

# QUARTERLY REVIEW

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



## WHEN WILL HE COME?

By **V. T. Armstrong,**

General Field Secretary, General Conference

[A number of our workers and members have asked for a copy of the sermon Pastor Armstrong delivered at the Gland Division Committee meeting. To comply with these requests we are printing this sermon in extenso. — Editorial note.]

Seventh-day Adventists believe that Jesus is coming again. That is why we are Adventists. We take very literally the promises of God's Word: "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen" (Rev. 1 : 7); "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24 : 27).

Yes, we believe He is coming; but today there is a question uppermost in the minds of Seventh-day Adventists: When is He coming?

That is an old question. The disciples asked that question. They were going out with Jesus for that last talk with Him. He was about to be taken up in their midst, and they asked Him: "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom

to Israel?" (Acts 1 : 7). In other words, "Are you going to set up your kingdom now?" — thinking of an earthly kingdom.

Jesus answered the disciples' question, and He has an answer for you this morning. "And he said unto them. It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" (Acts 1 : 7). But Jesus answered something more: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1 : 8). That was the answer. That is our answer this morning. When is Jesus coming? When the task is finished. He wanted His disciples to know, and He wants His church now to know that He is coming when the task is finished. That is the only thing that is keeping Jesus from coming back again. The time of His return rests in the hands of His church. Just as soon as we have finished the task, He is coming. That was His answer. A very good answer, isn't it?

If we go back to that prophecy that ended in 1844, 112 years ago, that is the last time God said anything about years. Since 1844 God is not counting time by years. He is numbering time by a task, and when the task is finished, time will end, and Jesus will come. Time has run out as far as God is concerned. He is holding the winds of strife. He is letting probation's hour linger a little longer until we have finished the task. Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24 : 14). That is the answer to the first question.

But there is another question in the minds of Seventh-day Adventists today, and we are hearing the answer. What is that other question? First, When will He come? When the task is finished. Second, How are we getting along with the task? There are some who are saying we are not doing too well. Some would count all the troubles and problems we face — all the impossibilities. But just how *are* we getting along with the task? What is being accomplished? That is what I want to talk about now.

The United Nations have listed 205 countries in the world — 205! 112 years ago we were just starting in one country. 112 years have gone by. Have we accomplished anything? Out of those 205 countries we have entered 184 with the message. Those 184 countries represent ninety-eight and one-half per cent of the world's population. That means that to ninety-eight and one-half per cent of the world's population the gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached. We have twenty-one more countries to enter. We know that already the message is sounding in some of those countries — that in some the printed word has gone in. In some others the broadcasts are being heard. Twenty-one more countries! We have only one and one-half per cent of the world's population in those countries. Oh, I am not thinking of those 112 years this morning. I am thinking of what we have accomplished in those 112 years. When the task is accomplished He is coming. This message is speeding on from country to country.

Let us go back a little in history. I think it was seventy years ago that this denomination sent its first missionary to a non-Christian people. Oh, the light had been here in this country (Switzerland), and they were preaching the message over in America in a few places. But seventy years ago the first missionary went to a non-Christian people; and it is sixty-two, or possibly sixty-three, years ago that the first mission station was established, — that is the old Solusi Mission in Africa. That was the beginning — seventy years ago! When I was in South Africa last winter for four months, I attended their Division Council. We heard some

wonderful reports. More than 260,000 Sabbath-keepers in the South African Division! And they are still coming in great numbers. It was thirty-five years ago that Elder Branson went to South Africa — sent there by the General Conference — to organize that country into a Division field with 2,705 members! Thirty-five years have gone by, and now we have over 260,000 Sabbath-keepers. That has happened in thirty-five years. Last year they reported that in the last two years in South Africa they have baptized 38,000 people. Marvellous, isn't it? What does that mean? It means that God is pouring out His Spirit upon South Africa and His work is being finished.

Let us go over to Korea. You do not have to go back as far as you do in South Africa. Go back sixty years. In all of Asia — in all of what we now call the Far Eastern Division, and in all of China with its great multitude of people — sixty years ago there was no Seventh-day Adventist missionary, and there wasn't a Seventh-day Adventist. It was virgin territory. Well, I will correct that. There was a layman by the name of LaRue. He had gone to Hong Kong to do missionary work on the boats in the port. But as a denomination, we had not yet entered Asia. Then two men got a burden. They said, "We will go." One was a Japanese who was converted to this message in America. The other, Professor Granger. They left for Hong Kong from San Francisco. When they arrived there was no one to meet them, for there was not a Seventh-day Adventist in all that field. They were the first; and they knelt down on the shores and asked God to open the doors of the Orient. Fifty-seven years ago there was the first baptism. Thirteen were baptized and the first that walked down into the watery grave was a young Japanese army officer. He was the firstfruit in all that multitude of the Orient — fifty-seven years ago! Now in those lands we have 125,000 believers. Do not think about the 112 years. Think about what has been accomplished in that time.

We could go right around the world. At the time of the Autumn Council I marvelled as the reports came in; and I said, "Another book is being written in the Bible — the second book of The Acts of the Apostles." It is a wonderful book!

We are having problems in some places. In fact I do not know of any place where we do not have them. Thank God for the problems. This work prospers on problems. The more we have the faster the work goes. God can solve every problem, and when it looks to us that *we* have come to the end, then *God* has a thousand ways of doing His work.

## THE ENTERED AND UNENTERED WEST AFRICAN MISSIONS

By **M. V. Campbell,**

President, Southern European Division

Five years ago, French West Africa was still one of the unentered fields of the world as far as Seventh-day Adventist mission work was concerned. It is an immense territory, more than half as large as the United States of America. It is a land of contrasts, varying from the Sahara desert in the north, to luxuriant tropical forests in the south. It is generally agreed that the native tribes of these colonies are some of the most colorful on the African continent. The population is estimated at 18,000,000, of whom about 65,000 are Europeans.

French West Africa is divided into several French colonies, each with direct representation in the French parliament. All Africans in this territory have full French citizenship.

The city of Dakar, the capital, is the most westerly point of Africa. Nearly all European airlines with flights to South America, stop there for fuel before crossing the Atlantic. This city has a population of 300,000, ten per cent of whom are Europeans. It is a modern city in every respect, even to high skyscrapers, which are fully air-conditioned by refrigeration.

In Dakar, as is true throughout French West Africa, the Europeans are almost one hundred per cent Roman Catholic in religion, and nearly all the Africans are Mohammedan. It was certainly an unpromising field for an Adventist missionary. The man chosen for this difficult task was Pastor R. Erdmann, who was serving as manager of the French publishing house near Paris. He had previously spent several years as a missionary to Madagascar and as treasurer of the Indian Ocean Union.

