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The Advent Message on the Island of Malta

By *G. Catalano*

Whenever I used to read Acts 28:1-14, which describes the shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta, I asked myself if our Message is known there today, and the desire became strong in me to visit that island with our literature. Malta belongs to the Northern European Division, but the distance has made it difficult to send book evangelists there, and when I asked the Division's permission to visit the island, it was granted.

Malta means "honey" or "sweetness" in the Greek language. The Malta Archipelago, consisting of Malta, Gozo, Comino and other small uninhabited islands, is situated in the Mediterranean about 90 km from Sicily. The largest island is Malta with an area of 122 sq.miles, and it has about 325 000 inhabitants. The name of the capital is Valletta, and it has 25,000 citizens. The native population is Catholic, and the Maltese are strongly connected with the Catholic Church. But the prophet Isaiah long ago prophesied: "... and the isles shall wait for his law" (Isa. 42:4), and "Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far" (Isa. 49:1).

Jesus has promised that He will not return to this earth again until the gospel has been preached to all

the world (Mark 13:10 and Matt. 24:14). Until the end of 1957 no Adventist had been on Malta to give the last message of salvation to the people there. Furnished with the necessary papers I left by ship from Syracuse, Sicily, on November 12, 1957. I had books with our health message, on Christian education, as well as religious books in Italian and English. Almost all over the island the people speak and read English and Italian.

After my arrival at the island I immediately began to work, and with God's help I sold books worth one thousand lire in a few days. But this happiness did not last long. When I returned to my hotel on the evening of the fourth day I was met by a police officer, who ordered me to follow him to the police station. Here my passport was examined, but found all right. Then all kinds of questions, especially as regards my religion, were put to me, and efforts were made to make me say something against the Roman Catholic Church.

That same evening the police officer went with me to the hotel and took all my books away, leaving only the Bible for me to read. He told me that I was not allowed to continue my work until I heard from

the police, and furthermore, I had to be at the police station again the next morning. There a second police official received me, examined my passport again, and asked what the reason was for my visit to the island. The following conversation took place: "I am a preacher in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which has its headquarters in Washington, D.C., and I am here to sell our literature." "Do you plan to start an Adventist church here on the island?" "Yes." "The only recognized church here on the island is the Roman Catholic Church, and we do not need an evangelical church." He forbade me to continue my work, as I needed a special permission from the proper authorities.

I returned to the hotel and asked the Lord to help me; then I went to the Italian consulate, and from there an official took me to an attorney. After a few days, during which I studied the Word of God with special care, I was told to appear before the judge to answer for my violation of Article 161. According to this article anyone who insults the Roman Catholic religion, which is the religion of the Maltese, can get from one to six months in jail. On the appointed day I went to court with my attorney. The judge

declared, however, that my case could not be handled there, but should be brought before the high court of justice, and all the persons who had bought books from me should be questioned. Because of the difficult situation in which I found myself, the judge gave me the counsel that I again should go to the Italian consul, who ought to raise a protest to the governor of the island on my behalf.

I had to wait another week before my case was settled. During this time I studied God's Word and prayed much, as I did not see any solution to my problem; it seemed, on the contrary, to get more difficult and involved all the time. These days were the most bitter in my life, and I sought the Lord more than ever. The psalms of David were of great comfort to me. The verses which made the greatest impression on me were those which speak about protection and deliverance: Ps. 37:40; 38:15; 39:12; 40:17; 50:15; 60:11, 12; 62:1, 2, 5.

On the Friday evening of November 22, 1957, at the beginning of the Sabbath, I opened my Bible and my eyes fell on the passage in Job 42:10: "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends." This verse encouraged me very much, and I told myself that my deliverance could not be far away. A few minutes later I heard a knock at the door, and upon opening it I saw two police officials standing before me with all the books which had been taken from me. When in great surprise I asked what had happened, I got the following answer: "We have examined all your books, and have not found in any of them what we suspected." In kind words they told me I was free, and thus in a wonderful way I had been released without a trial, and I knew that the Lord had heard my prayers once more, even though the answer did not come at once. This hard trial has made me seek the Lord more earnestly. I thank Him now for the difficulties I encountered, which have made me more humble and more willing to do His will.

