



# QUARTERLY REVIEW

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## A Church for the Lepers in Cameroun

By *J. M. Eyetemon*

When the first leper colony was established in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroun, the government installed it in a part of the city called Mvog-Beti. Afterwards all the other leper colonies opened in Nyong and Sanaga were called the same, but spelt Mvobeti. It was in the leper colony in the district of Nanga-Eboko, by the name of Mvobeti, that the Advent Mission erected a beautiful church for the lepers.

All the missionaries passing through Nanga-Eboko will remember Mvobeti, because all have preached there, and several have baptized or distributed clothes to the poor sick ones. Brother M. Fridlin, former president of the Mission, now president of the Southern European Division, was the first to start systematic work in this leper colony. An evangelist was located in this village in order that the inhabitants might have the opportunity to hear regularly the good news of the salvation of Jesus. This effort was very successful, and on the Sabbath of September 27, 1941, Brother Fridlin conducted the first baptism in Mvobeti, adding twelve members to the church that day, followed by others later on. Actually, forty-three baptized members are there now, while others rest in graves, sheltered from the sorrow and pain which they suffered while alive.

Touched by the pitiful condition of these unhappy ones, the mission-

aries prevailed upon European friends to collect gifts for the construction of a chapel in Mvobeti. Generous hearts were touched by this appeal, and gifts accumulated in the Mission safe. Brother Sylvain Meyer, then the president of the Nanga-Eboko Mission, made plans for the construction of the church by gathering material, but it was his successor, Brother E. Ludescher, who carried out the actual construction, and in a few weeks the chapel was erected.

The lepers themselves were very willing helpers. I just want to mention one example of a leper brother who could not use his feet because they were mutilated by the disease. He would drag himself as well as he could to the stone-yard and break the stones needed for the building. The rough stones wounded the stumps of his fingers, already wasted away by leprosy, and the handle of the hammer he used was stained by blood. He would not stop, though, because he also wanted to do his part in the building of the chapel.

When the work was finished, the small chapel stood spotless near the mango trees of the station. The day of dedication was set for May 28, 1960. Never had Mvobeti seen so many visitors. On the Sabbath morning crowds were seen coming toward the leper village, some on foot, some on bicycles, and others in cars. It was evident that the chapel could

not hold them all, and many had to stay outside.

After the Sabbath school, conducted by the evangelist in Mvobeti, who is himself a healed leper, Brother A. Cosendai, president of the Union, preached the sermon and presided at the dedication of the place of worship. The choirs from the seminary, the grade school and the Nanga-Eboko church contributed to the success of the ceremony.

In the afternoon a great audience again crowded into the church and overflowed to the outside to participate in the official dedication. The under-sheriff of the district of Nanga-Eboko, the mayor, and the chief commander honored us with their presence. They praised the work done in this country by the Advent Mission. They said this mission was the only one which did not mix with politics, being devoted only to the development of the country and the training and education of the people, many of whom now occupy important jobs in the Cameroun government. They thanked the Mission for the sacrifice made for the lepers. The pupils from the seminary and the members of the church, who had participated in the good work, were there that afternoon to share in the joy with the brethren in Mvobeti.

All the leper members in Mvobeti as well as the whole church in Nanga-Eboko send their warm thanks to

# Work Among the Arabs

By E. Pellicer

(The author of this article has worked for many years among the Moslems in Algeria. His knowledge of the Arabic language and Islamism has enabled him to do useful work among these people. Ed.)

*"And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, ...Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their hearts back again." 1 Kings 18: 36, 37*

I am certain that the Spirit of God has put into the hearts of many of our brothers and sisters a petition similar to that of Elijah, for the Moslems, and I am also sure that each day many prayers of intercession rise from the depth of their souls to God. The Lord has answered these by moving the hearts of many of our Moslems friends to study the Word of God. I am very happy to be able to quote below a few extracts from the voluminous correspondence I have with many Moslems seeking the way of truth. The style used is the actual one modified a little when necessary. Notice the tone used in these requests for enrollment in the correspondence course "The Voice of Prophecy":

"I would like very much to get acquainted with your correspondence course."

"It is with joy I write these lines to you as I would like to enroll in the Voice of Prophecy Course."

"I have the honor of addressing you in response to your broadcast in many countries. I would also like to be your friend."

