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# A New Church in the Equatorial Forest of the Cameroun

By M. Fridlin



The Church in Sangmelima, Cameroun

During the last visit I made to the Equatorial African Union Mission together with Brethren B. J. Kohler, the treasurer of the Southern European Division, and A. Cosendai, president of the Equatorial African Union Mission, we spent one weekend at a small town by the name of Sangmelima, which is about 180 km from Yaounde, the capital of Equatorial Africa. Three kilometers outside Sangmelima we have a mission station called Avebe, where we attended the dedication services of a new chapel on the Sabbath of April 25, 1959.

The mission station of Avebe had its beginnings during the last war, about 20 years ago, but only temporary buildings were erected then because of lack of funds. These buildings were soon attacked by termites and had to be renewed. The same thing happened to the chapel where

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a torch at one time was left by mischievous hands which caused the whole flimsily built building to be destroyed in a moment.

We reached the mission station just about one hour before the beginning of Sabbath, and how happy we were to see a lovely well-built chapel instead of the old primitive one with the grass roof. The foundation of the church was laid by Brother I. Curmatureanu some years ago, but the construction had to be stopped as there was no more money on hand. It was Brother M. Radancevic who had the great pleasure of finishing the work, and we must congratulate him on the beautiful building which is the result of much hard work and sacrifice. The plans were made by Brother A. Cosendai, the Union president, and Brother Radancevic. This new house of God now stands in the equatorial forest in the midst of 100,000 friendly natives of the Bulu tribe. At the same station we have today nice school buildings in which about 250 pupils are being trained.

How wonderful it was once more to welcome the Sabbath in the forests of Southern Cameroun. The impression gained by this enormous highland covered with mysterious, impenetrable forests with the inexpressibly rich vegetation, is almost overwhelming. As far as the eye can see one discerns only mountain after mountain and hill upon hill. As the sun descended coloring the sky with different hues of pink, there came immediately out of the forest the buzzings and hummings from thousands of insects, interrupted only by the song and warbling of strange birds. After the sun had set we started the Sabbath with a service, and the chapel, which seats 700 persons, was full to the last row.

On Sabbath morning at 8 o'clock small groups of Africans had already arrived: men and women dressed in their best clothes were standing outside the chapel waiting to get in. Several of them had walked 30, 40, and even 60 km in order to be present. It was my privilege to give the consecration service as well as the dedication prayer on that beautiful Sabbath morning. In the afternoon both Brethren B. J. Kohler and A. Cosendai spoke from the Word of God, and all day the chapel was ab-



Sabbath School in the new Church

solutely filled to the walls. Besides the members of the church many visitors had arrived, among whom were some representatives from the government as well as some chiefs from the village itself and the neighboring ones. Many people of other faiths, and also heathens, had come to share the happiness of our members, and some had even brought food with them, which they shared with those who had come from distant places.

The solemnity was soul-stirring, and the occasion was made even more moving and impressive when a baptism took place in the river which flows at the edge of our compound. Among the baptismal candidates were the parents of one of our ordained African workers. This man had become acquainted with the Advent Hope some twenty-two years ago, and since that time he had been praying continuously for his parents who did not seem to be at all interested in the Message. His prayers had now been answered, and with tears of joy in his eyes he watched the simple,

but beautiful baptismal ceremony.

The day after the dedication services we had a workers' meeting with the African brethren. The work in Southern Cameroun is not easy. Since the end of the last century different Christian denominations have been working in Equatorial Africa, but here, as in many places in Europe, souls must be won one by one. However, the work at the mission station of Avebe has been richly blessed, and we have today 483 baptized members and 1150 Sabbath school members here. During the year 1958 sixty-eight souls were won, and it almost looks as if that number will be surpassed this year.

Our deepfelt gratitude for this new house of God rose up to heaven, and our voices were raised honoring God by many beautiful Advent hymns. The missionary and his faithful African helpers can in this new church present our wonderful Message of a soon-coming Saviour, and thus it can be spread to the innumerable villages in the immense forests of Equatorial Africa.

