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ORGAN OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF S.D.A.

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News from Tunis

By D. Sofranac

It is with great pleasure and thankfulness to the Lord that I have accepted the call to come to this picturesque North African country. When I arrived at the beautiful territory of ancient Carthage in Tunis I soon discovered that our work of spreading the gospel right now goes through a crisis because of political events.

As many people have left North Africa for France because of the unsettled conditions, the mission work in all churches, whatever denomination they belong to, is suffering, and we Adventists are going through the same experience. The beautiful temples which have been built in different parts of the country are being closed one after another for that reason. As far as we are concerned, many faithful families have left during the last few years, and it is probable that others will follow. It is interesting to observe, however, that, even though many churches stand empty, our meeting halls, thanks be to God, are very often full in spite of the difficult situation. This certainly is very encouraging, and is also an impetus to persevere, and we pray the Lord for help that the gaps may be filled with new members.

Here are a few convincing experiences which show that the Lord does not abandon those who serve Him with zeal and enthusiasm:

The day we arrived in Tunis an elderly man came to us asking for help, and as we were able to help him not only materially, but also recommending to him to seek the bread of life, he has ever since faithfully been attending our services.

An Armenian photographer who came from time to time to our meetings with his wife, who is Italian by birth, had never wanted baptism; but after three months of intensive work with this couple we had the great joy of attending their baptism.

The sister of this new child of God, who is the wife of a rich colonial, was deeply impressed by the conversion of her sister, and began to come regularly to our meetings accompanied by her niece. She had to go out without the knowledge of her husband, because he would not allow her to attend such meetings, and thus she is constantly exposed to great danger. Let us pray for her that her faith may remain strong, that the Lord may protect her, and that His grace may work on her husband.

One day when I was out, my wife had a visit from a young lady who urgently asked for our help. On my return I hurried to the address she had left, and was introduced to a room full of people, who all seemed to be talking at once. When the lady of the house saw me she exclaimed: "Pastor, my married life is a misery, even though we have only been married a short time." Most of what she was trying to say was hard to understand as she was weeping all the time. There was but one solution: To contact her husband and take her out of this place full of people so we could talk together in peace. Thanks to the Lord, I was able to calm her troubled spirit, and bring peace to the home by the Word of Christ. We continue visiting this home, instructing both husband and wife in the Bible truths and studying with them as often as possible.

So you see, in spite of the political events and unfavorable circumstances, the Lord also manifests Himself here in many ways, that the gospel of redemption may continue its influence in this great city of North Africa.

An Interesting Experience in Dakar

By Paul Heise

Nestled behind a bush of flowering bougainvillaea in the heart of the "Cité Baobab", the first Adventist school in Dakar and in Sénégal has been started. Its humble quarters consist of two rooms in a house rented from an African, but already it enjoys a good reputation in the neighborhood. Many thought it would not come to anything when it was first started on February 15, 1959, but already children of every age and on every stage of education leave other schools and come to sit on the poor benches of our school. It is with sad hearts we have to refuse many who want to come, because the two small rooms we have can only take a limited number of children, most of whom are Mohammedans. The children like their little school and greatly appreciate the Bible courses which are illustrated on the blackboard.

To talk only of the school would be to neglect another experiment just started, and which is the first of its kind in the Southern European Division. This experiment takes place in the same house as the school, but occupies only one room. Four times a week forty to sixty young men and women come here, representing not only all classes of society, but also several African nationalities, and they are happy to find this little home open from eight to ten thirty in the evening.

What does this home offer these young people, and what are they looking for? In an endeavor to explain the activities of the home we could maybe compare it to a vacation camp, but it is more than that, because it is not only open for a month or two of the year, but permanently, to these African young people. This home offers its courses four times a week from eight to

nine thirty. Every day these young people come to read our books, of which especially those from the pen of Brother Tièche are welcome and appreciated. Some prefer painting to reading, others sit around

As this home is greatly appreciated by both Africans and Europeans alike (the movie gear and the films are lent to us by the government or by private persons), we have one desire, one wish, and one hope:



Paul Heise with the Young People in Dakar

talking with their friends. Soon other courses will be offered, such as choir conducting, embroidery, sewing, dramatic arts, junior work, etc.

On Sabbath evenings we get all the families together, i.e. the parents of the children, the pupils themselves, and the young people. We devote these evenings to evangelistic meetings, but Saturday and Sunday evenings we get together again for games and educational films. The rooms are altogether too small for these different activities, when there are up to 150 people present, so at times we have to move into the big yard outside.