"I have received your letter, and I am very happy that you will be my friend."

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those in Europe who made the sacrifice, sending money so we could build this chapel for our dear lepers. May the Lord bless this brotherly gesture. May the Lord also bless this building that many souls may find here a consolation in their sorrows on this earth as well as eternal life in heaven.

"Sir, please enroll me in your Bible Correspondence Course, I am capable of working hard."

## *Interest Roused by the Tracts*

"Sir, a friend of mine made me read your tracts. I have found them very interesting, and I would be very happy if you would send me the whole series."

"I have eagerly read tracts numbers one and two. They are too short; please give me more to read."

"I have read your tracts. How marvelous! I would like to subscribe to the whole set."

"I have never had such pleasure before as I had in reading your tracts."

"Is it possible to have all the tracts together in one book in order to be able to preserve them better and read them more often?"

## *The Word of God and Its Effects*

"In the tracts we find faith, and because of our faith the day will come when everybody will get his reward."

"When I received the tracts and read them, they calmed the suffering in my heart, and helped me to depart from my wicked ways."

"I would like you to know that with the help of God I desire to become His child and your brother. I also want to understand and serve Him better in this earthly pilgrimage, and to prepare myself to be closer to Him one day."

"O my brother I greet you respectfully. I miss your presence. May God bless you in the good course. I want to tell you that we follow your instructions very carefully."

## *Thirst for Information*

"I am happy to congratulate you on your letter, but I don't know how many days have passed and you have not sent me the fourth lesson. I am afraid you have forgotten me. I have studied the third lesson and will continue to seek God. If you have forgotten me, I shall never forget you until death. ... But why have you not answered me? Have you got too much to do? Try to answer me very quickly, and may God help you.

I work well with your help. God is my witness that I do not tell an untruth. I wish to know Him by searching the Holy Scriptures, inspired by His Spirit."

It seems superfluous to add anything to these testimonies. However, before closing I would like to submit for your meditation the following passages from the Scriptures found in 2 Kings 3:16, 17 and 20: "And he said, Thus saith the Lord, Make this valley full of ditches. For thus saith the Lord, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts. ... And it came to pass in the morning, when the meat offering was offered, that, behold, there came water by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water."

Yes, dear brothers and sisters, Thus saith the Lord: "Make this dry land full of ditches." Maybe many think that this work is useless, costly and unproductive. But on the morning chosen by the Lord, at the time of the meat offering, behold water will come and the country will be filled.

It may interest the readers to know that just recently, during the month of August, a committee gathered in Berne, Switzerland, to discuss this vital question of work among the Moslems. The committee consisted of ten people from the Division and Brother R.S. Watts from the General Conference, and for two days they discussed the methods best suited to reach the 33 million Moslems residing in the Southern European Division territory.

Interesting reports were given by H. Pichot and E. Pellicer from North Africa, by R. Erdmann from Sénégal Mission, and from A. Lorencin from Yugoslavia. The extreme difficulty in actually winning the Moslems to the truth was evident when the men from North Africa could only report that five have been baptized, of whom now only one remains faithful. In Sénégal three Moslems have remained faithful to the Message, and in Yugo-

slavia fourteen members have been won for the Advent faith.

It was pointed out that all literature distributed among the Moslems as well as the Bible Correspondence Course lessons should be adapted to suit the Moslem mind and psychology. So far it has proved almost useless to use the ordinary literature written for Christians. As can be seen from the above extracts of letters received in North Africa, the lessons are well received and appreciated, when properly understood.

Brother Erdmann, former president of the Sénégal Mission, had found that schools for the young people and children have brought the best results,

because through the students the parents can be contacted, and many are willing to come to the Sabbath services.

In Yugoslavia friendly public relations have proved most fruitful, and the fourteen baptized members have been won through personal contacts with members.

A few recommendations were decided upon. 1. To ask the General Conference to appoint a committee of experts to study the question in full, and 2. To try to produce publications portraying the truth, but adapted to the Moslem psychology, and make them available to all interested Divisions for translation into Arabic or any other language.

Public relations could be greatly improved through dispensaries and schools, because medical work will do more to influence for good than anything else when the doctor is loved by the people for his kindness, and is recognized as a man of God. If we could have dispensaries for Moslems only, we would also be able to reach the higher classes.