After this experience I returned to Italy, but on December 17, 1958, I

Experiences of a Missionary Nurse at the Bongo Hospital

By *Alberta Hodde*

The missionary nurse who bids farewell to her family, friends and native land is not «burying» herself when she begins a life of service in Africa or elsewhere. Some of the experiences which make her feel so grateful for the privilege of being one of God's servants in a very needy area are the following:

Early one morning, recently, a native with frequent and violent muscular contractions was brought to the hospital by truck. His agonized grunts, so unusual for the native patient, were heard at frequent intervals throughout the entire hospital. We had only two ampoules of tetanus antitoxin to start the man's treatment, so we were very pleased when a visiting missionary offered to make the trip of 70 km to Nova Lisboa to purchase more of this lifesaving serum. God heard and answered the many prayers of the Bongo missionaries and hospital staff, and the heathen African was later able to leave the hospital with the recognition of God's healing power.

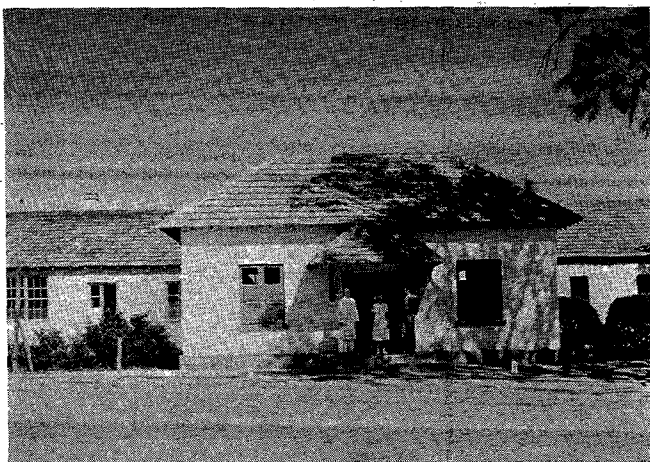
«Dona, come quickly and help my wife.» I had just finished a class when a native came running and in an urgent voice requested that I see his wife *now*. In a few seconds I was at the side of the woman, who was still suspended in a «tipoiá» (crudely made native stretcher) and accompanied by one newly born baby. As a rule native women do not come to the hospital for deliveries, so when one in labor appears at our hospital,

we immediately question: What may be the complication? In the case of this woman the trouble was that the second baby just would not come. After caring for the first twin, a long period of waiting and observation began. With Doctor R. B. Parsons away on furlough the hospital was without a physician at the moment, and we nurses felt the burden of the responsibility, especially as regards maternity cases. Those requiring surgical intervention were sent to the community hospital while the doctor was away, but we hoped to be able to attend to this woman right here at our mission hospital. The Lord rewarded our efforts, and after many hours a beautiful twin sister arrived. In the darkness of the night shouts of joy arose from the family waiting outside the hospital. The missionary's rewards cannot be measured in material values alone, but the «dapandulas» (thank-yous) of the poor, but grateful, natives after such an experience quicken the step and lighten the heart of the physically tired missionary nurse.

Nearly every sad experience and suffering common to all humanity is seen in the mission hospital. The anguish of parents who come running to the hospital with a child suffering from the effects of a convulsion produced by an attack of malignant malaria, challenges the missionary nurse to employ every means available to save a life from the very clutches of death. One day,

went back to the island of Malta, this time accompanied by Brother G. Martino. After some difficulties we obtained the permission to sell our books here for three months. I stayed two weeks on the island, and during this time I sold literature worth two thousand lire. Brother Martino stayed the full time permitted, and sold one million lire worth of our books.

May God richly bless these silent messengers, which have been distributed on this beautiful island, and may the authorities grant one of our workers the permission to reside and work there. May the Lord also put the desire in every Seventh-day Adventist heart to carry the Message to the places in the world where it is still unknown, and thereby hasten the glorious return of Christ.



The Mission Hospital in Bongo

after giving an antimalarial injection to a beautiful black-skinned child, I immersed it in a hot bath, giving it frequent dashes of cold water and accompanying the treatment with an audible prayer. As the little boy began to react I perceived that one of his parents, a so-called member of the church, had been smoking. After the mother had confessed to this weakness, I told her perhaps her sin might be the cause of the child's suffering, and she promised never to use tobacco again. I have encountered the mother on the mission several times since that day, and have seen no more signs of smoking. When the Lord restores our patients to health we remind them of God's saving power that they might know that the God in heaven works for the patients at the mission hospital.