Five years ago, Pastor and Mrs. Erdmann and their two children must have been a lonely family as they landed in West Africa, without anyone to meet them and no fellow members in that vast territory. The Southern European Division organized the French West African Mission with Brother Erdmann as president, and for quite a long period the quarterly membership reports came to the Division office showing just two members — Pastor and Mrs. Erdmann. They, however, had started immediately to work in the city of Dakar. Pastor Erdmann held several series of evangelistic meetings in motion picture theaters. In a central part of the city he transformed a ground floor apartment into an attractive chapel for Sabbath services and for small public meetings.

Just a few days ago I returned from a visit to this mission. I had arrived on a Friday evening, and found that the first meeting Sabbath morning was at 8 o'clock — an hour before Sabbath school.



Missionary R. Erdmann and family

It was a baptismal service. Pastor Erdmann took a young man with him into the sea and baptized him. He became the thirteenth member of our Dakar church. About half of these members have been won from Mohammedanism and the other half from Catholicism.

During my stay at Dakar I became acquainted with Pastor and Mrs. Erdmann and their two daughters, and found them to be a most consecrated missionary family. Even the two children contribute greatly to the success of the work. The younger daughter, only twelve years of age, is an able musician and plays the piano at all of the religious services. Her sister, a few years older, plays her violin.

Each evening that I was in Dakar I preached at our chapel, and each evening there was a larger number than before. For the last two meetings the hall was full. In addition to visiting our members, Pastor Erdmann took me to the homes of several

of the interested people with whom he is working. At one place, at a considerable distance from our chapel, he holds a weekly cottage meeting at the home of an interested family. Between twenty-five and thirty people attend this meeting each week.

One of our new members, formerly a Mohammedan, has decided to build a new chapel in the section of Dakar in which he lives. He will build it of brick and care for all the cost, except for the church furniture, which will be provided by the mission. Undoubtedly this will open up work in still another section of the city.

Thus far our mission work has been concentrated in the one city of Dakar, which, in addition to

being the capital of French West Africa, is also the capital of Senegal. The other colonies of French West Africa remain untouched. It is the hope of the Southern European Division (as a result of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next year — the overflow of which will be assigned to this Division) to open up work in French Guinea. This is at present another unentered field, and will become a part of the French West African Mission. Although work among Moslems is without question extremely difficult, yet it is most encouraging to see loyal Seventh-day Adventists who have been won from that religion. Many in this most difficult field are deeply interested, and we believe we may expect a good harvest in the forthcoming years.

## THE SPIRIT of the PIONEERS

By Robert Gerber,

Treasurer, Southern European Division.

Seventh-day Adventists are more or less acquainted with the early history of the Advent Movement. We know it began small and in poverty. The pioneers showed a great spirit of sacrifice, and it was only thus that it was possible to lay the lasting foundations of the work that has developed since.

"It has cost self-denial, self-sacrifice, indomitable energy, and much prayer, to bring up the various missionary enterprises where they now stand. There is danger that some of those now coming upon the stage of action will rest content to be inefficient, feeling that there is now no need of so great self-denial and diligence, such hard and disagreeable labor, as the leaders in this message experienced; that times have changed; and that since there is now more means in the cause of God, it is not necessary for them to place themselves in such trying circumstances as many were called to meet in the rise of the message.

"But were there the same diligence and self-sacrifice manifest at the present stage of the work as at its beginning, we should see a hundred times more than is now accomplished."

— *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, page 419.

This shows that times have changed, and that there is not so much self-denial now as at the

beginning of this Movement. But it is very refreshing to meet from time to time devoted aged servants of the Lord who still cherish the spirit of the pioneers.

Recently I met again one of our ministers who has retired from active service. He is more than eighty years old. He is on sustentation, and certainly not rich. He owns a small property far away in the country, and he offered to donate it to the cause to be used as an old people's home; but the committee did not feel free to accept such an offer. The brother did not insist, but he calculated what the property was worth and, without selling it, decided to give the value of it to the cause. How he managed to save enough money for the purpose, is a mystery. Surely only his love and devotion to God and His message could make such a gift possible. At any rate this brother made a substantial donation to the work to live up to his promise. We thank the Lord for this noble example.

We might mention other cases which show that the spirit of the pioneers is still alive. Such a spirit will be necessary to finish the work. May we see a greater manifestation of it among God's people! It will then be possible to meet the growing needs of today; and, as stated by the Spirit of prophecy, we shall "see a hundred times more than is now accomplished."

## WHEN WILL HE COME ?

(Continued from page 2)

We have that report from Colombia. It is not a very pleasing report. They gave it to us at the Fall Council: Three churches are closed. Ten companies have been disbanded. Nine Seventh-day Adventists killed. Eighty-nine laymen in prison. Forty-nine punished. Twenty-one workers in prison. Eighty-seven colporteurs in prison. Two hundred and thirty-four members had to flee from their homes. The president of that field told how those nine Adventists were killed. One man was beaten to death. Another man was shot in his own home. Another was killed in the presence of his family. Two boys between twelve and fourteen years of age belonged to the singing "Sabbatisten." They caught those boys. They tied them back to back, and said, "Now sing you heretics." They sang their song, and then were hacked to pieces. Brethren, this didn't happen back in the days of the Reformation. It happened just a few months ago. Yes, in some places we are being persecuted, but I want to tell you God's work is going on just the same. Right in that same country of Colombia, where a few years ago we had 2,000 members, today we have 8,000. 1,322 were baptized last year. Problems? Surely! But the work of God goes on.

Sometimes it is not through problems that the work of God advances, but through the still small voice that God speaks.

A few years before the War, in the Celebes where we had no mission, some mission of another denomination came in. They distributed some Bibles, held a few meetings, and some of those Malayan people said, "We are going to be Christians." Then the War came on. The missionaries fled. They never came back. Some time after the War, a man who claimed he was a Christian, and who had a Bible, was out in his field working one Sabbath. He heard a voice. The voice said, "You should not be working on the Sabbath." He looked around to see who was speaking. There was no one in the field. He said to himself, "That voice came from heaven." It frightened him. "God has spoken to me," he said. "I don't understand what it means." But he laid down his tools and went to the house. He took his Bible. He thought, If God has a message for me I want to know it. God was giving him a Bible study. The man opened his Bible, and the first text his eyes fell upon was: "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre" (Matt. 28 : 1).