New contacts could thus be made, and many souls won for the Message, as A. Lorencin said in his report: Surely there are many honest souls among the millions of Moslems living in the world today, who are desirous of meeting Christ when he returns to gather His own. Ed.

## BEGINNINGS OF OUR WORK IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA By Orlando Costa

The colporteur work has borne fruit in Guinea. A Protestant lady, reading in the Bible about one's duty to God concerning the Sabbath day, immediately went to her pastor and asked several questions regarding the day of rest. She received the answer that men must keep Sunday in memory of the resurrection of Jesus. Feeling that the expression "the Sabbath the seventh day" gave proof that we should keep the *seventh* day, she was not satisfied with her pastor's explanation, and returned home with a greater desire than ever to learn more about the Sabbath.

One day the miracle happened. A relative brought her a book which had been bought from an Adventist book evangelist, the ribbon bookmark indicating the chapter dealing with the Sabbath. She read the book eagerly and when she had finished it she went again to her minister—this time to ask that he take her name from the church register.

This lady began to keep the Sabbath five years ago, completely ignorant of the fact that there was a church in the world which observed all the commandments of God. When news of her reached the Cape Verde Islands, the mission director sent a missionary by the name of Gregorio Rosa to contact her, with the result that today this faithful lady spends all her time taking the Message to others. This year it was my privilege to visit her, and we spent some pleasant hours studying the Word of God together. The accompanying picture

shows this active laymember (the lady in black) with souls she has won for the truth.

Plans have now been made to rent

a hall in Portuguese Guinea to start organized missionary work in an effort to bring more precious souls into our church there.



# Southern European Division Educational Convention 1961

In these days of change and turmoil, our educators face a tremendous task. Problems, new and old, are arising every day, not only in the fields of teaching and human relations, but in administration as well. More efficiency, new methods, expanding teaching programs, better results in winning our youth for Christ – all this and heaven too is occupying the minds of those who mold our youth for service in the Lord's vineyard. Their task of teaching others makes them most eager to be taught, for they want to learn, to know, and to share the experiences they have gained.

This is why we eagerly looked forward to the Educational Convention of the Southern European Division, which was held at Collonges Seminary from August 18 to 27, 1961. In point of influence, this school may well claim to be the most important one in our Division. Has it not grown steadily over the past years in size and prestige, having sent out its graduates to serve in the uttermost parts of the world? For its fortieth anniversary there was no better place for our educators to meet than Collonges; there was no better time than this last week of August, which was the most pleasant of the entire summer season. Our thanks to him who laid the plans, and to Him who inspired and blessed!

Friday evening, August 18th, the fifty delegates and some of the wives met for the opening assembly in the gymnasium, which serves as general meeting place while the new chapel is being built. They came from seven European countries: Austria, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Yugoslavia, and from some mission fields in Africa belonging to our Division territory (Algeria, Cameroun, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tunisia). For many of them it was the first time they attended an educational convention, like Dr. M. Th. David, who is taking a leading part in the school which is soon to open up in Portugal, and J. Favret, who is going to head up our mission school in Dakar, Sénégal.

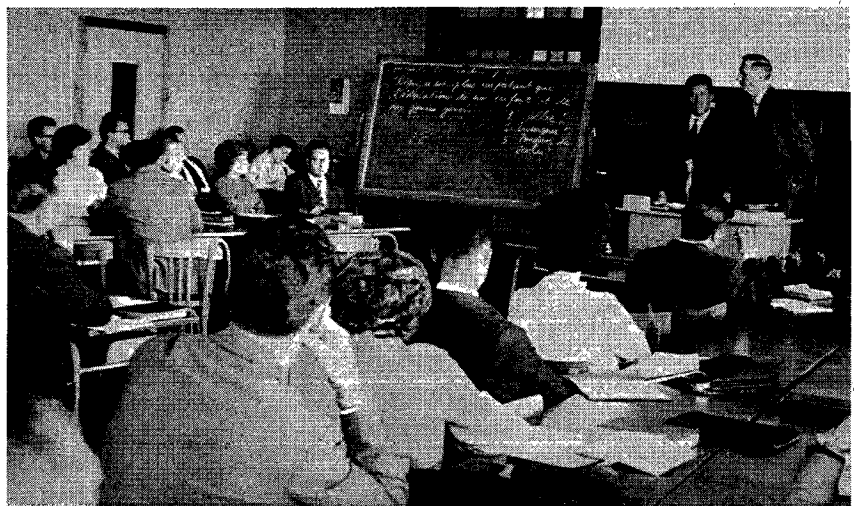
Our Division educational secretary, P. Steiner, was especially happy to