#### Get Acquainted with your Division From Far-Away Mauritius By W. A. Wild

The Southern European Division's most distant mission field is the island of Mauritius, 550 miles east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. This British crown colony of 720 square miles, with its 600,000 people, chiefly Hindus, was formerly known as Ile de France. Although English is the official language, French is yet widely used, and in order to carry on the gospel work on the island it is essential that the missionaries know and speak the French language.

It was the privilege of the writer to attend the annual session of the Mauritius Mission early this year and to get acquainted with its workers and members in the blessed hope. Dr. Henri Evard, a missionary from Switzerland, is both mission director and president of the Phoenix Adventist School. There are fourteen organized churches scattered over the island, and the membership of the mission now stands at 1,200.

A modern, spacious church building, seating about 500, has been erected recently in Port Louis, the capital. This city of 80,000 people, built in the 18th century by Mahe de Labourdonnais, the greatest of French governors, is a very curious but picturesque and cosmopolitan town. The new church, we feel, is destined to be the center of evangelization for Europeans, Chinese and Hindus.

The Advent Message was first brought to Mauritius in 1914, and has grown continually since that time. The group of sixteen workers is a loyal and busy band, and it was a great inspiration to listen to their reports and to help them lay plans for the future of God's work. One of the big unsolved problems is to find a way to win more of the 80 % Hindu population. Many of their temples can be seen across the island, where periodically the fire walkers make their way over blazing charcoal beds, trying in this way to find sanctification and salvation.

The Phoenix Adventist School with an excellent teaching staff under the able direction of its president, Dr. Evard, is doing much to promote the principles of Christian education among its 360 students. Many of them subsequently carry the ideas of Christian living into their homes throughout the island, and while the results of the influence of Seventhday Adventist teaching cannot be measured immediately in number of souls baptized, yet it is more often manifest in the goodwill shown toward the school and its staff by a host of friends thus gained.

The work of God is going forward among the people of Mauritius, the beautiful island where stags can be seen grazing in the woods while monkeys cross the roads every hundred yards; where the beaches of fine sand are bathed by the turquoise blue waters of the sea, and where missionary work can be done under an almost perpetually bright and sunny sky.

#### Visitors to S.E.D.

During the summer months many visitors have honored us here in the SouthernEuropeanDivision by calling in at the office. Missionaries on furlough come to talk with the brethren here, and overseas visitors want to see the headquarters of this Division. From America we were happy to have three distinguished representatives from the General Conference among us. They did not come to visit but to work, and spent considerable time in different countries of our field.

Elder E. L. Minchin from the M. V. Department spent almost two months holding youth campaigns in the capitals of several European countries, and a report of his successful work appears on pp. 4-5 of this number. Elder W. A. Higgins from the Publishing Department also spent some weeks on continental Europe participating in book evangelist institutes, and Elder Walter Schubert of the Ministerial Association is still working successfully in Turin and Milan, Italy, conducting public efforts in these interesting, but difficult cities. Reports from these two last activities will appear in the next numbers of the Quarterly Review.

#### **Mission News**

\* Mozambique Mission. This Mission has just ended a very successful camp meeting season. In the Munguluni district alone eleven camp meetings were held with a total attendance of 5515, and thus spiritual uplift and refreshment were enjoyed here by a larger number than ever before. The largest camp meeting was held at the Munguluni Mission Station with an attendance of 1650. Here altogether 53 churches and groups were represented, and 400 souls were baptized, which is 60% more than the previous year. The largest single baptism was held at Mangassanja, where 109 souls were baptized and taken into fellowship. The camp meeting offerings amounted to about 40% over those of last year. During this same camp meeting season 1000 medical treatments and 368 injections were administered.

Sénégal. On November 2, 1959, a new grade school was opened in Dakar, French West Africa, and 135 students were enrolled, all of whom were able to pay their school fees. There are three classes taught by African teachers, and there seem to be bright prospects that three more classes may soon be added. This new enterprise is being directed by Brother Robert Erdmann, the director of the French African Mission, and it is hoped that this Christian Education Program will be a powerful tool in reaching the Mohammedan population of the city. Recently Brother Erdmann also had the great joy of baptizing the first European in this part of Africa. Nova Lisboa, Portuguese West Africa. It is only a year ago that the first Bible Correspondence School was organized in Angola, and at the same time arrangements were made to release the Voice of Prophecy program over three radio stations. Now, one year later, we have received the news that the first student of this Bible Correspondence School has been baptized, and one more radio station has taken on our program.

