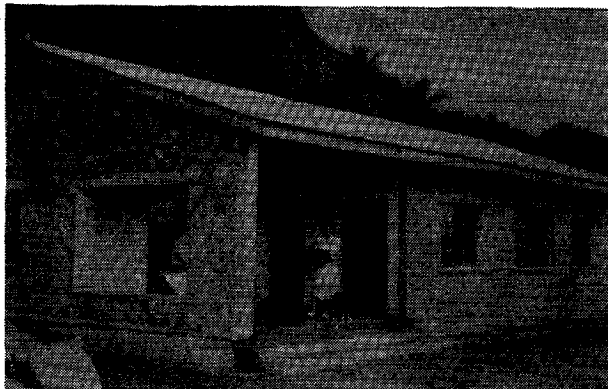
The Seychelles Islands Mission

By E. Vervoort

From the very beginning of the work in these islands, the brethren felt that our own denominational schools were an absolute necessity in this country where the Roman church reigns with its marvelous medieval methods. To establish such schools was one of the predominant desires of the first missionary, Karl Sturzenegger. The isolation of these islands increased considerably during the years of war, but this did not keep our brother from carrying out his cherished project, and a beginning was made in the city of Victoria. Although modest, this school contributed greatly in holding together under the influence of the gospel a number of our young children. Today they form the heart of the Adventist youth in the Seychelles Islands.

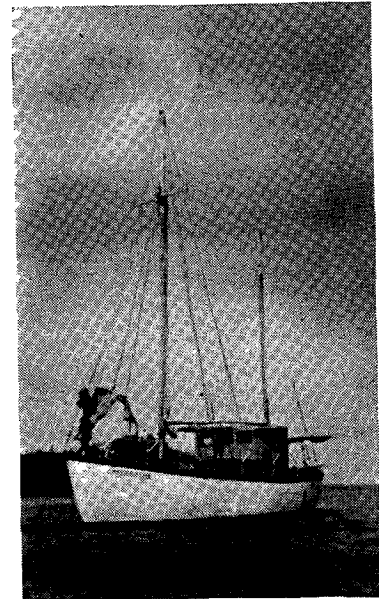
During the post-war years, the government sincerely endeavored to give a neutral educational system to the Seychelles; but the politicians, influenced by Rome, knew how to exploit the situation, and to such an extent that today the Roman church has a fuller control than ever of both elementary and secondary teaching.

Our mission had secured a property in the neighborhood of Victoria, and it was there that H. Salzmann worked to give a material form to his desire to furnish the mission with an elementary school. Later this project became our heritage, but the whole field will ever be grateful to these first missionaries for their vision and their faith in this enterprise which has finally been crowned with success.



Elementary school, Seychelles Islands Mission

The
Maranatha



A new property, larger and better situated than the first one, was bought at the beginning of 1953. The entire church set to work to clear the ground, for the country is mountainous and to level the least plot demands hard effort.

No sooner was the building lot levelled than the construction of the first two classrooms began. In September, 1953, our children who were already meeting in a room which had been temporarily fitted up for them in the mission hall — thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of H. Pichot, president of the union in 1952 — were able to move into their new quarters with their teacher Miss Hermance Calais. At the beginning of 1954 the building was completed, and school began to run normally, offering full elementary education under the direction of Miss Calais and her two assistants, Eglantine Collie and Bertrice Rosette. The number of pupils had doubled in spite of an aggressive campaign against the school. We are confident that the progress obtained in this school will decide many parents to entrust their children to us in the future, and that it will play an important part in finishing the work of God in the Seychelles.

In the meantime the former property has been sold, and towards the end of 1954 the work of constructing a house on the new property was undertaken, thus completing this mission station in the neighborhood of Victoria.