welcome the representative from the General Conference, Elder E. E. Cossentine, who brought greetings from our educational institutions all around the world, and Dr. Otto Schubert, former educational secretary of our Division, now retired from active service. Other members of the Division office also participated at times in the work of the convention: M. Fridlin, president, W. A. Wild, secretary, B. J. Kohler, treasurer, G. Cupertino, secretary of the Ministerial Association, and E. Naenny, secretary of the Publishing Department. The Franco-Belgian Union president, F. Lavanchy, expressed his joy at being able to attend the convention together with union presidents from the Austrian, Italian and Swiss fields (M. Schwab, G. Cavalcante and Ch. Monnier).

The opening sermon on Sabbath morning, delivered by Elder Cossentine, struck the high note of our convention: The need and task of Christian education. The work of redemption and the work of education are the same, namely, to refashion man in the image of the Creator. The inspirational worship talks given during the week dealt with the same theme, only considered from different angles. Elder A. Vaucher, the veteran Bible teacher of Collonges, proved that the Holy Spirit is the first and foremost requisite of the teacher; He

is ours for the asking provided we make room for Him in our lives. H. Heinz, Bible teacher at Bogenhofen Seminary, quoted Zeller: "He who does not know how to pray, does not know how to educate." H. Pichot, president of the North African Union Mission, showed how the work of education has its foundation in the family life, which in turn, must be built around family worship. "Christian parents must surround their children with a wall of prayer," was his heartfelt admonition. G. Cavalcante reminded us that the apostle Paul travailed in birth until Christ was formed in his disciples (Gal. 4: 19), and Elder M. Schwab stated a most searching question: "Have you done all you possibly could for our young people so far?"

It was in the spacious seminary library, furnished with brand-new reading tables, that the delegates met for study and discussions. In his most interesting course on "Christian Education Today" – spread over four lessons – Elder Cossentine gave a tremendous wealth of helpful thoughts and inspiration. The work of the Christian teacher, rightly accomplished, is not an obscure and insignificant job, but "the most noble work ever given to man" (CT 166). Let us therefore ever press onward towards higher achievements in knowledge and in godliness! From the great



*One of the Discussion Periods with E. E. Cossentine Demonstrating a Point*

Master Teacher sent from God, we may ever learn new lessons of grace, humility and power, as well as of ways and means to reach human minds and hearts.

Our school administrators and field representatives received very helpful counsel from B. J. Kohler, Division treasurer, who was with us on the second day of the convention. Without budgets, monthly statements and reports it is impossible to run a school efficiently. Those of us who have nothing to do with these things are nevertheless clear on this point. We also heartily agree with E. Naenny that our schools can contribute to the success of the colporteur work by fostering student canvassing, and by offering adequate training to young men who are qualified for this type of work.

Good and lasting results will no doubt come from the group studies and discussions which touched on almost every subject of school life and school administration, and where Elder Cossentine assisted untiringly with his vast experience. Special groups were formed to study such problems as discipline, recreational activities, new methods of teaching Bible, foreign languages, history and geography, etc. Some delegates were asked to introduce the subjects under discussion with a few remarks, while others presented papers on matters of general interest, such as "Evolution and Creationism" by Dr. J. Zurcher, and "Mental Hygiene at School" by Elder R. Buyck. Quite a number of important recommendations were drawn up, dealing for instance with the development of the scholarship plan, the need of a new manual in Denominational History in French, which will require some serious research into the early European phase of the 19th century Advent movement. Finally, it was recommended that our next educational convention give special study to the problem of married students and the question of creationism versus evolution.

During the evening sessions the leaders of our educational institutions were granted an opportunity to acquaint the delegates with their



*Delegates to the Educational Convention 1961*

schools and to introduce to them their staff. R. Buyck, the newly elected president of Bogenhofen Seminary, was not only happy to present his new team, but also to let A. Kinder, presently on furlough from the Nanga-Eboko School, Cameroun, explain how Bogenhofen's mattress industry got started some years ago under his expert direction. Our brethren from Yugoslavia, led by D. Stojcevic, told how they are carrying on their work of training ministers for the Yugoslavian field, while S. Agnello showed us pictures of the Italian Union Training School in Florence with its lovely campus. By means of songs and slides our brothers and sisters from Portugal took us to their new school property at Pero Negro, and overseas to Munguluni in Mozambique, where two graduates from Collonges are now laboring as teachers.