Our Desire: To increase the number of books in our library, and maybe you, dear reader, may have some volumes on your shelves which you can spare us. In that case the address is: *Foyer des Jeunes de la Voix de l'Espérance, B.P. 1013, Dakar.*

Our Wish: To be able to organize Sabbath services soon.

Our Hope: To see this home, which has as its motto "Serving the Lord first", become a lively agent for the saving of many precious souls.

Yes, the posterity of Abraham will be numerous like the sands on the beaches, and among them will also be children from West Africa.

A Year of Blessings at our French Adventist Seminary, Collonges

By Pierre Lanarès

Our French Adventist Seminary in Collonges-sous-Salève has enjoyed great blessings from the Lord during the past year. The enrollment at certain times went up to 205, but the average attendance was 185, which is the maximum number the college can take care of. At the beginning of the school year we had to refuse several students because of lack of accommodation even though we used all the space available and put bunks in the girls' dormitory. "The Home" has been filled with boys only from 10-16 years of age, and the girls from 10 to 15 years have been placed either in the homes of the school families or in the girls' dormitory.

From a material viewpoint many things have been accomplished during the year: the roads on the campus have been tarred, the equipment of the gymnasium has been improved, the farm has been completed, a small press for the print shop has been purchased, and the modest beginning of a wood industry has been accomplished - all these improvements reveal the efforts that have been made everywhere to make better working conditions and help the financial situation of the school.

In the intellectual field the extension of supervised studies during the afternoon hours and more efficient control of absences have resulted in better scholastic discipline.

In the spiritual field numerous victories have been won during the two Weeks of Prayer which were conducted by Brother Samuel Monnier in November and Brother Paul Tièche in February. On the last Sabbath before graduation we had the joy of baptizing 15 young people. The students themselves organized a week of spiritual retreat, consisting in a program of special meetings, shortly before the close of school, which helped them to finish the

studies of the year with their hearts attuned to God.

Fifty young people have taken part in systematic missionary work during the Sabbath afternoons, and interest has sprung up in several families in the vicinity. One family with six children is having studies on the Sabbath school lessons each Thursday evening by a representative of the church.

Twenty-one students graduated in June, and below are listed the countries they represent and the diplomas they were awarded:

Austria	1 (Bible Worker)
Belgium	1 (Evangelist)
Spain	4 (Bible Workers)
France	8 (4 Bible Workers, 1 Teacher, 3 Business)
Italy	2 (Evangelists)
Portugal	3 (Evangelists)

Switzerland 2 (1 Evangelist, 1 Business)

The project of constructing a new chapel will solve quite a few scholastic as well as church problems: we can have a larger library, new classrooms and a speech studio, and we are glad that this project seems to be well on the way to realization. Allowances have been made by the Division, the Franco-Belgian Union and the French Conference; funds have been collected by the church and former students, and we hope that the construction work can begin in 1960.

To God is due all the praise for His blessings during the past school year. We pray that the progress may be even more marked during the school year 1959/60, all to the glory of God and the hastening of His Kingdom.



The Graduating Class, 1959

A Shining Light in North Cameroons

By B. J. Kohler

It was rather hard to realize that after a flight of 10½ hours in a large, comfortable 4-engine airliner, another sixty minutes' flight in a tiny combination passenger and freight plane and a couple of hours' ride on a dusty, hot, bumpy road in a Plymouth station-wagon, we found ourselves in the very heart of Equatorial Africa. Everything seemed strange in this land of contrasts—the people, the language, the nature, and, of course, the weather. In the city of Paris where we started our trip, it was springlike and delightful, and here in the equatorial forest, it was hot, humid, and harrowing.

The chief reason for my itinerary was to become acquainted with the work of our missionaries. In just a little over nine and a half weeks we travelled approximately 30,000 kilometers, covering the Cameroons,

Equatorial Africa, Angola and Sénégal by various means of locomotion, from plane to truck. Our first stop was at one of our interesting mission stations in the Cameroons, namely at Koza.

Here is a country teeming with all sorts of wildlife and inhabited by a pagan tribe known as the "Matakam", which is totally uncivilized. The members of this particular tribe wear no clothing—or very little—and the continual advance of the white man has not made the slightest impression upon them. Their nearness to civilization, a small airport, has not changed their lives and habits.

These inhabitants are industrious and quite friendly people, and most of them have skin as black as ebony, but they are suspicious and quite frightened, fearing that the white man will cast a spell over them.

Being pagans they are greatly influenced by the witch doctor and are completely ignorant of things spiritual. Their dwellings are situated on the hillsides and consist of round mud huts with cone-shaped roofs, which have to be renewed every year. Their diet as well as their life-work centers largely around millet and its cultivation. The sparse ground between the stones on the rocky hill country is tilled by crude methods, and practically every square meter is planted with grain. Rats, snakes and wild animals, which they kill with poisoned-tipped arrows, are delicacies to them.