\* Equatorial Africa. Heinrich Walder and family, formerly of the Swiss Union, are leaving in January, 1960, for Equatorial Africa, where Brother Walder will be in charge of the Sangmelima Mission, Cameroun. During the first part of January, 1960, Miss Bluette Rossier is also leaving Switzerland to connect with the medical work in Northern Cameroun as nurse at Dogba Mission.

\* Israel. Elder Henri Jaquenod and family are leaving from Venice on January 7, 1960, to go to Israel where Elder Jaquenod will take up his duties as president of the Israel Mission.

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### Youth Aflame for God



E.L. Minchin

"There is no other class that can do as much good as young men and young women who are consecrated to God" (IT p. 511). Already when the first volume of the *Testimonies* was written in the year 1867 this inspired message was brought to the church. The modest but momentous beginnings of this movement had already proved the value of consecrated youth. Twenty-four years later Mrs. White wrote: "The church is languishing for the help of young men who will bear a courageous testimony, who will with their ardent zeal stir up the sluggish energies of God's people, and so increase the power of the church in the world" (Review and Herald, June 16, 1891, also Messages to Young People, p. 25). Is this not even more true today?

Building on these stirring messages and responding to an urgent need to give new zeal and spiritual impetus to our Youth Societies, the M. V. Department had, together with the Committee of the Southern European Division, already in 1958 planned a council of the M. V. secretaries from the European fields which should be followed by evangelistic campaigns in some of the great cities.

The months of September and October, 1959, had been set aside for these activities, and these two months brought unforgettable experiences to the youth secretaries as well as to thousands of young people and church members. God's special instrument was Elder E. L. Minchin, a godly revivalist and representative of the M. V. Department of the General Conference, who had been invited for this special purpose.

The council was held in Valbella, where the M. V. secretaries from Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Madagascar, North Africa, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland came together for a few days. In a Swiss chalet, 5000 feet up in the Alps, they learned from Elder Minchin some of the secrets of successful youth leadership. In great earnestness they all reconsecrated themselves and offered their lives to a more Christlike, soul-winning ministry. New methods in youth evangelism were approved, and the whole program for the junior and senior activities was studied to make it more efficient in saving and training our youth for the mighty work God wants them to do in these last days.

Then came the thrilling days of campaigns in Austria, Belgium, France, Italy and Switzerland. With the exception of Zurich and Geneva no halls had been rented, and the services were held in our own churches or school buildings. Thus the churchcentered character of these campaigns was clearly stressed according to the wishes of Elder Minchin. Although the societies and the youth leaders had not had much time to prepare for these weeks of youth evangelism, they had done a fine work. Thousands of folders had been printed and distributed by our young people; friendship teams had invited scores of their comrades, who were not yet baptized or who had left the church, as well as other friends and strangers. The workers and other members of the churches co-operated wonderfully, and each day they came together for special prayer seasons.

At every place people came by the hundreds. When they heard God's servant unfolding the living treasures of God's Word their number increased each night, and during the week-ends the halls were packed to capacity, and we were especially happy to see that about half of them were young people.

In the seventy-one meetings held during these six weeks about 4000 to 5000 must have heard the message of the saving power of Christ. Most of them had attended all the services which generally lasted a whole week, even though many came from far distant places: parents and children, old and young, baptized and unbaptized. The whole church and hundreds of non-Adventists experienced a revival the like of which has rarely been seen before, and it was not a revival with excitement and undue emotional display, but the gentle presence of the Holy Spirit was clearly felt by all as the wholesome doctrine of Christwas presented. This brought about a sincere heartsearching, confession of sins, true reconciliation with God and man and a sincere desire to become the kind of Christian God wants us to be; aut most important of all, it worked b beautiful response from the youth who wanted to serve the Lord.