On Friday evening Elder W.A. Wild, secretary of our Division, gave an overall picture of the Southern European Division's educational work in Africa through a quick succession of many colorful and most interesting slides. Last but not least, on Saturday evening our Collonges Seminary provided a nice anniversary celebration—very delightful indeed, since it was more than lusty singing and witty speeches by the former directors!

There is another feature of the convention which was greatly appreciated by all the delegates: the guided tour to places of interest in Geneva such as the Reformation Monument, St. Peter's Cathedral, Calvin College, the International Bureau of Education, etc., and the bus trip over the Jura mountain range via the Col de la Faucille (1323 m) and St. Cergue to historic Nyon and the Castle of Coppet. Our eyes were thrilled with the beauties of the valleys, the mountains and the lake. It was the preparation day, and our hearts were thus inspired to enter into the worship of the Sabbath day. No wonder that Elder M. Fridlin's Sabbath morning service on "Decision for Christ" was deeply enjoyed, as well as the outing on the Salève mountain in the afternoon, where Elder Ch. Monnier spoke to us on the Spirit of prophecy and education.

On Sunday afternoon, when the president of the convention, P. Steiner, bid us goodbye, he reminded us once more of our Master Teacher, who sanctified Himself for His disciples. We cannot do less, since we are called to advance steadily in knowledge, wisdom and grace. Yes, we desire to be like Jesus—teachers who reflect more and more the beauty and perfection of the Master!

# Southern European Pathfinder Jamboree 1961

By J. Laich



During an institute for Y.P.M.V. secretaries of the Southern European Division, held in Valbella, Switzerland in 1959, the idea and plans for a European Pathfinders' Jamboree were first mentioned and discussed. Southern France, it was thought, would be the ideal place for such a jamboree, as we could almost depend on continuous sunshine, and the blue Mediterranean lends much charm to such a project.

By the help of A. Zurcher, pastor of Montpellier, and J. Surel, Y.P.M.V. secretary of the Franco-Belgian Union Conference, a lovely pine forest, called Les Aresquiers, was located. It is situated about 23 km southeast of Montpellier, and is only 400 meters from the sea, separated from it by a pond and the Rhone channel.

The first to arrive at the spot were the delegates from North Africa and France, and a few days later the young people from Austria, Belgium, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland also arrived, so when all were finally assembled at Les Aresquiers, we had 328 young people, girls and boys between the ages of 10 to 16 years.

Each country had its own camping place which they first cleared from underbrush and then put up the tents. Cooking was done separately for each country, and as the danger of fire was great, bottle gas was used rather than open fires.

The first European Pathfinders' Jamboree was officially opened Tuesday, July 25, 1961, at 8:30 p.m. by P. Steiner, Y.P.M.V. secretary of the Southern European Division. Present were the mayor of the small town of Vic-La-Gardirole and several representatives of the press. L.A. Skinner, associate secretary of the Y.P.M.V. department of the General Conference, was also with us and brought greetings from pathfinders throughout our world field.

A typical day's program began at seven o'clock when the reveille sounded, and at 7:45 the pathfinders marched two by two to the place where the flags were hoisted and the

morning worship held. Each morning at this time Brother Skinner gave a short talk centered on the motto of the jamboree "Resist". After that the Morning Watch was studied in different groups, followed by prayers. Then a hearty breakfast was enjoyed by the young people, as the fresh air gave them all a very good appetite.

After breakfast the tents were put in order, and the progressive classes organized. Then followed the walk to the beach where the boys and girls were free to play like dolphins in the blue warm Mediterranean waters. Before dinner at 12:30 there was time for the children to write greetings home to their parents. Dinners were eaten in the camps of the various countries, and it was customary to invite groups from one country to visit the others, and in this way the different nationalities became acquainted and could also sample some of the specialties in which the countries excelled. During the afternoon rest periods Brother Skinner held progressive courses for the leaders, and there were opportunities to discuss the many problems connected with youth leadership, and many program ideas were gotten through these helpful meetings.