It is indeed a thrilling event to visit the Koza station and see what God has done. It is located in the midst of this primitive tribe, and our hospital is, up to the present time, the only mission hospital in the North Cameroons. The first physician arrived in February 1954, opening a small two-room dispensary, and this marked real progress for the up-to-then neglected "Matakam" tribe. The plant consists now of a center dispensary building which houses the admitting office, examining rooms, laboratory, pharmacy, operating rooms, as well as storage space. Behind this center building there are located two wings with twenty-two beds each, and in the rear of them a number of simple huts which shelter up to eighty out-patients. On the same campus we have constructed two doctors' houses, and we were happy to observe the installation of running water in these units. The buildings are simple, but very impressive, and the institution is flourishing so even some white patients come from distant towns to seek healing.

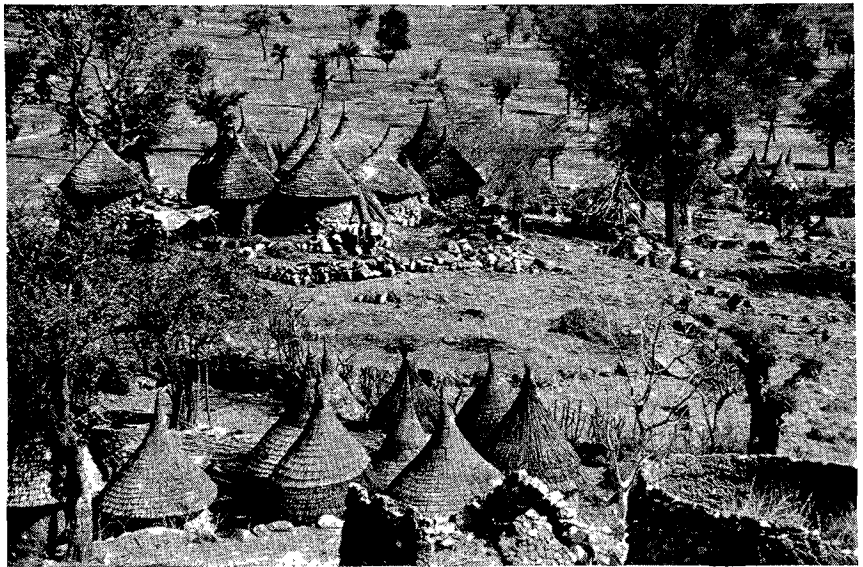
Every morning many patients gather at the hospital with serious and longstanding diseases, and in many cases, unfortunately, the people



The two doctors and the patient with elephantiasis second from the left

do not come for treatment until their condition is grave, waiting almost until they are near death. Every Monday of each week is "Leper Day", and early in the morning, before it is too hot, these poor victims come from all directions of the nearby hills in order to seek relief from their physical ills and maladies. What pitiful sights to behold among these unfortunate people, and how thankful we should be for all life's necessities, and especially for good health! The regularity of attendance of these lepers for treatment offers a fine opportunity for evangelism.

The work at Koza presents a real challenge. Our American doctors, F. W. Brennwald and A. R. Bergman, are doing a splendid job, and our institution is enjoying an excellent reputation among the natives, attracting people from far away. While we were there, a Mohammedan walked over 200 kilometers in order to be treated by our doctors. He had elephantiasis in his left leg, and,



Typical village in the hills of Kirdy

think of it, he walked that tremendous distance on his poor deformed feet! The government has shown mark-

ed confidence in our medical missionary work, and the future looks bright.

It was a privilege for us to watch the working of our staff which consists of the two doctors, one French nurse, Miss Tièche, five native nurses' aids, a guardian and a grounds-maintenance man. During the past year this consecrated staff has cared for 961 inpatients, or a daily average of 30; 202 major and minor operations were performed, and there were a large number of outpatient visits—63,433—this number not including the leper patients. This is surely a great achievement for a staff as modest as that one. In addition to the hospital and outpatient work, the doctors go to other centers of the population and conduct general clinics. Thousands of individuals have been blessed by the godly ministry of our doctors and nurses, and only eternity will reveal its results. What a blessing it would be if we had more such soul-winning institutions where physical healing is combined with spiritual help, because we know that our great example, Jesus Christ, spent a large part of His ministry in medical missionary work. The magnitude of the work yet to be done in the North Cameroons is more impressive than the work we have accomplished; I am sure, however, that among the redeemed there will be many black jewels from the hills of Kirdy.