We have also the firm hope of soon bringing the isolation of our work in the Seychelles Islands to an end. A small mission boat was launched to insure the work of evangelizing this archipelago. Thanks to this little ship we are now able to carry on a larger maritime work in the islands west of the Indian Ocean, bringing them into more frequent contact with the union base in Madagascar. In this undertaking we have tried to follow the work being

done in the islands of the Pacific where our brethren have solved their problems of transportation by launching a large number of small mission boats perfectly capable of riding the high seas.

Thus after twenty-five years our members in the Seychelles look toward the future with confidence to the time when they too may have the privilege of receiving their visiting brethren from other lands, and when they themselves may gather at mission and union assemblies to cheer and strengthen their hearts. It is in places of isolation that the child of God grasps the importance of fellowship with those who elsewhere believe in this divine cause and battle and pray for it.

News from Morocco

By Ch. Cornaz

Casablanca, Morocco.

The French protectorate of Morocco is populated by almost 8,000,000 natives and 300,000 Europeans. This country is being enriched and developed before one's very eyes. Towns are springing up rapidly.

Entire districts are built up in a few months. Dams preventing the flow of millions of cubic meters of water (immense sources of energy, and an inestimable reserve supply for irrigating the valleys below) are built in an amazingly short period.

Morocco is a country of contrasts. In neighboring fields can be seen camels drawing a crude plough which scarcely breaks up the soil, and heavy tractors ploughing deep furrows. The hillsides are terraced with beautiful orchards. What a feast for the eyes are these orange groves just before



Baptismal ceremony, Morocco

fruit-gathering time! It helps us visualize the gardens of the new earth.

The native population, however, can scarcely keep pace with the rhythm of modern civilization. Their ancestral customs subjugate men, women, and children to ways of living which are contrary to the most elementary laws of hygiene. Veiled women, with their children on their backs, and often carrying heavy burdens besides, trudge along behind donkeys on which their husbands are unconcernedly seated.

Most Europeans have come to Morocco to make their fortune as rapidly as possible, and they bend all their efforts towards the realization of their ambitions. But how many hearts even among these are thirsting for spiritual life! Truly, the seeking of earthly riches does not satisfy the human heart. The needs of the «inner man» make themselves felt, and all the more so in moments of lonely isolation.

The disturbing political factors, and a feeling of insecurity sometimes contribute to turn man's conscience heavenwards. The present unrest prevents people from attending public gatherings, but prepares them to receive the good news of the gospel in their homes. The living testimony of our brethren and sisters is especially appreciated here. This opens doors and prepares the way for the evangelist. The colporteurs, in turn, clear the way for the Bible correspondence course. The young people in our churches are studying the message with joy and praiseworthy assiduousness.

A round of visits in the interior permitted us to better comprehend the needs of this vast field. Distances are immense. Oudjda near the Moroccan-

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STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OF JUNE 30, 1955