Why, he thought, this must be the Sabbath. Tomorrow is Sunday, the first day of the week: and that says Sabbath comes just before the first day of the week. Then this is Sabbath, and I must keep it. He started to keep the Sabbath. He didn't know there was another Sabbath-keeper in all the world. He took his Bible and began to talk about the Sabbath. People said, "You are crazy. The Mohammedans keep Friday, the rest of the churches keep Sunday. There is no one keeping Saturday. You are crazy." They took him to the local judge. They examined him, and decided that his head was wrong. But he said, "I must keep the Sabbath. God has revealed it to me."

Some time went by. Then a layman from another part of the field went down to that territory on business. God timed it just right, as He did in the meeting of Philip and the eunuch. Those two men met in the village street, and they fell into conversation. This man said to our brother, "I am a very queer man. Some people say I am crazy. You know I keep Saturday for the Sabbath." Our brother smiled. He said, "Well, I do too." "You do? I didn't know there was anyone in all the world keeping Saturday for the Sabbath." "Oh, yes," said our brother; "there is a church all over the world of a million now, and they are keeping Saturday for the Sabbath. It is the Seventh-day Adventist church." This man said, "I am an Adventist and I didn't know it." He has been baptized. Workers have gone in there now. They have raised up a church, and that whole countryside is on fire with the message. Yes, God speaks in various ways.

I think of another experience over in the jungles of Borneo. The people are very primitive when you get back into the jungle villages. Many of them have never been touched by civilization. But we have over 2,000 members there now. And they are wonderful Seventh-day Adventists. They believe in singing, in praying, in working. A family of those people was living in their little village — in just a little thatched cottage. They were very faithful. Every morning they would have family worship. They sang a song of praise. One morning a person going by heard the singing. He stopped and listened. He said to himself, "I don't know what they are doing. I have never heard anything like that before." The next morning as he went by he heard the singing again. Morning after morning this happened, until finally he said, "I am going to ask those people why they are singing every morning." You know there are some Seventh-day Adventist homes where they don't have family worship. But in that little Dusun home they had family worship every morning. They said, "We sing a song of praise. We would like to have you join us." So morning after morning this man came and joined them. He couldn't read or write; but he could hear, and he heard the message and accepted it. He was baptized, and

then he left. He went back over the mountains to his native village. We didn't hear from him for quite a while. Then one day he came back. "I want a minister to come," he said. "I have some people who are Adventists. They want to be baptized." The worker went with him back over the mountains. What did the worker find? A Sabbath school of 300 members. He was gathering them together telling them about the message. He didn't have a Bible for he could neither read nor write. But he could talk. He had the message in his heart. We baptized those people, and the work is onward there now. Yes, God can use humble men. He has a thousand ways of taking His message.

Another story from Borneo. I have a son-in-law who is a doctor. He is working in Singapore. He and my daughter were coming home on furlough about two years ago. They said, "Before we go home on furlough we want to go to Borneo. We will take our vacation this year in Borneo. We want to visit some of those villages. We would like to see what we can do." So they went to Borneo. They spent two weeks there, walking from village to village. They treated 734 people. They came to the last village they were going to visit. They treated the people. When they were about to leave, the old chief of that village spoke to them. He said, "We are glad you came. We want you to come back. But," he said, "before you leave I want you to see that little thatched building over there. We built that six years ago — for a school. We heard what Adventists are doing in some of the other villages. I wanted them to come to my village, but they said they couldn't. We asked them to send us a teacher. We have the school building. Won't you send us a teacher? That was six years ago. The teacher hasn't come yet. We are still waiting. When is the teacher coming? When you get back will you tell your people that we are still waiting for the teacher." Then he said, "I want to give you a present." He reached up on the wall and said, "I prize this very highly. I want you to take this and show it to your people. Tell them I am giving you this in exchange for a teacher." My son-in-law took it. He brought it to Singapore. He brought it to America when he came home on furlough. When he was going back last year he left that present with me. He said, "Take it and show it to our people." Do you know what it was? It was a human head, for those people are used to head-hunting. It had been taken by one of their hunters. Now the old chief was giving it to Seventh-day Adventists to show to our people, — giving it to us in exchange for a living teacher. I have carried that head around some. It is not the most pleasant thing to put into your suitcase. That head has taught me some lessons. I never knew that man. He can't speak today, but if he could speak, if that old head could speak, what would he say? "I am a lost man. I never

heard the story of Jesus. I never had a chance to accept Him. I am lost. Why? Because you were too late in coming. Too late!" The world is calling Seventh-day Adventists today, and like the old chief they are saying: "Six years! When is the teacher coming?" Oh, I am glad to tell you we have a teacher there today, and that village is becoming Seventh-day Adventist. Yes, God is expecting great things of us. "Ye shall receive power. You will carry this message to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. And when you have finished the task, I am coming again." True, we have been accomplishing a good deal during 112 years, but we have to accomplish a great deal more.

I think of Korea. Korea has always been a difficult field. When the War came we lost some of our workers through persecution. When we had to leave, the man we left as president of the union was Pastor Chay. I well remember when we appointed him union president. It was at twelve o'clock at night, in a room with no light. It was the last committee we had in Korea before the War. We had to take our missionaries out. We were putting our work into the hands of the Koreans. We left. Brother Chay was put into jail. He was punished. Finally a few hours before he died they took him out of jail and took him home. When I came back after the War, I said, "Where is Pastor Chay?" "He is buried. He died a martyr to foreign missions." Those were dark days in Korea. But we went to work again, and then the Communist army came down from the North. Thousands had to flee from their homes. The missionaries were interned. Our institutions were taken. Our churches were appointed property of the state. Then the Communists were pushed north again. We got back into the field. We wondered what we would find; but I want to tell you our people in Korea are faithful, and where we had only from one to two thousand members in Korea, we have 10,000 Sabbath-keepers there. The baptisms have increased two hundred per cent in the last three years. The work is being finished in Korea. . . .

You know after the War was over, down there in the Philippines they took a lot of Japanese war prisoners and put them into jail. They were tried. Some were condemned to be executed. Some were condemned for many years' imprisonment; and our people at our Nelson college would go out and hold meetings for those Japanese war prisoners. Some of them were high-ranking officers in the army. Forty of those Japanese war prisoners became Seventh-day Adventists. They requested baptism. We went to the army and said, "Forty of these men want to be baptized. Will you permit them to go out of jail to be baptized?" The per-

mission was given. They sent down their soldiers. First there was a truckload of soldiers, then a truckload of Japanese war prisoners, then another truckload of soldiers. They drove fifteen miles to our college. They had Sabbath school, preaching service, and dinner with the students and faculty. Then they went out on the campus and were baptized. When they left the students and prisoners began to sing. What did they sing? "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

we shall see you in the morning.' " Not going to say Goodbye ! Just going to say Goodnight ! We are going to see you in the morning !