Competitive games were held every day in the fields of Bible, sports, history, geography, etc., and everyone did his very best to win a medal to be taken home as a memento of the jamboree.

After supper all the nationalities gathered at the "Forum", a crescent-shaped place which formed a natural platform, shaded by the pine trees. In the middle of the Forum was the tent of the direction. It was used for the discussions of the leaders, who came together after 10 o'clock every evening to discuss the programs for the following day. The Forum was lit up by a portable generator.

The highpoint of the jamboree was the Sabbath visit of Brother M. Fridlin, the president of the Southern European Division. At the end of his sermon that Sabbath morning he made an impressive and forceful

appeal, inviting the young pathfinders to take their stand for Christ, and over forty responded by coming forward, thus indicating their willingness to attend the Bible classes which were held daily at six in the evening, conducted by Brother Bertalot.

On the second Sabbath, after the service conducted by Brother Skinner, a baptism took place in the sea. Many members from neighboring churches were present when a young Belgian pathfinder was baptized by Brother J. Belloy, Y.P.M.V. secretary of the Belgian Conference.

Many more interesting things could be told from this jamboree, such as the evening play portraying the three angels' messages to the world, and the trip to Constance, which greatly impressed the young pathfinders, because it was here the young Protestant girl, Marie Durand, was imprisoned for 37 years because of her faithfulness to her beliefs. She had engraved on the dark prison walls the word "Resist", thus pointing the way to all young people who want to remain faithful to their Lord.

It would be unfair not to mention Dr. Humel, who served untiringly as the camp doctor. Brother Surel had the gigantic task of being in charge of all purchases for the camp; he was ably assisted by his wife, and Mrs. Steiner who did all the bookkeeping.

The last meeting was held on the evening of August 9, and at that time Brother Steiner gave out medals to those who had won the competitions, and he was loudly applauded when he also presented a beautiful medal to Brother Skinner. He thanked the authorities from Vic-La-Gardirole on behalf of those in attendance at the jamboree for the hospitality enjoyed.

# According to the Way He Should Go

By *Raymond Lienard*

The sole object of the Advent Mission in Africa as elsewhere is and will always be to preach the everlasting gospel to "them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Rev. 14: 6). Many means are used in trying to reach this goal, and they vary according to the possibilities in each field, inasmuch as the habits, customs and morals of the people among whom we work must be taken into account. In Africa the medical and educational work are important phases in the preaching of the gospel. By these two means we are brought into contact with the masses and reach the different classes of the population. In Cameroun particularly, our numerous elementary schools are doing well, and are appreciated by all our evangelists. Because of their influence many places are prepared for the entrance of the gospel, proving the wisdom of Solomon's counsel: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22: 6).

We notice today an unparalleled thirst for instruction on the dark continent. The new republics have great need for an education higher than that obtainable in the elementary schools, and the existing secondary schools are too few in number to absorb the flood of students who each year throng their doors. We are convinced that the young republics have a great need for capable men and women, not only to teach, but to show them "the way they should go." Would it not be serious lack of wisdom on our

part to neglect this golden opportunity? We have often been quoted for our work in the elementary schools, and many of our former pupils have jobs in the present administration. Even if they do not belong to our church, yet they are inclined to be favorable to us, and we are thus reminded that "when he is old, he will not depart from it." The seed of the Lord will not return to Him without having produced fruit, but we know that the Holy Spirit sometimes works slowly. Today, in this Africa of great evolution, the elementary school is not enough, and the young people would like to go much further. Shall we pass up the unique opportunity we have of instructing the child "according to the way he shall follow?" Shall we be backward in developing secondary education?

We do not teach solely for the sake of teaching, as one promotes the arts for art's sake. Our aim is always the same: To lead all captive souls to the foot of the cross. To reach this goal the means differ with the times and according to countries, and it is up to us to seize the opportunity when it is within our reach. The result belongs to the Lord. Let us therefore be careful, for our responsibilities are great. One day we may be asked why we neglected to teach the child "according to the way he should go".