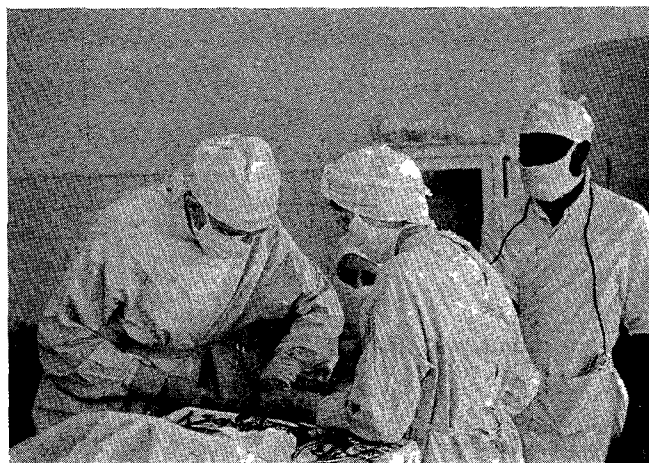
Our contacts are not limited to natives only, we also have the pleasure of helping government officials in this area. Recently the daughter of the new director of our post was hospitalized. The child's mother was favorably impressed by the old-fashioned hydrotherapy treatments the patient received daily, and both she and the child read some of our literature placed at their disposal. Weeks later, when the child was threatened with a return of the former condition, the parents brought her to us once more for water treatments. Our desire is to merit the confidence of these our government friends who seek the services of a humble mission hospital.

In 1958 a two-year course in nursing was initiated at the Bongo Mission Hospital. The first class consisted of four men, but we are pleased that one half of the second class of eight students are girls. Almost as many applicants were turned away and told to wait until next year for entrance to the school of nursing. One of the class projects in Health and Hygiene consists of the conducting of classes in the villages. The series of lessons include subjects on Infant and Child Care, Nutrition, Drinking Water, Construction of Latrines, etc. The students personally invite the villagers, and so far the attendance has been very good. Even I, with my very limited understanding of Um-

bundu, the native language in which the classes are taught, have been able to follow their teaching because of their very dramatic presentation. Recently our students initiated a series of health talks during the chapel period of the local mission school, where over five hundred students are enrolled. In the native wards of the hospital, as well as in the dispensary, subjects on health are taught while the patients wait for consultation and treatments.

No account of the work of the Bongo Mission Hospital would be complete without a tribute to Miss Ruth Johnson, whose faithful and loving service for twenty-nine consecutive years has been a source of inspiration to her associates, patients and many friends in Angola. During several periods of time Miss Johnson has been the only nurse to carry on a twenty-four hour nursing service. At sixty-four years of age she still does more than her share of the duties at this hospital, and besides this she is "mother" to our orphans.

Recently a new nurse from Switzerland, Theodora Zürcher, brought her enthusiasm and interest in missionary nursing to Bongo. How we wish that other capable nurses and those of allied professions might offer their lives to mission service. The rewards are not reserved only for the hereafter, but the appreciation we constantly receive warms and cheers us in our daily duties.



In the Operating Room

Two new lights in West Africa

By B. J. Kohler

Dakar is a typical West African coastal city with a population of approximately 350,000, of which only a small percentage is European. It is the capital of the newly created Mali Federation, which is comprised of two immense countries, namely Senegal and the Sudan. Besides the government offices, numerous banks, radio stations, post offices and various other buildings, there are a number of big trading firms.

Africa is a land of contrasts, changing from the sands of the Sahara desert in the north to tropical forests in the south. The colorful native markets and mixed inhabitants are factors which strike the visitor upon arrival. Senegalese, Mauritians, Lebanese and Syrians mix freely with the European population, of which the majority is French. In every large city one notices the wide separation between rich and poor, and Dakar is

no exception, as the contrast here is particularly noticeable.

Under the leadership of our Mission director, Pastor Robert Erdmann, the work has been built on a good solid foundation, and has put down roots. The work has proved extremely difficult because of the strength of the Mohammedan creed among the natives, but he and his wife have worked untiringly for more than eight years in this most colorful metropolis.

It was my privilege at the beginning of May this year to spend ten days itinerating in that part of our far-flung mission fields in the pleasant company of Elder M. Fridlin, the president of the Southern European Division. We had great reason to rejoice at the progress which has been made since our last visit a year ago. We have a nice little church, as well as a growing and flourishing school which was opened twelve months ago. This school was founded by one of our former missionaries, Paul Heise, and at first classes were conducted in a private dwelling. From this very small beginning, with about thirty pupils in attendance, it has increased to its present enrollment of one hundred and sixty, which, of course, has necessitated acquiring a site. A piece of land was donated by the French government, and a one-story building was erected. This consists of three large airy classrooms, an office, and in a separate building there are bathing facilities and toilets.