Dear people, I am thankful for this message. I am thankful for a faith in the second coming of Jesus. I am thankful that the morning is soon to break. "Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night" (Isa. 21 : 11).

A little while later, one Friday, Brother Nelson got word to come to the prison. He feared that men were to be executed. That is what it meant. At nine o'clock at night he went with one of those men in the dark out into the field. There was the gallows. Many were executed that night. Four Seventh-day Adventists were among them. I said to Brother Nelson, "What did the men say?" He said they walked to the gallows with a steady step. "But what was the last conversation?" "As I walked to the gallows with them and took their hand for the last time, they thanked their guards. They thanked me (Brother Nelson). They said, 'We are not afraid to die. We have a wonderful message now. We know that Jesus is coming again, and we shall soon see Him. We are not going to say Goodbye. We are only going to say Goodnight, for

Yes, dear friends, the morning is coming — the morning when God's work will be finished. You and I just need to be faithful. One hundred and twelve years have slipped by. The task is being completed, and one of these days — nearer perhaps than we expect — the task will be completed, and we shall have the answer to our question. Jesus is coming when the task is completed. Oh, may we be faithful. May God bless you in your work here in this Division as He is blessing it all over the world. We are marching into the kingdom soon. We shall have some wonderful reports over there. Wonderful music ! Wonderful associations ! I am anxious for that time to come. When will it be ? When we have finished the task. May God give us the wisdom and the strength we need to complete the task.

Report of the Home Missionary Department of the Southern European Division

For the Year 1956

	Austrian U. C.	Franco-Belgian U. C.	Swiss U. C.	Fr. Eq. Afr. U. M.	Indian U. M.	Ocean U. M.	Italian U. M.	North African U. M.	Portuguese U. M.	Portuguese Afr. U. M.	Spanish Church	Division
Number added to union membership since last report as a result of lay members' missionary work	66	16	51	100	—	—	187	24	82	—	81	607
Number of churches and companies reporting	41	63	54	—	68	—	53	17	26	57	11	390
Churches holding first Sabbath missionary service	36	43	49	—	68	—	50	16	23	57	12	354
Churches holding weekly missionary service	33	36	46	22	68	—	53	15	21	57	12	363
Churches conducting training classes	1	8	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	13
Churches with one or more service companies in operation	38	66	57	5	18	—	45	14	17	—	16	276
Institutes, rallies, and conventions held	3	—	13	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	18
Persons reporting missionary work	3,772	1,036	2,313	—	—	—	3,249	—	6,223	12,105	—	28,698
Bible readings and gospel meetings conducted	5,829	7,053	3,901	5,787	11,166	29,114	7,802	32,237	12,363	5,899	121,151	121,151
Missionary contacts	16,962	13,111	12,228	6,644	12,771	21,386	8,720	45,351	32,037	11,937	181,147	181,147
Pieces missionary literature distributed	38,563	143,895	176,713	893	12,819	60,989	36,095	70,484	8,520	2,724	551,695	551,695
Persons helped	7,176	3,482	10,526	7,350	6,548	6,138	1,835	18,886	9,629	5,329	76,899	76,899

# STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OF S. D. A. FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARS 31, 1957

Name of Conference or Mission	Number of Churches	Previous Membership	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total Gains	Apostasy	Death	Letter	Missing Members	Total Losses	Net Gain	Present Membership	Ord. Ministers	Credentialed Missionaries	Lic. Ministers	Licensed Missionaries	Bible Instr.	Elem. School Teachers	Colporteurs	All other Regular workers	Total workers	Number of Sab. Schools	Sab. School Membership	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	25	26	
<b>SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV.</b>																										
<b>AUSTRIAN UNION CONF.</b>																										
Alpine Conference	19	1178	23	1	13	37	5	4	13	—	22	15	1193	4	4	—	9	—	—	—	2	19	—	—	—	
Danube »	21	1494	21	—	12	33	4	9	13	—	26	7	1501	8	2	2	2	1	—	8	—	23	19	1299	877	
Total :	40	2672	44	1	25	70	9	13	26	—	48	22	2694	17	9	5	13	2	—	20	2	68	40	2949	1920	
<b>CZECHOSLOVAKIAN U. C.</b>																										
No Report																										
Total :	114	7124											7124	33	2	3	3	19	—	8	—	68	160	6000	5400	
<b>FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.</b>																										
Belgian Conference	15	965	—	2	3	5	3	1	12	—	16	-11	954	7	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	
French »	64	3088	7	17	58	82	11	12	40	—	63	19	3107	6	1	3	5	—	—	4	2	21	16	1006	689	
Total :	79	4053	7	19	61	87	14	13	52	—	79	8	4061	37	3	19	30	5	1	48	5	148	89	3797	2699	
<b>HUNGARIAN U. C.</b>																										
Total :	257	6651	185	47	—	232	65	56	100	—	221	11	6662	27	—	25	25	—	—	—	—	77	175	7000	6500	
<b>RUMANIAN U. C.</b>																										
Total :	551	31045											31045	78	—	11	47	—	—	—	—	136	500	35000	32000	
<b>SWISS U. C.</b>																										
French Swiss Conference	27	1412	11	1	8	20	3	4	6	—	13	7	1419	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	
German Swiss »	32	1938	11	1	29	41	11	11	37	—	59	-18	1920	8	1	3	10	2	3	20	1	39	28	1310	1041	
Total :	59	3350	22	2	37	61	14	15	43	—	72	-11	3339	19	2	8	15	3	6	34	1	47	32	1893	1308	
<b>JUGOSLAVIAN U. C.</b>																										
Total :	230	7838											7838	47	2	11	8	23	—	—	—	91	300	9000	8500	
<b>FRENCH EQ. AFR. U. M.</b>																										
Batouri Mission	1	708	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	-2	706	3	—	2	14	—	4	—	—	23	—	—	—	
Bertoua »	3	452	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	452	2	—	1	—	16	10	—	—	29	21	1834	1607	
Kribi »	3	359	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	358	3	—	1	—	6	19	—	—	20	14	1110	897	
Nanga-Eboko »	5	1749	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-1	1749	2	—	3	—	27	31	—	—	29	21	1037	545	
North Cameroun »	2	361	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	361	2	—	—	—	16	2	—	—	63	50	3966	2801	
Sangmelima »	2	349	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	349	3	—	1	—	9	16	—	—	20	14	826	782	
Yaoundé »	6	766	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	-2	764	1	—	3	—	17	31	2	—	29	11	999	596	
Total :	22	4744	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	5	-5	4739	17	—	13	14	101	120	2	—	54	20	1973	1662	
<b>INDIAN OCEAN U. MISSION</b>																										
Diego-Suarez Mission	1	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	3	2	2	5	—	1	—	—	13	—	—	—	
Fianarantsoa »	10	376	12	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	12	388	1	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	5	3	183	120	
Majunga »	9	220	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	220	3	—	4	3	—	1	1	—	12	25	450	320	
Mauritius »	13	1038	6	—	—	6	2	2	—	—	4	2	1040	2	—	1	3	—	8	2	—	16	11	675	490	
Réunion »	8	343	2	—	1	3	—	2	—	—	2	1	344	6	—	11	—	11	4	—	—	32	18	1015	870	
Seychelles »	1	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	79	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	5	9	420	300	
Tamatave »	1	125	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	125	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	99	80	
Tananarive »	25	1195	12	1	—	13	2	3	1	—	6	7	1202	2	—	1	7	—	4	5	—	6	7	350	290	
Total :	68	3400	32	1	1	34	4	7	1	—	12	22	3422	25	2	10	34	—	27	15	—	113	112	5975	4520	
<b>ITALIAN UNION MISSION</b>																										
Italian Mission	54	2284	19	1	11	31	2	8	19	—	29	2	2286	9	—	2	12	4	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	
Sardinia Mission Station	2	43	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	44	12	—	4	27	—	—	51	—	94	88	2632	2490	
Total :	56	2327	19	1	12	32	2	8	19	—	29	3	2330	21	—	6	41	4	—	51	—	123	90	2692	2540	