The climax of these several weeks was always the last meeting with the testimonies given by the young people. This proved to be the most powerful agent in evangelism. About one hundred and fifty young people came forward in Vienna, Paris, Florence, Zurich, Collonges and Geneva, claiming with great sincerity the Saviour's strength and grace to overcome sin and witness for Him. Very impressive were the clear, spontaneous confessions of faith in the Advent Message by many of our Missionary Volunteers. Even children 12, 13 and 14 years of age testified of their love for Jesus. Many members, who had not been attending church for years, publicly said that these meetings had brought them back into the fold, and more than 200 fine young men and women answered the specific call for service in God's work. These spirit-filled, youthful testimonies, sometimes uttered with trembling lips, but always in great earnestness, brougth faith and strength to thousands of our own people and their friends. They not only gave evidence of personal sur-. render, but also brought victories to those who had resisted to the last moment. The children and young people literally stirred up the whole church.

In Florence a lift-boy, who had never heard of the Advent Hope before, and who came to our church for the first time, testified to the irresistible power he felt from the very first moment he stepped into the building. In Vienna a Hungarian student at the University of Vienna said that his mother had been an Adventist, but that he himself had not lived after her faith for many years. He also confessed that he had never had the courage to come into . the church building during his three

years' stay in Vienna until he saw the poster outside "A Call to Youth". When he entered he felt the Spirit of God and said that he had decided to become a true disciple of Christ. He had already started sharing his faith by bringing a friend from the university along with him. In another city a college teacher confessed that he at first resisted the call, but in the end he could not help himself, but came forward to confess his faith in Christ, saying furthermore, that if he were called he would gladly enter denominational work. In Zurich a Rumanian refugee spoke about the wonderful way Christ had led him. When the audience heard from a Bible worker that he had had to borrow clothes from his brother, who was in military service, in order to come to the meetings, hundreds of Swiss francs were spontaneously offered to him in order that he might buy the necessary clothing.

Nobody can tell exactly the final results of these revival weeks, but they have again proved that meetings, with the youth witnessing for Christ, are one of the most effective means of evangelism. About 150 young people from our churches and non-Adventist families have signed the decision cards to prepare for baptism, 46 in Paris and 48 in Collonges alone. That is an exceptionally high percentage, even compared with youth congresses. To God alone is the glory because it was evident that these decisions were wrought by the Spirit of the Lord through a servant who, like Paul, admonished with tears (Acts 20:21), helped by a church in prayer.

The time has come now when the Missionary Volunteers, seniors and juniors, must rise and bear testimonies of their faith both in the church as well as in the world. Let us pray that these hundreds of boys and girls, young men and young women, who have dedicated their lives to soulwinning service, will not fail in these days when the youth so desperately needs Christ and His saving power. And as a church let us have faith in them and use their youthful vigor and zeal to hasten the return of the Lord. There is no limit to the good they may do, if Christ is their strength and God's Word the rule of their lives.



E. L. Minchin - P. Steiner

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	» Ho	Lic. Ministers	» » Honorary Licensed	Missionaries Bible Instructors	Elementary School Teachers	Colporteurs	All Other Regular Workers	Total Workers	Number of Sabbath Schools	Sabbath School Membership	Average Attendance
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### Statistical Report of the Southern European Division of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending Sept. 30, 1959

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PORTUGUESE U. M.         Azores       Mission         Cape Verde Mission       Mission         Madeira       Mission         Portuguese       Conference	$egin{array}{cccc} 3 & 134 \ 4 & 283 \ 1 & 147 \ 19 & 1632 \end{array}$		$\begin{array}{c} 6 & - \\ 3 & - \\ 8 \\ 82 & - \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$     \begin{array}{cccc}       1 & 5 \\       1 & 2 \\       3 & 5 \\       15 & 67 \\     \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$				$ \begin{array}{c} \hline 1 \\ \hline 1 \\ \hline 1 \\ \hline 18 \\ \hline 2 \end{array} $	$     \begin{array}{c}       11 \\       3 \\       5 \\       2 \\       43 \\       \hline       2       43       \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{r} 4\\ 8\\ 4\\ 30 \end{array}$	$165 \\ 469 \\ 222 \\ 2028 \\ 2028 \\ 2020 \\ 100 \\ 1$	$     137 \\     270 \\     210 \\     1413 \\     \overline{} 2002 $
Total	27 2196	80 1 18	99	<u>1 6 13 —</u>	20 79		- 6 9	8	2	20 2	64	46	2884	2030
BULGARIAN* MISSION	39 3197		e			3197 9	4	10			23	39	2672	2200
FRENCH WEST AFRICAN MISSION	1 21			2 - 5 -	7 - 7	14 1	1	1		1	4	1	13	20
GREEK MISSION	5 199					199 3 1	- 2	2 -			8	5	237	180
ISRAEL MISSION	1 35	4				35	· 1				1	2	40	. 34
MOZAMBIQUE MISSION	12 1211	400	400	4 6 6	16 384	1595 4 - 2	2	9	19	1 4	39	51	5123	4561
SPANISH CHURCH	16 1329	108 - 9	117 1	0 6 24	40 77	1406 9 1 1	9	$3^{-}2$		13 4	42	21	1553	798