I might say that lessons in cleanliness are an important part of the instruction in our schools in many parts of Africa, inasmuch as the students come from homes where this virtue is not stressed, and since we require the students to observe at least a degree of cleanliness we have to provide the facilities.

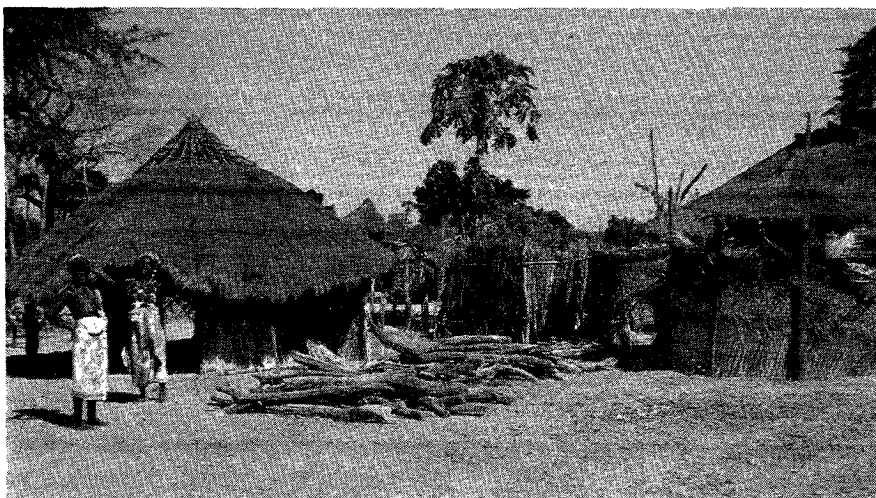


M. Fridlin Greeting the Chief of the Mandingue Tribe

The little school is staffed by three fine young native teachers, one of whom holds the French BA degree, and this young institution is already self-supporting – a fact which is always a source of great satisfaction to any administrator. While we were there the committee laid plans to enlarge its facilities, and we are hoping in the very near future to add another building with three classrooms, as well as a little chapel or assembly hall. It was a great joy to watch these pupils, ranging from seven to fifteen years, all nicely dressed, clean and neat, and thus providing a real contrast to the general inhabitants of the country. Practically all the students are from non-Adventist homes; therefore, it is a real mission school, and we look for encouraging results from its operation. The fact that they are given instruction in cleanliness as well as in academic subjects, makes a deep impression on the people, inspires confidence, and opens the way for the gospel to do its work in meeting spiritual needs.

Another reason for our visiting the West African Mission was to find a property for the establishment of a new mission station in the unentered part of Southern Senegal. We started our journey in Dakar and passed through the British protectorate of Gambia. Although we left before sunrise, it was late afternoon when we arrived in the city of Zinquinchor, the capital of the Casamance district, which has a native population of 35,000 with approximately 300 Europeans.

As we found that the Catholics were already well established here, the Lord directed us farther away in our prospecting tour until we found a tribe settled along the Casamance River. This tribe, known as the Mandingue, is a rather primitive but friendly people, and apparently many of them had never seen a white man before. Their needs, both spiritual and physical, are very great, and many are dying each year in ignorance of the gospel. We called on the chief and his advisers of the district, and they received us out in the open under a large tree. We discussed at



Typical Village in the Casamance

length the question of a mission, and the chief seemed very anxious to have a station established among his tribe. He told us that land was available, and a piece of about twelve to fifteen acres was selected on an elevation overlooking the beautiful Casamance River. The property will, of course, have to be surveyed, staked out, registered and titled, but before long we hope to send out a family to this unentered part of Southern Senegal.

We left the area full of hope and courage, and rejoicing in the opportunities for evangelizing the Casamance section of West Africa. It is right now wide open for mission work, though for how much longer it is impossible to say. We hope the little school in Dakar will grow stronger and stronger, and now with the establishment of this new mission station *two* more lights will be shining in dark West Africa.