# MEET SOUTHERN EUROPE

## PART TWO — Conclusion

FRANCO-BELGIAN UNION CONFERENCE — President, F. Lavanchy

The Franco-Belgian Union has just gone beyond the 4,000 mark in membership. On the 30th of September, 1956, we could count 4,018 members: 945 in Belgium, and 3,073 in France.

I visited a number of churches in Belgium during the Week of Prayer. What impressed me most was the evening in Bruges. Bruges is a very beautiful city. It is called the Venice of the north. But it is an extremely Catholic city. The work there is developing with great rapidity. On Monday evening there were seventy persons present for the prayer meeting. Two years ago there were about thirty members in that church on Sabbath. Now there are from sixty to seventy every Sabbath. We have a good building, but we must enlarge it for 1957.

Something unique in Belgian Adventist history happened this year — the ordination of an Adventist military chaplain, Brother Samuel Peiffer. During his military service this brother greatly helped the young people. Later the Protestant chaplain made an appeal for a chaplain for Korea. As no Protestant offered to go, our brother volunteered his services. He did a wonderful work in Korea. When he returned to Belgium, the Belgian army said they would receive him into the Belgian army if he were ordained. This ordination took place this summer in the presence of one thousand persons. Many chaplains of other religious groups were present.

In France we had 133 baptisms during the first nine months of 1956, which is good progress over last year. The work is more difficult now than it was a few years ago.

Our members take a very active part in the Harvest Ingathering. Brother Petit in Lyons holds perhaps the record. He collected 2,000,000 French francs or 20,000 Swiss francs (\$4,700). The tithe paid by the members in France is also a record.



### The Departments

Home Missionary Department :

The Big Week this year was a success; 1,600,000 French francs were collected. The Harvest Ingathering receipts were 18,000,000 French francs. 500,000 Harvest Ingathering papers were distributed

in France and Belgium. Twelve members were added to the church as a result of this campaign. And the true goal in all of our missionary endeavors is souls saved.

The campaign launched to diffuse the book *Christ Revient* has met with un hoped-for success. Many of the members buy from five to ten copies and use them for missionary work among their friends.

### The Y. P. M. V. Department

Jean Surel is at the head of the Y. P. M. V. department. He has been a missionary in Reunion Island. He is a hard worker, and it is a great pleasure to be associated with him. There are twenty-seven senior societies in the union, and sixteen junior societies. The rallies held in Belgium contributed largely to the conversion of thirty-two young people. The youth camps organized in France were encouraged by the authorities. In fact we were asked if we would be willing to accept some Jewish and Mohammedan children from North Africa, which we did. It proved to be an excellent opportunity to do missionary work. We received congratulations from the parents and the authorities for these camps.

### The Radio Department

There is a broadcast every Sunday at 9 a. m. over the National chain. In 1956 the Voice of Hope gave fifty-one broadcasts and answered 7,066 letters.

The following are excerpts taken from letters of appreciation :

**"It is with great interest that I listen to your talk every Sunday morning, and I thank God for the good you are able to do through these broadcasts."**

**"May these lines be an encouragement to you in the beautiful work you are doing, and which many greatly appreciate."**

**"I must tell you how much I appreciate your Sunday morning talks. We wish to thank you for them. This good seed which you are sowing will certainly do much good."**

### The Bible Correspondence Course

The Bible correspondence course enrolled 1,104 students this year. 6,108 lessons were corrected, and twenty-four baptisms recorded.

*Letter of Appreciation*

"Your Bible course has been completed. I wish to thank you for it. Now I have regained confidence in life. I have a high ideal. I now know why I am alive. I am happy the Voice of Hope revealed to me early in life the joy that comes when one knows about the love of God. The Voice of Hope has unveiled the truth which I have been looking for for a number of years. I am only twenty years old, and now I can smile. I have no longer the dejected appearance of present-day youth. My whole being has been completely transformed. When I am in trouble, I pray, and God helps me. In another year I shall be free from my scholastic obligations which keep me from attending your meetings while waiting for baptism."

The young man who wrote this letter lives near Paris. He has sent us the address of his mother and fiancée in Tours, that they may be visited.

*The Publishing Department.*

This department informs us that the sales for the first ten months of 1956 were 60,000,000 French francs. Thirty souls were baptized as a result of the work of the colporteurs.

The colporteur leaders of France organized a special campaign last November when they sold only religious books: *The Desire of Ages*, and *Christ's Object Lessons*. The task was difficult, but we believe that the seed sown will bear fruit for eternal life.

ITALIAN UNION MISSION — President, L. Beer

To quote the words of the apostle Paul: "The brethren of Italy greet you." Another text of introduction: "I must also see Rome" (Acts 19: 21).

Like Paul, many people have wanted to see Rome: this past year 233 American missionaries in addition to visitors from other world divisions. All of these brethren and sisters spoke enthusiastically about the art and beauty of Italy. If I do not speak about them, you will understand why: most of you have seen Italy.

Neither shall I say very much about the beginnings of the work in Italy. What interests you is how the work is progressing there today.