S. D. A. FOR THE QUARTER ENDING

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	Sab. School Membership	Number of Sab. Schools	Average Attendance	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV.																								
AUSTRIAN UNION CONF.													3	1	3	4	—	—	—	11				
Alpine Conference	19	1145	46	6	2	54	6	4	12	22	32	1177	7	4	2	1	1	—	6	21	19	1287	876	
Danube »	21	1488	30	1	10	41	14	4	14	32	9	1497	5	4	1	2	1	—	16	29	21	1602	1048	
Total :	40	2633	76	7	12	95	20	8	26	54	41	2674	15	9	6	7	2	—	22	61	40	2889	1924	
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN U. C.																								
Total :	114	6524	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6524	33	3	2	3	19	—	8	68	160	6000	5400	
FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.																								
Belgian Conference	14	933	21	1	4	26	4	5	5	14	12	945	5	1	—	4	—	—	—	10	21	14	967	631
East France »	18	516	17	—	1	18	—	4	1	5	13	529	7	2	1	5	—	1	5	21	16	528	369	
North France »	18	1263	14	4	3	21	5	8	17	30	-9	1254	4	1	1	6	—	1	5	18	16	1315	1101	
Southeast France »	22	1014	8	3	2	13	3	1	5	9	4	1018	8	6	1	8	3	—	18	46	18	999	714	
Southwest France »	7	222	5	1	—	6	—	1	—	1	5	227	2	2	1	4	—	—	5	14	9	310	235	
Total :	79	3948	65	9	10	84	12	19	28	59	25	3973	36	15	5	31	5	3	49	144	84	4119	3050	
HUNGARIAN U. C.																								
Total :	155	6827	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6827	26	10	4	15	35	—	—	90	175	7000	6500	
JUGOSLAVIAN U. C.																								
Total :	230	7658	246	—	—	246	12	—	—	12	234	7892	47	11	2	8	23	—	—	91	300	9000	8500	
RUMANIAN U. C.																								
Total :	551	41290	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41290	78	11	—	47	—	—	—	136	560	40000	40000	
SWISS U. C.																								
German Swiss Conference	34	1920	30	4	16	50	3	5	12	20	30	1950	10	1	2	12	2	5	22	54	34	1752	1190	
Leman »	26	1357	22	2	3	27	2	5	4	11	16	1373	9	3	1	5	2	3	15	38	24	1264	1009	
Total :	60	3277	52	6	19	77	5	10	16	31	46	3323	19	4	4	20	4	8	37	96	58	3016	2199	
ANGOLA UNION MISSION																								
Bongo Mission	23	4108	—	—	—	—	61	4	8	73	-73	4035	4	1	—	4	—	—	1	10	99	7571	5620	
Cuale »	1	522	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	7	529	5	9	—	15	—	36	—	65	54	4954	2514	
Lucusse »	1	129	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	132	3	1	—	1	—	10	—	13	12	599	415	
Luz »	1	611	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	611	3	3	—	3	—	25	—	34	25	1453	1027	
Namba »	1	1061	—	—	—	—	269	38	66	373	373	688	1	1	—	—	—	14	—	16	37	2086	1895	
Nova Lisboa Mission	22	1745	—	—	—	—	159	11	109	279	279	1466	3	7	—	—	—	31	—	41	71	4561	2990	
Quilenguas »	1	—	—	—	77	77	—	—	—	—	77	77	1	1	—	1	—	9	—	12	22	955	563	
European Church	2	—	—	—	92	92	—	—	—	—	92	92	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	6	3	136	116	
Total :	52	8176	—	—	179	179	489	53	183	725	-546	7630	23	25	—	30	—	147	1	226	323	22315	15140	
FRENCH EQ. AFR. U. M.																								
Batouri Mission	3	576	80	—	—	80	5	4	—	9	71	647	3	2	1	11	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	
Bertoua »	2	347	16	—	—	16	—	2	—	2	14	361	1	1	—	6	13	11	1	33	21	2116	1500	
Kribi »	3	326	13	2	—	15	4	1	—	5	10	336	2	1	—	4	12	9	—	28	16	1495	864	
Nanga-Eboko »	4	1783	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	379	-379	1404	3	2	—	5	5	15	—	30	14	640	512	
Sangmelima »	2	307	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	-5	302	1	1	—	4	12	2	—	20	21	1069	905	
Yaoundé »	4	450	30	—	—	30	—	1	—	1	29	479	3	1	—	4	6	14	—	28	10	768	528	
Total :	4	108	11	—	379	390	5	—	—	5	385	493	1	4	—	2	7	17	2	33	16	955	814	
Maroua »	22	3897	150	2	379	531	14	13	379	406	125	4022	15	17	1	42	79	90	3	247	125	11131	8654	

A Tour of Inspection

(continued from page 2)

benefit of the education, culture and Biblical training which until now has been denied them. There are at present in the French Equatorial Union Mission twenty-one churches and nearly four thousand members.