Our School in Dakar; one of the Classes with R. Erdmann at the Left

ITALIAN U. M.			55	2643	106	7	13	126	4	7	19	—	30	96	2739	9	6	2	1	3	—	8	—	—	—	1	30
Italian Mission			2	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	16	—	—	—	11	—	10	2	—	44	—	83
Sardinia Mission Station																				1						1	90
Total			57	2693	106	7	13	126	4	7	19	—	30	96	2789	25	6	2	1	15	—	18	2	—	44	1	114
NORTH AFRICAN U. M.			12	625	30	—	5	35	1	1	10	—	12	23	648	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Algerian-Tunisian Mission			7	250	2	—	1	3	1	—	6	—	7	4	246	4	—	1	—	4	—	6	—	—	—	2	17
Moroccan Mission																											9
Total			19	875	32	—	6	38	2	1	16	—	19	19	894	12	—	2	—	6	—	6	1	—	4	1	32
PORTUGUESE U. M.			3	142	8	—	—	8	—	1	4	—	5	3	145	2	2	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	11
Azores Mission			4	297	8	3	3	14	4	2	7	—	13	1	298	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
Cape Verde Mission			1	155	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	156	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Madeira Mission			22	1777	47	1	7	55	1	7	11	—	19	36	1813	7	1	1	—	7	—	5	1	1	16	2	41
Portuguese Conference																											31
Total			30	2371	64	4	11	79	6	10	22	—	38	41	2412	12	3	6	—	10	—	7	1	2	20	2	63
BULGARIAN*			39	3197	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3197	9	—	—	—	4	—	10	—	—	—	—	23
MISSION			6	202	10	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	212	3	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	10
GREEK			1	36	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	37	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
MISSION			12	1580	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1580	6	—	1	—	—	—	9	—	20	1	7	44
MOZAMBIQUE			16	1411	7	1	14	22	9	4	15	—	28	6	1405	9	1	—	—	10	—	3	2	—	14	3	42
MISSION			1	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
SPANISH*			1	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
MISSION																											1
WEST AFRICAN																											3
MISSION																											1
MISSION																											13
MISSION																											33

RECAPITULATION

Austrian	Union Conference	41	2692	57	3	13	73	12	9	12	—	33	40	2732	21	—	11	—	3	—	28	—	—	—	183	246							
Czechoslovakian*	Union Conference	50	7505	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7505	17	1	7	1	4	—	12	9	—	23	4	78	41	3017	1966				
Franco-Belgian	Union Conference	85	4521	119	9	57	185	12	21	26	—	59	126	4647	44	5	3	2	14	—	19	3	1	38	14	143	95	4354	3470				
Hungarian*	Union Conference	163	6225	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6225	39	—	9	—	6	—	9	4	—	—	—	—	67	175	7000	6500			
Rumanian	Union Conference	646	35629	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35629	108	—	—	—	—	—	127	—	—	—	—	—	235	646	53200	48000			
Swiss	Union Conference	58	3439	26	—	26	52	10	12	19	—	41	11	3450	26	2	2	3	5	—	8	3	5	38	4	96	59	3250	2221				
Yugoslavian*	Union Conference	230	8590	145	10	325	480	100	92	346	—	538	—58	8532	33	—	1	—	11	—	5	11	—	—	—	—	61	300	9100	8600			
Angola	Union Mission...	55	13548	17	—	1	18	9	3	1	16	29	-11	13537	29	1	1	—	51	—	31	—	134	5	2	254	326	32174	27200				
Eq. African	Union Mission...	36	6710	238	1	—	239	41	25	—	—	66	173	6883	16	—	8	—	8	—	48	70	156	—	31	337	198	14839	9800				
Indian Ocean	Union Mission...	92	4146	16	—	2	18	27	6	3	8	44	-26	4120	26	2	2	—	23	—	24	2	74	8	11	172	112	6974	5694				
Italian	Union Mission...	57	2693	106	7	13	126	4	7	19	—	30	96	2789	25	6	2	1	15	—	18	2	—	—	—	44	1	114	92	3049	2943		
North African	Union Mission...	19	875	32	—	6	38	2	1	16	—	19	19	894	12	—	2	—	6	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	4	1	32	20	850	683	
Portuguese	Union Mission...	30	2371	64	4	11	79	6	10	22	—	38	41	2412	12	—	3	6	10	—	7	1	2	20	2	63	47	3047	2351				
Bulgarian*	Mission	39	3197	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3197	9	—	—	—	4	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	23	39	2672	2200			
Greek	Mission	6	202	10	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	212	3	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	10	6	230	190	
Israel	Mission	1	36	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	37	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	55	37
Mozambique	Mission	12	1580	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1580	6	—	1	—	—	—	9	—	20	1	7	44	58	6177	5760				
Spanish*	Church	16	1411	7	1	14	22	9	4	15	—	28	6	1405	9	1	—	—	10	—	3	2	—	14	3	42	21	1757	1198				
West African	Mission	1	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	13	33			
Totals 2nd Quarter, 1960		1637	105382	837	35	470	1342	232	191	479	24	926	416	105798	480	18	54	13	199	—	368	108	393	197	263	2093	2398	157758	134246				
Totals 2nd Quarter, 1959		1517	100515	572	8	129	709	107	74	127	1	309	400	100915	482	24	42	12	237	—	313	150	356	193	290	2099	2236	151547	128821				