Prior to World War II, we owned only a publishing house and a small chapel in the Piedmont. Just at the beginning of the War we bought the chapel in Florence. After the War we received help through a Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow, and were thus able to increase the number of our chapels — three in Sicily. In addition — through the special offerings taken at our annual meetings — we have been able to build a church in Calabria. But it is not alone the buildings we would possess. We should like to see these chapels filled with true Seventh-day Adventist members.

In the months of October and November (1956), Brother G. Cupertino from the Division Ministerial Association, held lectures in nine cities in Italy. The attendance varied from 300 to 1000. Hundreds of addresses were handed in — requests for Bible studies or to be enrolled in the Bible correspondence course. This course is truly a valuable asset in evangelism in Italy. In the few years since its

existence, 23,000 persons have taken the course, and over 200 of them have been baptized.

The first nine months of 1956 we had 167 baptisms in Italy. That is 33 more than last year. The present membership is 2,330. I well remember the time when we had only 120 members in all Italy. It was reported by the president of the Greek Mission that the work in Greece is still "a small child." In Italy the "child" has already become a "strong young man."

I should like to tell you about two beautiful baptisms we had in Rome. In July we baptized a lawyer and his wife. It was a colporteur who found this lawyer. One morning he was going to his office, and a young colporteur stopped him and offered him a book, which he bought. The colporteur did more. He invited him to attend the public meetings. He came with his wife, and never missed one meeting. He received Bible studies. Then, finally, came the great question to be solved — the Sabbath question. It was not easy, because this lawyer works in a state office where there are 400 employees. The general director and two other directors were very understanding, but not the general secretary. He told our brother: "If you stay away on Saturday, then others will want to stay away on Wednesday, or Friday, or some other day. It simply cannot be permitted. We demand your presence on Saturday." In spite of this our brother got his Sabbath free. But he must forego taking any holidays. He is glad to make this sacrifice.

His brother-in-law is also a lawyer. He, too, has had Bible instruction. Last week he came to my office and said, "I am one hundred per cent convinced about the Sabbath truth. For the last

two or three months my chief has given me Sabbath free, but the matter is not yet definitely settled." He is a lawyer in a very special government department, and has a number of employees under his supervision. I can't help thinking of the text in Philippians 4 : 22 : "All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household." At present we have Adventists in "Caesar's household" — in government offices.

On the third of November we had a second very special baptism in Rome. It was a day of great rejoicing for the whole church. An engineer who had been attending our meetings for six years was baptized. It was truly a great joy for me to baptize this convert. We have four brethren with doctors' degrees in our church in Rome. We are glad of this, because Rome is a city of government officials ; and we are happy to see these brethren working as lay members. This year lawyers and engineers took part in the Harvest Ingathering.

The officials in Italy are definitely more tolerant of late. All of our children are free from school on Sabbath — and this regardless of the school they attend.

At the time of the last Baccalaureate examinations the day was set when all candidates in the Republic were to sit for the examinations, and that day was a Sabbath. Our Adventist students were in great difficulty, for they could not take the examination on Sabbath.

The Minister of Education, Paul Rossi, and our brother for religious liberty, whose name is also Rossi, met. The result was that the Minister sent a state telegram to all teachers that the date of the Baccalaureate examinations was to be changed,

so that Seventh-day Adventist students would have no difficulty for the examination. Such a telegram is a very precious document to have in one's possession. The Minister wrote an article in which he stated if only *one student* was involved, that *one student* was to benefit from this principle of religious liberty. Our soldiers, teachers and professors are also free on Sabbath.

The Italian publishing house has published five new books. One of them is *The Desire of Ages*. These books will help us greatly in bringing the message to the forty-nine and one half million Italians.

Our youngest colporteur is only thirteen. One day he came to the villa of a baroness. After the presentation she said, "Young man, I will give you one million lire (\$1,600) if you will not sell any more such books, but take the money and become a priest." The boy waited a moment, and then said very kindly, "My Lady, I could not sell my religion for thirty pieces of silver !"

In 1955 we had three trials in Italy because of Harvest Ingathering. This year we printed some small solicitors' cards, on which we referred to the Article of the Constitution which says everyone may make propaganda for his faith. This year we had scarcely any difficulties, and we reached our goal.

After hearing this report, do not think Rome has changed. The authorities are certainly more friendly, but Rome remains Rome. Superstition and spiritual darkness continue to reign.

Italy needs what Brother Roenfelt spoke about in his devotional study : the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

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#### PORTUGUESE AFRICAN UNION MISSION — M. Lourinho, President

M. Lourinho, president of the Portuguese African Union, gave a very lively report of the work that is being done in the territory that has been entrusted to his responsibility, and to whose twelve million souls the message of truth must be brought. This union mission is made up of Angola on the West African coast, and Mozambique in East Africa.

The work in Portuguese territory is a debtor to Switzerland for the Swiss workers who have contributed to its development. Pastor Paul Meyer was mentioned, who, in 1919, baptized Brother Lourinho.

There are 10,876 members in the Portuguese African Union, and some 25,000 Sabbath school members. The work reaches not only the native populations, but the Europeans as well. Thus it is that the cities of Loanda, Lobito, Mossamedes,

Nova Lisboa and Benguela are centers where work for Europeans is being carried on.

One of the resources of Angola is its diamonds. But it is the living "diamonds" for whom Jesus shed His blood, that interest our missionaries. 1041 of these precious "stones" were brought to the foot of the cross in 1956.

We have eight mission stations in Angola and Mozambique. Means of travel between these two countries is convenient. The speaker mentioned the territory of Southern Rhodesia which connects Angola and Mozambique, and which was the cradle of missionary work in Africa. It was in 1894 that, for the first time, a missionary settled at Solusi. The father of the present secretary-treasurer of the Portuguese African Union, E. L. Jewell, organized the work in that territory.

We hold many open air meetings in Angola, and it is not difficult to gather an audience of two or three thousand people. At the close of each meeting an appeal is made, and those who are interested in the truth are grouped in a "listeners' " class. They remain in that group for a year. Then they are received in the baptismal class, where they are instructed for another year.

The work at the hospital at Bongo, under the direction of Dr. R. B. Parsons, is, without doubt, the most interesting feature in our missionary endeavors in the Portuguese African Union. The hospital is held in great esteem, and has an excellent reputation. Dr. Parsons' renown has spread not only all over Angola, which is vast, but to the neighboring colonies. He is often called the "*Patima*" or, in other words, the man of miracles. The purpose of the medical work is to alleviate moral suffering

as well as to relieve physical pain. The Bongo hospital seems to have received a special blessing from God. The numerous conversions among the patients is most heartening.

