



# QUARTERLY REVIEW

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

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## A Trip to Soviet Russia

By Dr. J. Nussbaum

At the beginning of March, 1960, I spent ten days in Moscow. It was possible then for me to make contact with the heads of our church there and assist in two Sabbath services. They do not have Sabbath school like we do, but the lesson for the day is studied in a small service led by one of the pastors. After a song by the church choir, another service is conducted by another pastor. These services begin at 10:00 a. m. and finish at 1:00 p. m. The first Sabbath in each month a prayer meeting is held in which the members take part.

The services are held in the large Baptist church in Moscow and it is always full. One is struck by the fervor and simplicity of those present. Their faces, always so serious, brighten up when they see a foreign believer in their midst. The first Sabbath when I entered the church there was not an empty seat, but at once a deaconess brought a chair, and set it in the middle aisle. On the platform were the president of the Russian Union, the vice-president, the pastor of the Moscow church and a deacon. At the end of the service I went at once to the vestry below the platform. One of our workers, who had earlier been in Rumania, knew me and interpreted for me. It was an unforgettable conversation, which showed me once more that "there

is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling" (Eph. 4:4).

The following Tuesday I spent with the Russian authorities, at my request, and I had a conversation which lasted for several hours with two members of the cultural department attached to the cabinet council. The conversation touched on many different subjects, beginning with the present troubled world situation, and led on to the Bible prophecies which have predicted these events, and further to the study of the right plans to guarantee peace among men. Religious Liberty and the Advent Movement were also mentioned often in this conversation.

The whole conversation had a frank atmosphere, which sometimes became quite animated, and from beginning to end it was most cordial. We agreed among ourselves that I should return in the month of July accompanied by the president of the General Conference, and we should then continue the conversation in the same spirit in which it had begun.

I had expressed the desire to meet men of science to talk over with them some serious problems which are prevalent at the present time in the learned world. This desire was immediately granted, and I was put in contact with Professor Anouchkine, the best physiologist in the

country, who for fifteen years has been associated with Professor Pavlov, whose work is quite world famous. I first got to know Professor Pavlov in 1935, at the Physiologist Congress in Leningrad, and the memory of his lectures and of our conversations is as clear in my mind as if they had taken place yesterday. In the course of our conversation the subject of health reform was brought up, and Professor Anouchkine was tremendously interested in this. The next day he came to my hotel and invited me to lunch with him, and presented me with a magnificently carved box, which he asked me to take to my wife. This memory is a living testimony to me of the power of health reform, a tool very often neglected by a church about which the Scriptures say it is lukewarm, and which is exhorted to become hot, or it will be, in the day of the Lord, spued out of His mouth (Rev. 3:15, 16).

One entire morning was spent in conference with the directors and heads of departments of the Central Institute of Hygiene. The criminal effects of alcohol and especially of tobacco were studied with care. They showed me their propaganda methods which we compared with those prepared in Paris. The ravages wrought by tobacco are less in Russia than in the rest of Europe and the United States. Of the 102 people

employed at the General Institute of Hygiene, only 8 were smokers. The opposite proportion is probably found elsewhere.

The day before my departure was marked by two conversations of great importance, the first with the president of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and the other with a cancer researcher of world renown, Professor Schabad.

I talked a long time with the president of the Academy of Medical Sciences, about the causes of cancer. Instead of waiting until this sickness has appeared before beginning to fight it, which, after all, is no solution at all, he is trying to bring about the elimination of this horrible disease rather than its cure.

My conversation with Professor Schabad had chiefly to do with the role played by the cigarette in the case of lung cancer. It is well known that this question is controversial because of the considerable propaganda efforts and heavy financial outlay made by the tobacco industry to prevent the truth reaching the public. With all the weight of its authority the World Organization of Health has intervened. It has called together in Geneva seven of the best cancer researchers of the world, men with great scientific skill, whose moral integrity and independence are indisputable. Mr. Schabad was one of those, and represented Soviet Russia in this Areopagus. In twelve working sessions the question was thoroughly studied, and the learned men declared unanimously that, without a possible doubt, there is an evident relation between the consumption of cigarettes, which grows every year, and the alarming development of lung cancer, since the number of victims also increases each year regularly.