RECAPITULATION

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													21		11	3 —	<b>29</b>				195	259			
Austrian	Union Conference	41	2694	18 —	17	35	8	14	16 —	38	- 3	2691	17	1	7 1	4	10	9		<b>21</b>	4	74	41	2946	1754
Czechoslovakian*	Union Conference	50	7505					<del></del>				7505	43			26 -	<b>2</b>					71	160	6000	5400
Franco-Belgian	Union Conference	85	4428	57 1	28	86	10	16	25	51	35	4463	<b>42</b>	8	3 2	18	15	4	1	35	12	140	90	3748	2063
Hungarian	Union Conference	163	6222	$163 \ 17$		180	76	66	- 35	177	3	6225	<b>39</b>		9	6	9	4				67	175	7000	6500
Rumanian*	Union Conference	551	33989									33989	108	····· ·		35 —	87				40	270	646	53200	48000
Swiss	Union Conference	59	3460	19 1	<b>29</b>	49	15	11	33	59	- 10	3450	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	2 3	6	7	3	6	37		93	59	3366	2182
Yugoslavian	Union Conference	230	8423	219 12	285	516	84	66	309	459	57	8480	33		1	11 —	5	11				61	300	9000	8500
Angola	Union Mission	54	12331	950 1	1	952	110	1	20	131	821	13152	<b>29</b>	1	1	49	30		<b>140</b>	1	<b>2</b>	253	287	28611	23786
French Eq. African	Union Mission	36	6271	235 -		235	10	12		22	213	6484	15		4 1	10 -	35	80	149		33	327	154	12343	8765
Indian Ocean	Union Mission	74	3925	157 —	33	190	25	12	75 —	112	78	4003	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	2 -	15	32	1	61	13	<b>22</b>	176	113	7071	5265 ·
Italian	Union Mission	57	2602	54 7	7	68	1	6	15	22	46	2648	<b>26</b>	6	2 -	17	10	14		50		125	86	2935	2770
North African	Union Mission	19	877	42 2	13	57	<b>2</b>	4	23 6	35	<b>22</b>	899	12		2	7 —	6	1		4		32	20	680	518
Portuguese	Union Mission	27	2196	80 1	18	99	1	6	13 —	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b> 9	2275	<b>14</b>	3.	- 6	9	8		<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>64</b>	46	2884	2030
Bulgarian*	Mission	39	3197									3197	9	—· ·		4	10			•		<b>23</b>	<b>39</b>	2672	2200
French West African	Mission	1	<b>21</b>				<b>2</b>	_	5	7	- 7	14	1			1	1			1		4	1	13	20
Greek	Mission	5	199									199	3		1	2 -	<b>2</b>	—				8	5	237	180
Israel	Mission	1	35		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>					<b>2</b>	37		—· ·		1						1	<b>2</b>	40	34
Mozambique	Mission	12	1211	400 -		400	4	6	6 —	16	384	1595	4		2 -		9		<b>19</b>	1	4	<b>39</b>	51	5123	4561
Spanish	Church	16	1329	108 —	9	117	10	6	24	40	77	1406	9	1	1 —	9	3	2		13	4	42	21	1553	798
Totals 3rd Quarter, 19	59	15201	00915	2502 42	442	2986	358	226	544 61	1189	1797	102712	480	24 4	48 13	233 —	310	129	378	196	318	2129	2296	149422	125326
Totals 3rd Quarter, 19	58	1570	97429	4483 253	310	50461	1389	828	314 9	2540	2506	99935	471	8	54 —	203 —	292	170	345	218	217	1970	2090	141921	121144
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\* No Report

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