The governor made a very friendly visit to the hospital. He was astonished to see that Dr. Parsons' great success does not depend upon his instruments, which are reduced to a minimum. This brought the governor to say that the Doctor "works miracles with a simple pocket-knife."

In the Portuguese African Union sects are definitely disliked, and Adventists more than any of the others; for we are said to be too active — that we make too many proselytes through our printed matter which is distributed profusely.

Angola and Mozambique have four great needs: God's blessing, the prayers of our brethren and sisters, additional workers, and funds.

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SWISS UNION CONFERENCE — President, J. J. Aitken

Basing his remarks on Zach. 4:10, Brother Aitken reminded us that Switzerland is the country where the work in Europe commenced ninety years ago, in the days of "small things". The first church organized was at Tramelan, with fourteen members. The work has lost recently some of its valiant pioneers, and the torch of truth is being handed down from their hands to ours.

Evangelism in Switzerland is not easy. Notwithstanding, public efforts have been carried on in about twenty cities. We are not making as rapid progress as we would wish, but we thank the Lord for the 107 souls won this year (1956). The present total membership in Switzerland is 3,384.

Tent efforts were undertaken in Vevey, Lausanne and Neuchâtel, with an average attendance of 130.

Some beautiful testimonies were heard during the Week of Prayer. Entire families told what the gospel has done for them, and how their lives have been completely transformed.

An important work was accomplished in Switzerland in our youth camps. In one camp alone in French Switzerland, fourteen candidates asked to be enrolled in the baptismal class.

Switzerland has manifested her love for the work in the generous offerings for missions — 182,000.- Swiss francs (\$43,000). Our members are faithful tithe-payers, having brought 680,153.- Swiss francs (\$160,000) tithe into the treasury of God. (These figures are for 1956.)

The Harvest Ingathering experience of the little church at Coire was related. The forty members went beyond their goal a number of times. Two young persons collected — each — one thousand Swiss francs (\$235). Each of five other members collected the same sum.

But over this encouraging picture a debt of 750,000 Swiss francs (\$176,000) on our chapels casts its shadow. However, we hope to be able to pay off this debt before too long, thus releasing more funds for evangelism.

Although Switzerland is small, the needs are great. A few of them were enumerated:

1). 100,000 francs (\$23,500) which are necessary to open a new church school in the city of Zürich — one that will meet the requirements of the authorities.

2). 250,000 francs (\$58,750) for a chapel in Lucerne.

3). 20,000 francs (\$4,700) to rent a meeting-place in the Tessin, Italian Switzerland, for five years.

4). 100,000 francs (\$23,500) for a hall in Renens.

This makes a total of 470,000 Swiss francs (\$110,450). We must move forward in faith. Switzerland is a small mountainous country; and we would do well to pray the prayer of Joshua, "Lord, give us this mountain!" — give us the mountains and plains of lovely Switzerland that we may conquer them for Christ!

## Report of the Missionary Volunteer Department of the Southern European Division

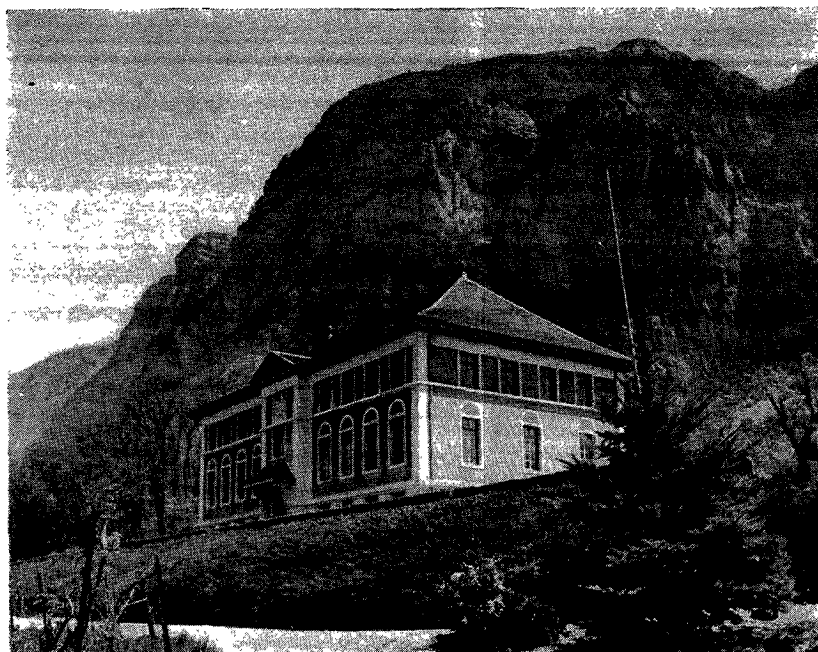
For the Year 1956

	Austrian U. C.	Czecho- slovakian U. C.	Franco-Belgian U. C.	Hugarian U. C.	Rumanian U. C.	Swiss U. C.	Jugoslavian U. C.	French Eq. African U. M.	Indian Ocean U. M.	Italian U. M.	North African U. M.	Portuguese U. M.	Portuguese Afr. U. M.	Bulgarian M.	Greek M.	Spanish Church	S. E. D. Yearly Totals 1956
Number of Senior societies .....	14	75	27	77	300	26	131	7	42	42	5	3	170	25	5	15	964
Number of Junior societies .....	7	—	16	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	26	117	—	—	3	180
Number of societies reporting .....	19	—	18	—	—	21	—	—	8	31	5	29	252	—	—	18	393
Total membership (Seniors) .....	240	2000	532	2000	14000	349	4239	163	1089	880	76	613	4407	1000	53	359	32000
Total membership (Juniors) .....	100	—	208	—	—	178	—	355	419	—	67	420	2374	—	—	53	4174
Total of Senior and Junior young people baptized, regardless of who labored for them .....	41	—	37	—	—	14	—	—	18	30	15	16	598	—	—	61	830
Number baptized whom young peo- ple had a part in winning .....	10	—	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	8	1	5	122	—	—	16	169
Number belonging to a missionary band .....	72	—	81	—	—	78	—	—	110	20	94	228	4116	—	—	205	5004
<b>REPORT OF MISSIONARY WORK :</b>																	
Number of Bible readings or gospel meetings held .....	494	—	207	—	—	228	—	—	3965	5757	633	14308	31844	—	—	2141	59577
Number of missionary contacts .....	957	—	440	—	—	909	—	—	4351	4940	432	12411	59893	—	—	4596	88929
Number of persons helped .....	1019	—	184	—	—	163	—	—	1419	2532	187	4675	20676	—	—	2017	32875
Literature distributed .....	2797	—	5789	—	—	30294	—	—	2338	22764	16096	30019	8614	—	—	1526	120237
<b>DEVOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL:</b>																	
Number observing the Morning Watch .....	170	—	255	—	—	75	—	—	345	426	48	325	4832	—	—	234	12249
Number completing Bible Year and Character Classics .....	58	—	54	—	—	23	—	—	80	118	10	147	133	—	—	129	6291
Number taking Reading Course .....	65	—	8	—	—	28	—	—	40	75	3	164	219	—	—	55	657
<b>FINANCIAL :</b>																	
Offerings local society work .....	\$ 203.01	—	20.45	—	—	299.81	—	—	15.77	91.05	22.15	59.64	26.40	—	—	184.94	923.22
Ingathering for Missions .....	\$ 78.20	—	1146.81	—	—	3048.71	—	—	—	844.08	861.36	1474.91	49.72	—	—	101.73	7605.52
Offerings special projects .....	\$ 73.10	—	60.—	—	—	1677.17	—	—	8.53	14.03	100.—	298.94	355.54	—	—	41.41	2628.72