I took away with me from my journey to the USSR the comforting impression that in this country, as in ours, we find sincere and upright men, appreciative of liberty, desirous to do good and to help their fellowmen, and we must for them utter "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks" because "this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

# The Methods used by the Evangelistic Team in Paris

By J. Decaris

Before pointing out some of the essentials of the organizational plan followed in the Paris evangelistic campaign a passage in the Scriptures, which served as foundation for our methods in evangelism, should be kept in mind:

Acts 2:42-47: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul; . . . And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

It is perhaps humiliating, but certainly beneficial, to begin this article with a confession of guilt. After so many years of evangelism we have to admit that we have neglected the most essential. In the majority of cases the evangelistic leader, in his anxiety to get the work done, forgets his own spiritual preparation and that of his co-workers. We think the gravest mistake made in the evangelistic program is the absence, almost, of a deep and continued spiritual preparation.

A team which works excitedly, running over "the earth and the sea" in search of converts, does not work according to God's wish. The people themselves will soon know whether we are evangelists with love in our hearts for our fellow beings, or mere teachers of a doctrine which we wish to inculcate on "men of good will". We have always believed, and today more than ever, that the preacher with the last message does not stress especially baptism, but his greatest wish is to lead souls to Jesus.

It is quite easy for a good organizer and capable orator to lead the souls

—be they many—to the baptistry; but to lead them to salvation is the work which God alone can do through people who have made extensive spiritual preparations.

Thus it is clear why the team in Paris decided to follow the precepts found in God's Word as well as in the counsel of the Spirit of prophecy as regards evangelism. A deep spiritual preparation of the members of the team was emphasized.

It is good to have big ideas and the qualities of a talented organizer; it is good to place intelligently conceived posters before the people, but it is infinitely better—without neglecting the rest—to have co-workers influenced by God, men and women who, in the eyes of the audience, possess an unusual poise, radiance and assurance in the faith.

A small example: In our effort the music played an important part, thanks to the devotion of our dear co-workers: Claude de Meyer, Eugène Guyennot and Roger Fasnacht, as well as the group of young people who in their songs expressed their joy in the Master's service. Someone from the audience said to us after one of the services: "Sir, these young people who sang tonight touched our hearts, because their faces expressed such purity and joy."

We were also deeply moved by the kindness and fellowship felt in the audience. One listener, a rationalistic Gnostic with Marxist tendencies, came to our meetings attracted by a "provocative" title. "I came out of curiosity," he told me, "but I returned again attracted by the spirit of fellowship, which I felt in your meeting hall." Today we have the joy of leading this excellent man to his Saviour. If such a spirit attracts our listeners, it is not because of the lecturer; everything comes from the Lord, who has impressed upon us

two essential facts leading to real success in evangelistic campaigns:

*Prayer and Sanctification.* To create first of all the spirit of the Upper Chamber in the hearts of the team and afterwards in the hearts of the church members is the task of the godly leader. Indeed, it is not a question of a single prayer meeting, which does one good, but a spirit of intercession without ceasing. To live continually in Jesus is the principal source from which a victorious evangelistic team must obtain its power.

When we talk about success it does not imply just a question of the number of baptisms involved, but that men and women become so completely attached to their Redeemer that they become a blessing to the church and eventually be saved with it.

The leader of the team must draw aside at least two days before the campaign with his immediate co-workers, as well as with the lay evangelists and the colporteur evangelists of that region. The strength and power which God will not fail to bestow upon them in the Upper Chamber, will also be transmitted to the church before it is put to work. A church united in prayer is the main assurance that the evangelistic campaign will be agreeable to God and have lasting results.

During the whole series of evangelistic meetings held last year, it was good to "feel" the power of the prayers offered by our lay evangelists who gathered behind the stage and interceded for the one who spoke as well as for the listeners. How I thank God for this privilege, and I pray that He may bestow similar blessings on my colleagues.