The next field which we visited was Angola. It is a Portuguese colony and we were impressed with the progressive work of these people. Large productive farms have been located in sections which, a few years ago, were wilderness. There are beautiful cities which would do credit to any country of Europe and which are inhabited entirely by Europeans. There is, however, a vast population of Africans who know little, if anything, of the gospel. We were happy to see the excellent progress our work has made in this important field. Until five years ago, Angola was administered by the Southern African Division and the missionaries came from America and from the Union of South Africa. Since becoming a part of the Southern European Division, all new missionaries have been called from Portugal and now nearly all stations are manned by Portuguese. Elder M. Lourinho, the union president, is giving excellent leadership and we found the work making good progress both in the cities among the Europeans and in our mission stations in primitive sections of the land.

In Luanda, the beautiful northern seaport of Angola, Elder A. J. Rodrigues, the pastor, showed us the rented hall where our meetings have been held for many years and then took us to a well-located piece of property which has been donated by a citizen who is interested in the truth. It provides an ideal site for an Adventist church building and we hope that in the near future it can be used for that purpose.

Farther south there is another beautiful city by the sea, named Benguela. It, too, is a city equal in beauty and progress to any of equal size in Europe or America. Here it was my privilege to preach the dedicatory sermon at a most attractive church built for Europeans. Brother J. Miranda, the pastor, and his wife are both graduates of Atlantic Union College and are American citizens, though Brother Miranda came originally from Portugal. There seems to be little, if any, prejudice against our message in this important city. The radio broadcast the services from our church throughout Angola on the week-end of the dedication. It also carries our Voice of Hope program each week. The Benguela newspapers published accounts and photographs of the dedication service.

The headquarters for our work in Angola are located at Nova-Lisboa, a rapidly growing inland city. There we have an attractive compound which originally was some distance from town, but the city has grown around it on all sides. Here are located our union office, our church and the homes of the union officers and department secretaries.

Without question, the most influential activity of our denomination in Angola is the hospital at Bongo. It was opened a quarter of a century ago by Dr. R. B. Parsons, who is still its medical superintendent. At the time of its opening, Bongo was merely a place in the wilderness near the tribes for which work was intended. Doctor Parsons' reputation as a surgeon spread throughout Angola so that not only the Africans but large numbers of Europeans come there for medical help. A new addition is being erected to add facilities for the Africans and another addition must be made to accommodate many more Europeans. Business men have erected three hotels just outside the gates of our mission property to care for relatives of European patients at the Bongo hospital. Government officials and prominent business men have been so favorably impressed by the work of Doctor Parsons that they have in many instances given our denominational work very friendly help when we have been in need of their assistance. The Bongo Mission has become a small town with its homes for our missionaries and institutional employees, its hospital and school. The Bongo Mission now administers twenty-three churches, with nearly 4,000 members and well over 6,000 Sabbath School members.

A new station was opened three years ago, at Quilengues. For many years we have owned an extensive property there, but never before has a European family been assigned to it. Brother and Sister de Sà were sent there and already they have a church, a school, and a mission home. Many hectares of land are under cultivation and it is hoped that the income from agriculture will support the mission and permit many outstations. Brother and Sister de Sà are both nurses who have served many years at the Bongo hospital. Brother de Sà is also an architect and this training has been of great help in the mission building program.

In the far interior of Angola is the growing city of Vila Luso. Here we have recently acquired a well-located property for a European church and a house for a worker. The buildings have not yet been started and are awaiting funds for the purpose. Work should certainly be opened as soon as possible

in this important city. Not far from Vila Luso are the Luz and Lucusse Missions. There was not sufficient time to visit both of them, but we spent two days at Luz. Brother and Sister V. Chaves, of Lucusse, were later at the union committee and workers' meeting at Nova-Lisboa, where we had the privilege of becoming acquainted with them. We were sorry we could not also see their mission. Two families are stationed at Luz: Elder M. Castro, the mission president, and Brother C. Esteves, who is in charge of the school. The work is making good progress there. At the union committee meeting it was decided to place Elder Castro in charge of the Bongo school. There is the possibility of uniting the Luz and Lucusse Missions, making the headquarters at Vila Luso.