A woman grinding millet

Statistical Report of the Southern European Division of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending June 30, 1959

Name of Conference or Mission	Number of Churches	Previous Membership	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total Gains	Apostasy	Death	Letter	Missing Members	Total Losses	Net Gains	Present Membership	Ord. Minist. Active	* Honorary	Cred. Miss. Active	* Honorary	Lic. Minist. Active	* Honorary	Licensed Missionaries	Bible Instructors	Elementary School Teachers	Colporteurs	All Other Regular Workers	Total Workers	Number of Sabbath Schools	Sabbath School Membership	Average Attendance	
AUSTRIAN U. C.																													
Alpine Conference	19	1186	16	—	10	26	7	3	13	—	23	3	1189	3	1	4	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	4	23	19	1249	840	
Danube Conference	22	1502	22	1	2	25	10	6	6	—	22	3	1505	7	—	1	—	2	—	2	2	—	20	—	34	22	1640	999	
Total	41	2688	38	1	12	51	17	9	19	—	45	6	2694	16	1	7	—	3	—	14	6	—	22	4	73	41	2889	1839	
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN U. C.*	Total	50	7505	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7505	43	—	—	—	26	—	2	—	—	—	—	71	160	6000	5400	
FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.																													
Belgian Conference	16	973	11	—	2	13	4	6	6	—	16	-3	970	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	14	19	919	672	
French Conference	69	3369	86	4	52	142	6	12	35	—	53	89	3458	30	5	2	2	14	—	10	4	1	32	2	102	71	2921	1830	
Total	85	4342	97	4	54	155	10	18	41	—	69	86	4328	42	8	3	2	18	—	15	4	1	35	12	140	90	3840	2502	
HUNGARIAN U. C.*	Total	166	6222	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6222	43	—	5	—	11	—	12	6	—	—	2	79	175	7000	6500	
RUMANIAN U. C.*	Total	551	33989	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33989	108	—	—	—	35	—	87	—	—	—	40	270	646	53200	48000	
SWISS U. C.																													
French Swiss Conference	27	1460	26	1	10	37	10	2	8	—	20	17	1477	13	—	1	5	4	—	3	—	3	14	—	43	31	1826	1171	
German Swiss Conference	31	1964	29	1	24	54	9	12	13	1	35	19	1983	14	2	1	3	2	—	4	3	3	20	—	52	28	1391	1067	
Total	58	3424	55	2	34	91	19	14	21	1	55	36	3460	27	2	2	8	6	—	7	3	6	34	—	95	59	3217	2238	
YUGOSLAVIAN U. C.*	Total	230	8423	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8423	33	—	1	—	11	—	5	11	—	—	—	61	300	9000	8500	
ANGOLA U. M.																													
Bongo Mission	23	5492	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5492	5	1	1	—	4	—	15	—	—	1	—	27	41	75	7583	7030
Cuale Mission	1	1141	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1141	6	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	27	—	—	—	35	41	4869	3074
Lucusse Mission	1	216	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	216	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	10	—	—	—	15	14	1073	997
Luz Mission	1	1071	—	—	—	—	13	3	—	—	16	-16	1055	3	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	25	—	—	—	36	73	4933	4035
Namba Mission	1	1267	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1267	1	—	—	—	9	—	1	—	13	—	2	—	26	12	2920	2043
NovaLisboa Mission	22	2553	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2553	3	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	35	45	5426	5068
Quilengues Mission	1	154	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	154	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	14	11	640	615
St. Thomas Mission	1	256	7	—	—	7	—	—	3	—	3	4	260	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	7	1	267	231
European Churches	3	191	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	193	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	6	—	—	—	13	8	519	499
Total	54	12341	9	—	—	9	13	3	3	—	19	-10	12331	29	1	1	—	49	—	30	—	136	1	2	249	280	28230	23592	
FRENCH EQ. AFR. U. M.																													
East Mission	8	1429	43	—	—	43	4	2	—	—	6	37	1466	3	—	2	1	—	—	15	—	—	—	13	34	62	35	4540	3575
Kribi Mission	6	376	21	—	—	21	6	3	1	—	10	11	387	3	—	—	—	1	—	8	24	24	—	—	1	62	18	1205	895
Nanga-Eboko Mission	12	2500	103	—	—	103	5	8	—	—	13	90	2590	3	—	1	—	3	—	5	21	33	—	—	1	67	35	5256	3262
North Cameroon Mission	2	350	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	350	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	12	6	—	—	9	31	14	754	1065
Sangmelima Mission	2	486	9	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	9	495	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	23	—	—	4	35	14	1150	783
Yaoundé Mission	6	925	77	—	—	77	12	5	2	—	19	58	983	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	12	39	—	—	—	56	25	2734	1876
Total	36	6066	253	—	—	253	27	18	3	—	48	205	6271	15	—	4	1	10	—	35	80	149	—	33	327	141	15639	11456	
INDIAN OCEAN U. M.*																													
Fianarantsoa Mission	8	245	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	245	2	—	2	—	—	—	10	1	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—
Majunga-Diego Mission	10	347	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	347	3	—	—	—	4	—	3	—	12	3	—	—	21	17	1023	810
Mauritius Mission	13	1104	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1104	6	—	—	—	5	—	10	—	12	2	—	—	35	15	999	960
Réunion Mission	8	386	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	386	1	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	9	530	465
Seychelles Mission	1	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	78	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	4	1	80	65
Tamatave Mission	2	132	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	132	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	10	6	258	104
Tananarive Mission	27	1633	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1633	9	2	—	—	3	—	6	—	28	5	22	75	44	3600	2531	
Total	69	3925	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3925	28	2	2	—	15	—	32	1	61	13	22	176	113	7071	5265	