## Our French College

The French Adventist Seminary at Collonges-sous-Salève offers its students a varied program of study. Beginning with the primary school, instruction is given on up through the higher grades to the French *baccalaureate*. The college offers a commercial course, prepares future church school teachers, Bible instructors and evangelists.

In addition, there is a program of intensive study of the French language for foreign-speaking students, prepared in co-operation with the well-known *Alliance*



“Le Central” - French College



“The Home” - Intermediary school

*Française* “French Alliance.” This diploma is signed by the French Minister of Education. Last year we were gratified to receive congratulations from the Board of Examiners for the high quality of our teaching.

The young people in our college have occasion to mingle with students from about twenty-five different countries. This association is broadening

in that it affords the students an opportunity to observe the customs and culture of different nationalities.

Most important of all, our students are surrounded by a Christian influence. Fourteen young people were baptized at the close of the present school year.

Each year work is undertaken to improve the living conditions at the college, and to raise our scholastic standard.

— Pierre Lanarès

President, Collonges Seminary.



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..... Editorial Secretary

## Here and There

We are very happy to have **Elder A. V. Olson**, a former and well-beloved president of this Division, in our field for about two and one half months. Since 1946 Elder Olson has been one of the general vice-presidents of the General Conference. During his stay in southern Europe, he will attend the Franco-Belgian workers' and annual meeting in Vichy, the German Swiss Conference annual meeting in Zürich as well as workers' meetings and district meetings in Switzerland, Italy, Austria and Portugal. Elder Olson's itinerary will also include a visit in the North African Union Mission.

★

A very important **All-European Publishing Convention** will be organized at Freudenstadt, Germany, September 23-28, 1957. Representatives from the General Conference, Northern, Central and Southern European Division Publishing Departments will be present, as well as union presidents, publishing secretaries and delegates from union publishing houses.

★

**Dr. Roy B. Parsons**, medical secretary for the Portuguese African Union Mission, and director of our Bongo Hospital, wrote recently that **Dr. E. Moretti**, who assisted him these past years, has been transferred to the Cuale Mission in the northern part of Angola, where a new hospital will be opened. We hope that before long a young Portuguese doctor can be sent out to help lighten the heavy load Dr. Parsons is carrying at the Bongo institution.

Dr. Parsons writes also that **Miss Alberta Hodde**, who has been invited to serve as head nurse at the Bongo hospital, has received permission to enter Angola.

★

**Pastor R. Dällenbach**, who worked these past years as an evangelist in French Switzerland, is now connected with the French publishing house as editor in replacement of Dr. H. Evard who left for a second term as principal of the Phœnix school, Mauritius. As already reported Dr. Evard left last March for his post.

An exchange of workers took place recently in the Portuguese African Union Mission. **A. C. Lopes**, who was in charge of the Munguluni Mission, Mozambique, and where the climate is not very healthful, had to leave for a higher altitude in the plateaus of Angola, because of Mrs. Lopes' delicate health. We hope that in this better climate she will rapidly recover.

**J. Morgado** and his family, who were connected with the Bongo Mission in Angola, will replace Elder Lopes as director of the Munguluni Mission.

★

In our March number we reported the ordination to the gospel ministry of three of our European missionaries in the French Cameroun. We are informed now that on the same occasion one of our faithful native workers, **Brother Jean Bikoé**, was also **ordained**.

★

**H. Salzmänn**, who recently concluded his second term of service in the Indian Ocean Union Mission, arrived in Switzerland for his furlough early in June. Pastor Salzmänn was in charge of the Fianarantsoa Mission, southern Madagascar, where the work of God has developed rapidly under his faithful leadership. Unfortunately, Mrs. Salzmänn had to leave the mission field some weeks before her husband because of failing health. We pray that the Lord will soon restore Mrs. Salzmänn's health so that this missionary family may be able to return to the mission field for a third term.

★

On March 5 a very impressive **baptismal ceremony** took place at **Soamanandrany** near Tananarive, Madagascar. Among the candidates were a number of missionaries' children: The two eldest Drouault children, the two children of the Zürcher family, Elder Girard's eldest son, and Brother Collin's eldest son. The Swiss Consul at Tananarive attended this ceremony.

★

Our readers will be interested to learn that H. W. Klaser, statistical secretary of the General Conference, reported that the **world membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church** was 1,018,341 on September 30, 1956.

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It is with profound grief that we report the terrible automobile accident which happened to one of our retired workers, **Pastor Fernand Augsburg**, and his family on May 25 in Switzerland. Pastor Augsburg was on his way to the small church in Château d'Oex where he was to preach the Sabbath morning sermon. Near Bulle in the Fribourg mountains their car, which Mrs. Augsburg was driving, and in which were also their two daughters Aurette and Denise, was smashed by an army truck over which the driver had lost control. Mrs. Augsburg was killed instantly. Her husband, two daughters and little four-year-old grand-daughter were seriously injured and unable to attend Mrs. Augsburg's funeral which took place in Geneva on Tuesday, May 28, in the presence of some hundred sympathizing friends.

Brother Augsburg worked as a pastor for a good number of years in Switzerland before he left for Mauritius Island — a mission field in the Indian Ocean — in 1931. He was also the chaplain of the Gland Sanitarium and a pastor in southern France before he retired because of a serious health condition.

We express to the Augsburg family our deepest Christian sympathy, and wish the injured ones God's comforting Presence and a speedy recovery.

**The Division staff** members who were visiting mission fields in West Africa, Cameroun, Angola and the Indian Ocean, have all safely returned to headquarters. They brought back good reports of the work in those mission territories, which we hope to share with our readers in a future number of the **QUARTERLY REVIEW**.