Our mission in Mozambique was recently added to the Angola Union and in company with Elder Lourinho, the union president, we crossed Africa to this important and interesting field and spent several days in Lourenço-Marques attending committee meetings.

The remaining mission field on our tour was the Indian Ocean Union. We first visited the island of Mauritius and to get there it was necessary to go to the city of Johannesburg and fly out over the Indian Ocean for nearly 2,000 miles. At Johannesburg we spent a Sabbath, where we met with the central church in the morning and attended a dedicatory service at a nearby town in the afternoon where a church had just been completed. On the small island of Mauritius we have a strong work and nearly 1,000 members. There are thirteen churches and an important school. Here, Elder P. Girard, the union president, arrived from Madagascar to meet us and he with Elder R. Buyck, the mission president, and Prof. A. Richli, the school principal, took us to see our denominational interests. An evangelistic campaign was being conducted in Port-Louis, the capital city, by Elder Buyck, assisted by Professor Richli. We attended its final meeting and found the theater packed with people and not a vacant chair anywhere visible. We also saw our church building in this city to which the meetings were transferred. It is an old building entirely inadequate and due to its timbers being infested by white ants, it is unsafe. Our members have long hoped for a new church building in this important city and have been contributing funds for this purpose for several years. It is one of the great needs of the field. Since our return to Europe, the General Conference and the Division have made available money which will soon make the hope of our believers in Port-Louis a reality.

Professor Richli and his faculty are conducting a school to which large numbers of students come to study for the Cambridge examination. All take

Bible classes too. It is one of our best potential evangelizing agencies, as the students are largely non-Adventist and many are non-Christian.

From Mauritius we went to the beautiful island of Reunion. It is settled by French people and in religion it is almost wholly Catholic. The people have been fanatical in their loyalty to their church. Elder Girard, who was the pioneer worker there, told us of the early days when mobs would follow him down the streets throwing stones and overripe vegetables. There are now five Adventist churches on the island, with a membership of 250. Elder and Mrs. J. Surel were just leaving Reunion for France when we were there and we spent with them their last week-end with the people for whom they have been laboring. During Elder Surel's administration the membership has grown and there has been good progress in departmental objectives.

The last field visited on our journey was Madagascar, a huge island about the size of the State of Texas. There we have a growing work and many congregations and church buildings. After a brief stop at Tananarive, the capital, we went to the north end of the island to Diego-Suarez, where Elder Fayard is conducting the work. Brother and Sister E. Vervoort, who had sailed from the Seychelles Islands to see us, were there when we arrived. They came in the mission's ocean-going ship, the Maranatha. As Brother and sister Vervoort were starting their furlough and were on their way to Europe, this ship, with the church elder, its builder, at the helm turned back on its long voyage to the Seychelles.

Travelling down the west coast we came to Majunga, where Elder and Mrs. E. Villeneuve are the missionaries. They have served in Madagascar for many years. At Majunga we have a good church building with a mission home beside it. It is well located, in a section of the town where there are several other churches, and of the group ours looks the most attractive. The same day we arrived, Brother H. Long came in from his station, where he is conducting a training school. The group of us then went to visit several of the outstations and schools of the mission. Both Elder Villeneuve and Brother Long speak the Malagasy language and this a great asset in their work.

On arriving again at Tananarive, Elder and Mrs. Girard took Elder Fridlin and me by car to the south, where we visited our churches at Antsirabé and Ambositra, and then spent the Sabbath at Fianarantsoa. Brother and Sister H. Salzmann are located here. A new church building is being erected for our congregation, but work has temporarily been stopped for lack of funds.