* No Report

By Charles Cornaz

In a country like Morocco, which is constantly changing, one realizes more than at any other place the temporary character of this world. Because of the prevalent situation many people are moving away, families are scattered, and the work is left to natives. Little by little the administrative offices lose all the European personnel, and the vacancies are filled with native Moroccans. Many Europeans, who have put all their savings into the construction of beautiful homes for themselves, think twice before they leave, but even though their hearts are attached to these earthly possessions they feel compelled to move away from Morocco. The exodus has also affected our denomination. Close to one hundred members have left to join churches in France, Algeria and other places. The brotherly ties, though still strong, have been distended by force of circumstances until the moment when we all shall be together on the New Earth.

In all parts of the country our faithful members and their pastors are making great efforts to win new souls for our churches. To obtain any results at all it is necessary to possess an untiring perseverance, because, not only are many people thinking of leaving the country, but most are disillusioned by religion in any form, and life in general. Only eternity will show the final results of the efforts put forth during the last year, which eventually led forty-three persons to accept the Third Angel's Message. These persons were baptized in many different places, as circumstances allowed it: at the shores of the ocean, in an irrigation canal, in baptistries of churches, in a swimming pool, and even in the lake of a park. Our members are looking with joy at the fruits of their labors, and they have had the unique experience of seeing four Americans, presently stationed at the radar base at Oujda, Morocco, join our ranks. One of these, a

military doctor whose wife is an Adventist, spoke about her faith to an associate. This man became very much interested and gave his heart to Jesus. The doctor himself also became convinced, and both have since been baptized. They do not know one word of our language, and translation made our conversations a little difficult, but our hearts now beat in unison, and we can only faintly imagine the great joy of our sister, who lives in the United States, when she learned the news of the baptism of her husband.

The year 1959 was one of replacements. All our ministers, with the exception of one, have been transferred. Brethren Quirici and Haran have changed places, and Brother Georges Hermans has replaced Brother Jean Kempf, who has left for Cameroun. Our treasurer, who has worked here for twelve years, has responded to a call from Paris, where important duties await him. Brother Galdeano from Algeria will take his place, and besides the work in the office he will also join in evangelistic work.

Brother Jean-Jacques Hecketsweiler has left the finances of our Mission in good order. During the last few years he has had to reduce our debt, but has even so been able to provide the money for the construction of our church in Casablanca. Furthermore, necessary improvements have been made to the meeting halls in Meknes and Oujda. The auditor has always been satisfied with the accounts of this field, and our best wishes go with our brother as he takes up his new responsibilities.

The different departments have encouraged our members to join in the work: the Sabbath School offerings are constantly increasing, the Home Missionary Department keeps the church busy, the Dorcas Society is everywhere displaying great activity, the lessons of the Voice of Prophecy are reaching isolated homes, and our young people show

themselves willing to enter the Master's service. The search for souls is done by organized and methodical visits to homes. As a rule the general public is not very much interested in religious meetings, and does not respond to our printed invitations, so we must therefore find them where they are. The Ingathering campaign has shown the average contribution to be NF 75 per church member.

Our faithful members have thus experienced the joy of leading souls to Jesus. On January 2 of this year three persons were baptized in Safi in the southwest. The sun was shining, and nature thus joined the people of God in praising the Creator. An employee at the Moroccan railway, Brother Coussen, has spent much time and effort in establishing a church in this place. On the other side of the country there has been an interest in Colomb-Béchar near Sahara, where three of our sisters live with their husbands. Brother Georges Hermans goes there regularly and preaches the gospel wherever he has the opportunity, and already a young person has been baptized.

We thank God for the spirit of consecration and self-sacrifice, which inspire our workers to give up their vacations rather than to abandon the souls who are on the verge of decision. Our brothers and sisters are faithful in tithe-giving as well as generous in their offerings, and they constantly support us by their prayers.

"Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us" (Isa. 26:12).

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