Adventism among the Malagasy

By W. A. Wild

Madagascar has this year experienced the worst disaster in all its history, caused by a series of five tropical cyclones which swept over this large island in the Indian Ocean. The extraordinary heavy rainfall caused the rivers to leap over their dams and the receding waters left large agricultural areas destroyed. Ruined plantations, uprooted giant trees, collapsed homes and buildings with a confusion of objects, small and large, as well as scattered odds and ends all offered a sorry sight to behold. Over five thousand persons had to be evacuated, and as yet an undetermined number of several hundred souls perished.

Only a few days before this fourth largest island in the world was struck, it was the privilege of the writer to attend a series of mission sessions there.

The work of the Seventh-day Adventists on the island of Madagascar is organized into four missions which form part of the Indian Ocean Union Mission with headquarters in Tananarive, a city approximately the size of Basel (Switzerland). The island has a population of nearly five million, and the combined membership of the fifty Seventh-day Adventist churches is 2100. The largest mission is the Tananarive Mission with 1300 members.

Madagascar is to a great extent peopled by a Malay race, but the gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached there for a considerable time so that statistics reveal 36% of the inhabitants professing to be Christians—20% Protestants and 16% Catholics. The rest of the people is pagan, given to ancestor-worship. By his nature and by his avatism the Malagasy is deeply religious, and all through his life the important happenings as well as the routine daily occurrences are permeated with reli-

gious sentiments due to his confidence in, and fear of, the spirits of his ancestors. What a challenge this situation is to a Seventh-day Adventist missionary who holds in his hands the key to the real nature of man, death, the resurrection, and eternal life!

The establishment of schools is an important factor in the process of spiritual enlightenment of the young Malagasies, and at the present time there are three such schools operating. One is located near Tananarive, called the Indian Ocean Union Training School at Soamanandrany, and this school prepares workers for the high plateau land of Madagascar. The Ambatoaranana School near Tamatave, and the Ankazambo School near Befandriana, are educational centers for coastal workers. The total attendance at these three schools is 2200.

Fourteen overseas missionaries and their families are stationed on the island of Madagascar, and their term of service is 5 years with a period of 9 months' furlough between terms. They come from Belgium, France, Switzerland, and the United States. Associated with them are 118 gospel workers, teachers and office workers, all of them Malagasy trained and molded through the influence of Seventh-day Adventist schools and missionaries.

The work is carried on in French and Malagasy, the latter being a language which belongs to the Tagala branch of the Malay sub-family of Austronesian languages—to some easy, to others difficult to learn. However, several of the missionaries are well able to preach the Three Angels' Messages in the vernacular. A modest Publishing House, established in 1930, produces books, tracts and periodicals in the Malagasy language.

As yet no medical work has been

started, and many branches of the work in Madagascar need further strengthening. Isolated from the great continents, and being an island larger than Great Britain, it deserves our continued material and spiritual support. May God richly bless both the missionaries and the national workers and give them the joy of increased success in winning great numbers of Malagasy to the Message.

Armenians—Special Notice

Four hundred Adventist Armenians in the Middle East Division are requesting that we print an Armenian periodical. If one is published quarterly or monthly we wonder how many Armenians in other parts of the world would subscribe? Any Armenians who would care to become subscribers for such a periodical kindly contact the undersigned giving address, and suggestions.

Raymond H. Hartwell, Secretary
Middle East Division of the
General Conference
P.O. Box 2020, Beirut,
Lebanon

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