Still farther south, where we have no workers, there is perhaps the greatest interest on the whole island. If there were funds to open a new station it would without doubt be unusually productive, for it is there that we have the greatest interest developed by our radio and the Bible correspondence school. Every week the message is preached over the radio in both the French and Malagasy languages and these broadcasts are heard in all parts of the island. It is, however, in the southern part which is as yet unentered and where no one can follow up the interest that the largest response has developed. At the union headquarters there is a map of the island of Madagascar with marks indicating the locations of interests from the Bible correspondence course and the radio. There is hardly any part of the island without students, but they seem to be massed in the south. Hundreds of these students have graduated from the course and know the truth thoroughly. Many of them are keeping the Sabbath and awaiting the visit of a worker.

In the city of Tamatave, on the eastern side of the island, our members have been thrown into perplexity because their church building and school had been wrecked by the city in its re-zoning plan. The city is erecting its best residential apartments in that neighborhood. The only compensation given for our building, which was on government owned property, was new property, unusually well located, on which we can rebuild at our own expense. We conducted a meeting with our members in a temporary split bamboo building. They were joyful over the prospect of having a new church through the generosity of our believers throughout the world at the time of the Thirteenth Sabbath offering on Christmas Day. Let us hope that a sufficient overflow will accrue to care for this and the many other projects in our field which are dependent on it.

About forty kilometers from Tamatave a new mission has been opened by Brother and Sister H. Drouault, who have recently arrived from America. Brother Drouault is no stranger to Madagascar, as he spent his boyhood there and speaks the Malagasy language. The new station is located on a large river which connects several lakes as it flows on its way farther south to the sea. On the banks of the river and the shores of the connected lakes are many villages. The Missionary Volunteer societies of the Division furnished a large ship which Brother Drouault uses in his missionary work taking the gospel to these villages. It is a forty-foot ship which furnishes living quarters for the family on its voyages. As yet there is no adequate building to house Elder and Mrs. Drouault and their family on the mission station. They are at present living in a split bamboo house. It serves as a shelter, but certainly is unsuitable in that country which is so regularly visited by cy-

clones. Something must be done to care for this fine missionary family.

In Tananarive we have the headquarters of the Indian Ocean Union. There are several Adventist churches in this area and a large membership. The most important denominational activity is our school work under the direction of Dr. J. Zurcher. There are two schools, one situated in the city with 700 pupils, while the training school is at the edge of town with an enrolment of 445. Until recently there has been no accommodation for bringing the students together for chapel services or Sabbath worship. These services are very important, for the students are mostly not of our faith and the educational work is for the purpose of winning them to the truth. A chapel has been started and the first section is completed which now seats 500 people. We hope that it can be finished soon to provide fully for chapel and Sabbath worship facilities which are so important.

During the week we spent at Tananarive we attended meetings of the union committee and a large gathering of our people on the Sabbath day. During the committee meetings plans were laid for continued strong work in every part of the field and at its close Elder Fridlin and I returned to Europe. The three months which we spent in the mission field with noble brethren and sisters who have dedicated their lives to foreign mission work was a great inspiration to us. In the homeland we have little realization of the sacrifices which our missionaries face day by day, nor of the loneliness which they endure. However, in spite of privations and separation from their loved ones I found them to be a very happy people, joyful in their service. They richly merit our profound respect and honor. Their only reward in this life is the satisfaction of seeing souls won to God. In the new earth the jewels which they have searched out and found will add luster to the Master's kingdom throughout eternity. Let us pray for and support our missionary brethren through generous mission offerings.

There is still a vast work to be done, but we believe that God will cut it short in righteousness. Today is the day of opportunity in the mission lands.



News from Morocco

(continued from page 5)

Algerian border, is as far from Casablanca, the mission headquarters, as is Geneva from Paris. The servants of God are working with perseverance and courage amidst difficult circumstances and exposed to many dangers. Nothing can stop the expansion of truth. The power of the gospel gives us access to the hardest hearts.

At Oudjda, Paul Gilson has seen his efforts crowned with success to the glory of God. A group of believers has been organized, and meets in a fine little hall — a veritable sanctuary — in a new building right in the center of the city. There are very bright prospects for the future of God's work in the city of Oudjda.