The last meeting of the first cycle (December 1959) had as its title: "Is it Possible to Keep the Decalogue in the 20th Century?" On this occasion we had asked seventeen brethren, mostly lay evangelists having known the benefits of the Upper Chamber, to come to the stage. These seventeen faithful witnesses from different classes and professions, glorified the person and power of Jesus before a packed house.

The day after this moving spiritual manifestation we made a visit to a home where the man of the house

had communistic tendencies. He had attended the testimony meeting and now said to me: "Do you know, when your brother, an ex-anarchist and atheist, told us his experiences with God, I had a strong desire to cross the floor and press him to my heart." Glory be to God! The testimony of that brother, my dear co-worker, was the best lecture of our last campaign.

This year, beginning with October, we hope by the grace of God to improve our methods. The team will prepare itself through prayer and sanctification, and the church will be led to the mission crusade by the lay evangelists. The greatest part of the meetings will be conducted in

close collaboration with men and women possessing the spirit of the Upper Chamber. It is thus that we and our glorious message "will have favour with all people, and the Lord will add to the church daily such as should be saved."

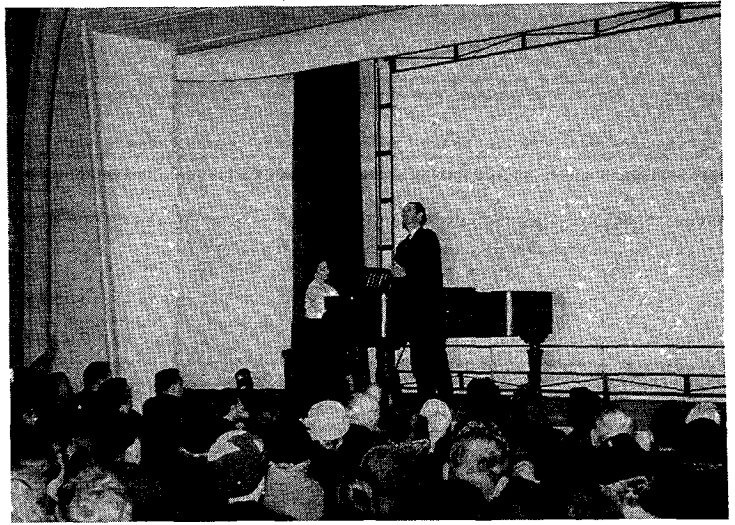
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*Musical Items at the Meetings*

# European Conference for the German-Speaking Y

About two thousand young people from many different countries gathered together in Zurich in happy acknowledgement of our faith and to consecrate ourselves again to our Saviour.

August 1 was the day of arrival. From the station we were taken in special busses to schools and gymnasiums, where we were happy to find comfortable camp beds and modern toilet and washing facilities.

Tuesday was cool and rainy, but that did not dampen the spirit of the many young people who spent the day looking around and becoming acquainted with Zurich, their host city. Whatever we did that day, walking through the narrow winding streets, looking at the quaint buildings and places made famous long years ago; whether we took part in excursions on the blue lake in beautiful white steamers, or enjoyed the thrill of going across the lake in swinging gondolas, we felt everywhere the friendliness and saw the beauty of this town whose guests

we were going to be the whole week. Not only was the scenery beautiful, but the spirit of freedom was felt everywhere. Zurich was founded by lake-dwellers and later made into a Roman settlement, and already in A.D. 700 it was known by the name of Ziurichi. This spirit of freedom made it also possible for the young Ulrich Zwingli to preach the Reformation in 1519, and Lavater, Pestalozzi, Gottfried Keller and other famous men have contributed to the culture of this beautiful city.