Emil Haran is the evangelist in Fès and Meknès. Every week he gives a public lecture in each of our two meeting-halls. The attendance is regular and attentive. He has had the joy of seeing some souls follow « The Way » and prepare for the return of their Saviour.

Adolph Quirici who is in charge of the work at Rabat and Port-Lyautey, is perseveringly and conscientiously carrying on in these cities. He has been made the elder of his church, and is a respected and beloved shepherd. A number of persons have been baptized and others are preparing for this sacred rite.

The church in Casablanca is very wide awake. The majority of the members are young or in the prime of life. A large evangelistic effort is being carried on in this city of 800,000 inhabitants. Without any publicity or expense, the brethren and sisters are contacting dozens of persons who later are visited and instructed systematically.

One great problem confronts us, and causes us considerable anxiety. How shall we be able to receive these new converts into our place of worship when the time comes for them to attend Sabbath services? Even now we are meeting in cramped quarters. We have outgrown our meeting-hall, and are looking for ground on which to construct an evangelistic center, and for funds to complete the modest savings we have set aside for this project. But our hope is in God. Is not the Master of the vineyard also the legitimate Owner of all earthly riches?

The young people are active and joyfully participating in the advancement of the cause. A number have felt the divine calling, and are looking towards Collonges and a preparation for God's work.

Our eyes are now turned southward, to Marrakech, the capital, where a number of persons love and are interested in the truth. A missionary layman will settle here shortly, and open the way for the worker we hope to send to that city in a year or two.

Brethren and sisters, will you not join with us in praying for the work in Morocco? We are so helpless in this vast territory. With all our hearts we lay claim to the latter rain, without which earth's harvest can never ripen. The promises cannot fail. We have confidence in them. The expression of our grateful adoration ascends to God.

NEWS FROM JEWISH BIBLE SCHOOL

by Mrs. **Ena Ferguson**, secretary Bible School

During the past several months that Faith for Today has been operating the Jewish Bible School, 410 students have been enrolled as active students. Approximately one-third of this number are from the New York area, another third from Florida, and the remaining third are scattered over the United States.

Unlike average Bible School enrollees, Jewish students are keen and ardent scholars. They often return lessons the same day they are received. There is not much of a problem in handling their quiz sheets, because they seldom make a mistake.

However, they do ask questions which require thoughtful accurate answers, so it is no easy job to handle the Jewish mail. They raise objections to gospel truths which do not baffle Christians at all. For instance, Jewish students keenly resent being called sinners. Having lived up to the law according to their understanding, they object strongly to the suggestion that they are sinners and need salvation.

Reaction to the lesson introducing the Messiah is varied. Some skip the question, « do you feel in your heart you wish to accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah? » requesting that the following lesson be forwarded anyway. Others indicate their desire to follow Him. Unique in all the history of Faith For Today Bible School questions is that of a converted Jew. Most students gladly assent to the Sabbath truth, but this man had a real problem:

« I was brought up to keep the Sabbath when I was in the Jewish faith. When I accepted Christianity I was taught to give it up and observe Sunday. Now I am studying your lessons which teach that Christians, too, should keep the Bible Sabbath. I am confused. What shall I believe? »

Pray that many among the lost sheep of the house of Israel may find their way into full fellowship with the remnant people.

SOUTHERN EUROPEAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

Organ of the Southern European Division
of Seventh-day Adventists published every quarter
Address of Editor (to whom all manuscripts should be sent)
Höheweg 17, Berne, Switzerland.

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Here and There



In order to reduce administrative expenses and to give greater emphasis to evangelism, which is the primary duty and goal of this denomination, the **Franco-Belgian Union Conference**, and the **Italian Union Mission** have re-organized their territories. The North France, East France, Southeast France, and Southwest France Conferences have been united into one conference — the French Conference — with headquarters at 130, Boulevard de l'Hôpital, Paris 13^{me}. F. Lavanchy, president of the Franco-Belgian Union has also been elected president of this new French Conference. Thus the Franco-Belgian Union is now composed of two conferences only — the French and the Belgian Conferences.