Full of expectation we entered the big beautifully decorated auditorium of the Kongresshaus, which is situated in the center of the city overlooking the lake. Over the platform we read in bright letters the motto of the congress "Christ - Our Life". The big moment arrived when after the flourish of trumpets the young people's secretary of the Southern European Division, Paul Steiner, declared the congress opened. After the two presidents, M. Fridlin of the Southern European Division, and

W. Müller of the Central European Division, had greeted us, we were bid a hearty welcome to the city of Zurich by the mayor. and soon the beautiful strains of our own congress song filled the auditorium. Th. Lucas, secretary of the MV Department of the General Conference, brought us greetings from the youth in America, and also from the Missionary Volunteers of the Northern European Division, who had just met under similar circumstances in Utrecht, Holland. In his special cordial way he made us all feel that we belonged together, and from the very first moment we knew that he was our friend.

The next few days were spent in participating in different programs, as many themes and problems were brought up for discussion. We were especially happy to have so much beautiful music. Every day at 9 o'clock the flourish of trumpets told us that another session of our congress had started. After the Morning Watch and a song by the Radio Quartet "Stimme der Hoffnung", we were ready to receive the inspiring messages given by M. Fridlin. Four times he spoke to us, and brought us nearer to Christ. He showed us the way from the valley to the highest peak, the way to our eternal goal. God calls us from the mountain to the cross, to submission, to service.

Under the title "Burning Youth Questions" many modern problems of today's youth were discussed, such as schools and homes, how to choose the right life partner, vacations and questionable activities in our free time.

After the well prepared dinners were enjoyed, the afternoon sessions began, and here themes were brought up for reflection, such as the high ideals and principles as regards friendship, love and prayer. After that the youth took charge. It was really moving to hear the young people giving their testimonies for their Saviour, telling of many examples of their faith, their strivings to

*Part of the Packed Auditorium*



reach God, how they had found Him, their sacrifices, their intrepidity, and their faithful obedience. These testimonies gave us all strength and courage, and our hearts rejoiced with our brothers and sisters who through Christ had won such wonderful victories.

Every evening special programs were arranged for us. For example, Thursday evening was mission evening, when W. A. Wild showed us the needs of the mission fields in beautiful color slides. Several missionaries on furlough were there, and they appeared in the many-colored costumes of the fields they represented.

The Sabbath was, of course, the high point of the congress, and the beautiful music we enjoyed so many times formed a wonderful frame around the programs of that day. Many visitors from different countries swelled the number, and the auditorium was crowded to capacity. After the Sabbath school Brother Lucas took the service, and in deep earnestness he spoke about the responsibility of the Advent youth, and urged us to give ourselves completely to Christ. Our hearts were moved when 324 young people walked up the aisles and stood before the platform, thus showing that they wanted to be baptized and give their young lives to Christ.

The "Abend der Heimat" on Sabbath evening was an event long to be remembered. There was much to see and hear. The colorful costumes from Austria, Germany and Switzerland made a beautiful picture, and the singing, yodeling and alpenhorn playing made it a very festive evening. At the end of the evening when the flags were carried in by a member of each nation represented, we were reminded that although there are boundaries between our countries, and language difficulties between us, yet are we all bound together as one believing Advent youth.