The Italian Union Mission has been re-organized into one mission comprising all of Italy and Sicily, with a mission station in Sardinia. L. Beer, the president of the Italian Union Mission, will also serve as president of the Sardinia Mission.

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The **Italian Union Mission** is about to dedicate three new meeting-places of their own in the southwest part of the island of Sicily. One of these halls is at Sciacca, another in Agrigento, and the third at Piazza Armerina. This project was brought about through the thirteenth Sabbath overflow granted to our Division in 1953, and is therefore another monument to the liberality of our church membership around the world.

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Another neat chapel has been dedicated in **Benguela**, a small town on the shores of the Atlantic in Angola, Portuguese West Africa. The inspiring dedication sermon was preached by M. V. Campbell, Division president, when he and M. Fridlin, Division secretary, visited this field in early spring. This church is for Europeans, and has a seating capacity of about 200.

**

Elder A. D. Gomes, who has served faithfully for four and half years as secretary of the Sabbath School Department of the Division, has been suffering from ill health the past winter. We are glad to report that his health has somewhat improved, but not sufficiently so that Brother Gomes felt he could continue carrying this heavy burden which demands much travelling and privation. Consequently he has asked to be relieved of his work as Sabbath School Department secretary. Upon his personal request he has been placed at the disposal of the Portuguese Union Mission, where Elder Gomes will certainly enjoy his new work in his homeland. We regret to lose his splendid services. We have greatly appreciated his splendid cooperative spirit in the Sabbath School Department as well as field secretary of the Division. We wish him God's richest blessing, good health, much satisfaction and success, and still many happy years of service for the Master in the Portuguese Mission.

**

We have been cheered to receive a good and encouraging letter from Charles Cornaz, president of our **French Moroccan Mission**. He writes that God's protecting hand has been over His people during the recent tragic happenings in Casablanca. None of our workers or members were injured, and no mission or private property of our members damaged. It is evident that present events in this great territory present a certain handicap in the development of our work there; but Pastor Cornaz and his co-workers are of good courage and confident in the Lord, believing « That all things work together for good to them that love God. »

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Calls have been placed for two nurses, **Miss Verena Tobler** of Switzerland, and **Miss Jacqueline Vuillecard** of France, to take up general medical missionary work in the North Cameroun Mission.

**

A very comfortable and hospitable **old people's home** has been opened at **La Marinière**, about sixty miles from Brussels, Belgium. It is located in a very picturesque part of the country, and when all renovating and transformations are completed will accommodate about forty elderly persons. At the present time fifteen of our church members are happy to have found a haven of rest in this institution.

**

The medical missionary work which has begun on a sound basis in the northern part of the French Cameroun by Dr. F. Brennwald a little more than a year and a half ago, is steadily progressing, and prospects for the future are promising. As the number of patients is daily increasing, the permanent hospital building becomes an urgent necessity. To accelerate the building program, **A. Bodenmann**, formerly in charge of the industrial department of the Bogenhofen school in Austria, left Paris by air on August 2 with his young wife. He will serve as missionary builder in that field.

**

Encouraging success has accompanied the efforts of our faithful evangelists in some of the Catholic countries in our Division. This is seen in the 82 **baptisms** reported by Portugal for the second quarter of 1955; 76 baptisms in Austria for the same period; and 40 baptisms in a third Catholic country.

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This is the first number of **The Quarterly Review** to be composed on the new linotype of the **Collonges Seminary press**. This linotype was bought with funds donated by American friends of the college: **Mr. P. E. Palmer** of Seattle Washington, and **D. and Mrs. Charles Stewart** of Bakersfield, Cal. We wish to take this occasion to express our heartfelt gratitude to these generous donors. (Editorial note.)

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