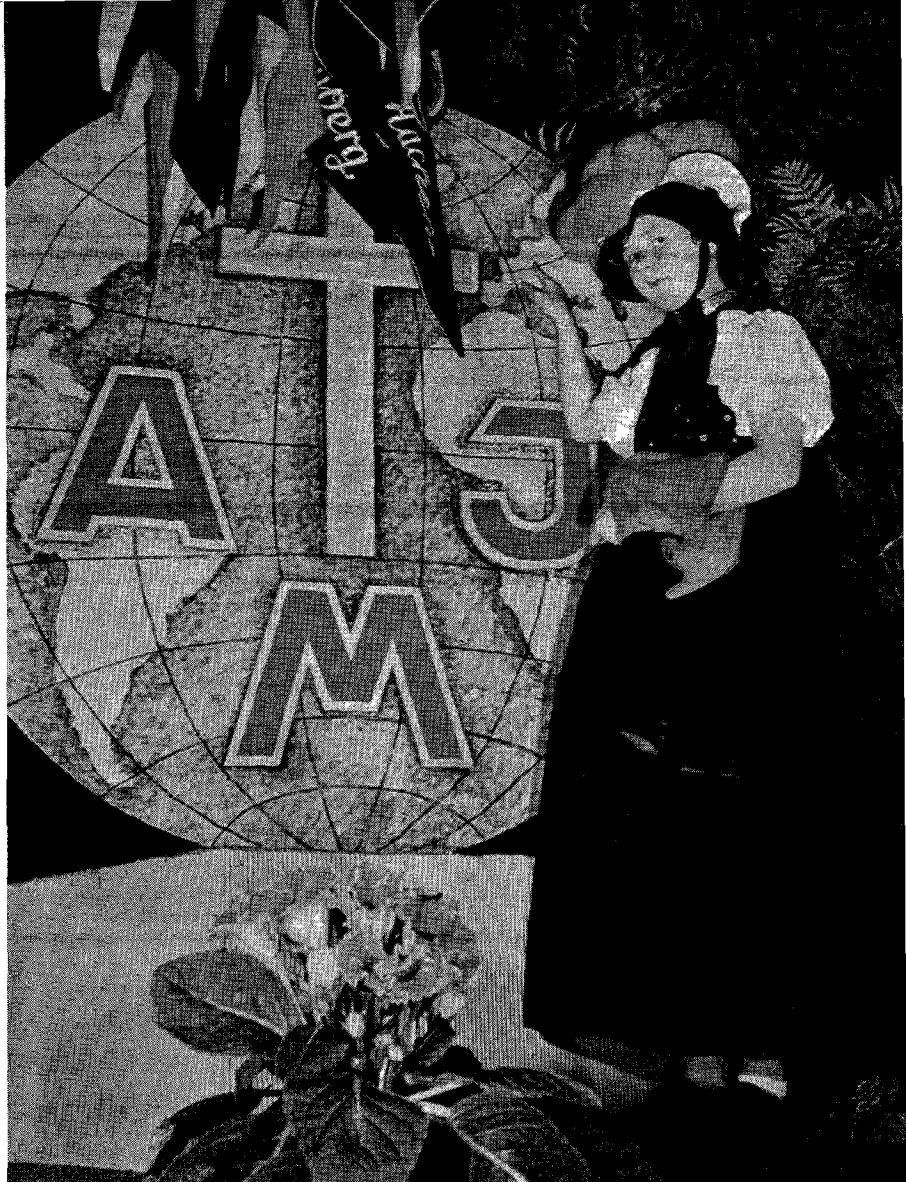
On Sunday morning M. Fridlin spoke again, this time on the

theme of God's call to service. He was truly inspired, and his own enthusiasm and devotion made such an impression on us, that when he asked how many would give their lives to serve in God's work, should they be called, over one hundred young people came to the platform again. This was the second outward manifestation of the workings of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Reluctantly we left the town which had received us with so much hospitality, and once more we looked at the beautiful lake and the majestic Alps—Zurich had won our hearts. However, we all had to return to our homes and places of work; we had

to leave the pinnacle to which we had been led, and descend to the valley; but we had received strength to go back and take up our work once more, and many were the prayers of thanks which went up to Him, who had bent low to bless us so wonderfully.

We pray that God may grant much of His spirit to all the young people who attended this congress, that they in the future will make their Lord and Master the Ruler of their young lives, because only then will we get the true meaning out of our existence here on earth. We have received much light, and we must pass it on—Christ Must Be Our Life.



*One of the Many Attractive National Costumes Worn at the Conference*





## **Do you know the Work in Belgium?**

By *L. Belloy*

For eight years I had the privilege of being the eighth president of the Belgian Conference.

The work started in Belgium through sporadic efforts at the beginning of the 20th century, to be quite exact in 1907, when a few people were baptized in Brussels. One can say that the foundation of the work in Belgium was really laid during the first world war, and it was at that time my parents accepted the Message. Since then it has not ceased to grow, until we now have a conference made up of about twenty churches and groups.

Administratively the Belgian Conference is attached to France and forms with it the Franco-Belgian Union Conference. The Belgian Conference has no medical institutions, no publishing house and no school. The French publications are supplied by the French Publishing House in Dammarié-les-Lys, and those in the Flemish language are printed on the spot or in Holland. The young people wanting to prepare themselves for work in the French-speaking part of our conference are educated in Collonges, France; and those who plan to work in the Flemish language usually go to the Dutch school at Zandbergen, Holland. Belgium has quite a high standard of living, and the tithe amounts to three million Belgian francs (about \$60,000.—) per year. The approximate 970 members are faithful in tithe paying and offerings; they love their Saviour and manifest a strong missionary zeal.

We give thanks to God that most of our churches own a place of worship worthy of the cause we love. Just after the second world war our brethren in America gave us the necessary money to buy a beautiful property in Ghent, a modern three-story building facing the street in the center of the city, thus suiting our needs very well.

Also thanks to the generosity of our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic it was possible for us to re-

place our church in Liège, which was destroyed by bombs during the war. The conference bought a big house beautifully situated on a large boulevard facing the river Meuse. The helicopter station connecting the town with Brussels and Paris is on the same street just opposite our site, and across the river the beautiful Congress Palace can be seen.

The old building, found on the site when it was purchased, has been in use until now, but is not suited to our present needs, and the brethren have, therefore, made a very good contract with a large construction firm. This firm will demolish the present house completely, and in its place a large modern building will be erected. For the price of the piece of ground on which the old house was standing, they will give us in this beautiful new modern building the whole ground floor, where we will have a large church hall, a young people's hall and all facilities necessary for a growing church; and on the second floor a lovely modern apartment will be ours to house the pastor of the church.

Recently, with the help of the Division and Union, the church in Braine l'Alleud secured a good building, well situated, and with rooms enough to provide the church with plenty of facilities for the development of its activities.

For many years our old brethren and sisters had been asking for an old people's home, where they could feel comfortable, and where they without difficulty could observe the rules of health reform. Nothing seemed more logical than to respond to such a desire, but where to find the money for such an undertaking? No obstacles were greater, though, than could be overcome by faith and a strong determination. Full of confidence we appealed to our churches, and as a result gifts, offerings and loans came pouring in, far surpassing our most daring hopes. When the money was on hand, we had to find a property, and once more the Lord guided us miraculously. For the mere sum of one million Belgian francs we bought a wonderful property surrounded by five hectares of ground comprised of a park with many flowers, fields, orchards, and beautiful walks shaded

by many different trees. The sale of a small piece of ground gave us enough money on hand to be able to modernize and adapt it sufficiently to receive about thirty boarders. In June 1955 the home was opened in the presence of the officials from the Commune.

It is a lay brother who is taking care of the administration, and he is doing his job so well that during the last years he has saved enough money to make many improvements, of which the latest to date is the installation of an elevator and the addition of six rooms. A retired pastor takes care of the spiritual life of the pensioners, who not only rejoice in the Blessed Hope, but now also enjoy life in spite of the infirmities of their age.

Lately we have been witnessing a very strong lay movement, which began in Antwerp. The church there has spent much time and money in trying to find the best method and the quickest way to reach the inhabitants of their town with the last message of salvation. The system of house-to-house visiting has given the best results. Scores of addresses have been obtained, and the preachers have their hands full, but a team of lay Bible workers are now preparing themselves to uphold the hands of the ministers.

For some years the work in Belgium seemed to be standing still, but at present the prospects are bright and we are expecting a good harvest of souls, which will allow us to pass the thousand members mark, a goal we have looked forward to for ten years without being able to reach it.

We also have a fine group of young people in Belgium, who willingly take part in the missionary campaigns and evangelistic work. For the first time the half million mark has been passed in the Ingathering campaign, and it is the diligent work of faithful members which has made possible the attainment of this goal.

We have full confidence in the administration and also in the good will of our members, who always have collaborated very closely with us, and by the influence of the Holy Spirit they walk forward as conquerors to conquer, looking toward the quick finishing of the task.