As we were anxious to respond to this urgent need, we opened in Batouri a normal school, including a 6th class. Many reasons impelled our brethren in the union and the East Cameroun Mission to promote this project. First of all, we have found that in our elementary schools we have the children only to the beginning of adolescence, and then at the exact moment when their talents begin to grow, and their personalities to form, they leave, and we are deprived of the privilege of continuing to guide them in the right direction. In other words, we lose the fruit the moment it begins to ripen. We realized that evidently something was missing, especially in Batouri: We had plenty of small children in the first three classes, but very few students remain-

ed for the upper classes. As soon as the children had acquired the first elements of reading and arithmetic, they went to another school where they would have the chance to "break through". The opening of our normal course (teachers' training course) should abolish this grave drawback.

Secondly, the necessity of preparing native workers from this region, speaking the local dialect, deserves our attention. We cannot ignore the fact that Africa is divided into many tribes, languages and dialects. It is a veritable Tower of Babel, which is a serious handicap to the progress of the gospel. Here in the East we have always had difficulties in getting native workers, but this training course will furnish us with some, because our students are natives from the three principal surrounding tribes: the Kaka, Maka and Baya.

Thirdly, the opening of this training school also gives us another hope, namely that our main mission station will take on new life. In fact, it is now 30 years since our mission was started in Batouri, and there is evidence of a certain stagnation. Our members are nearly all old sisters, frequently absent from the services. Our bush churches are much more alive than the mother church at the main station, so these young people will bring in new outlooks and enthusiasms.

The equipping of our training school has not necessitated a big investment. We have renovated existing buildings, and we can thus house almost 60 students. A large dining room, a classroom and a kitchen form a whole which is both clean and practical, and which should make us very happy.

God loves small beginnings. We have put this work in His hands, and are glad to say that of this year's 30 students, 6 are already enrolled in the baptismal class. The Week of Prayer was a great blessing and left a deep impression on the majority of the students.

The future belongs to the Lord. We are satisfied today to cast our "bread upon the waters: for we shall find it after many days" (Eccl. 11: 1).

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Since returning to Switzerland I have spoken to many of the participants of the jamboree, and everyone is of the opinion that it was a marvelous experience. It is the sincere prayer of us all that the forty young people, who during the jamboree decided to join the Advent faith, may soon follow their Lord in the waters of baptism.

# The work in Corsica

By *Robert Bertalot*

"Let them give glory unto the Lord, and declare his praise in the islands" (Isa. 42: 12).

These words from the prophet had a special significance for us on Sabbath June 25, 1960, when church members and friends assembled on a beautiful bank near a quiet creek not far from Ajaccio. That morning something besides the natural beauty of nature touched our hearts, because just then three souls sealed their covenant with God in the water of baptism.

The story of our work in Corsica goes back as far as 1884. At that time D. T. Bourdeau, one of the pioneers of our work in France, gave lectures in Branges, Saône-et-Loire, and from there went to Corsica where he founded a church of 11 members. Unfortunately, this promising beginning was not followed up, and the members scattered. Soon afterwards, however, the island was visited by colporteurs, among whom was F. Lavanchy, who canvassed here with our veteran champion in the colporteur field, J. A. P. Green. These brethren presented the book "Our Day in the Light of Prophecy" to the inhabitants of the island. Twenty years later the evangelists, Brother and Sister A. Autin, stayed on the island for a while, and at that time P. Lanarès came to baptize one person. Several students from Collonges also came to Corsica to canvass, thus earning their school fees among a population which is always ready to support young people who are working hard to continue their studies. For the past seven years Brother and Sister Mattei from Bône, Algeria, have traversed the roads of the island and solicited for missions in a remarkable way.

As far as we are concerned, we arrived here on the island in July, 1958, at the sunny port of the main city. We always desired to take up work in a place with no organized church in order to start something from the beginning, and the Lord fulfilled this wish. Napoleon once said about this his native island: "I would recognize Corsica with my eyes closed." He talked about the spiced, penetrating perfume from the wild bushy land and woods, which

the wind carries like a message of welcome, and which the traveler inhales with delight as he walks on the deck of the boat in the fresh morning air. That is no doubt the reason that the English have renamed Corsica "The Scented Isle", and it has also been called "The Isle of Beauty". The emperor called it the "place where everything is better". Many other writers and poets have praised its undeniable charms, and its fame is not overrated. During the two years we have been here, our love and admiration for this corner of the earth have increased. The nearby Sangionaire Islands, consisting of red granite, emerge from the sea like a mirage, and it is very difficult to turn away the eyes from this sight, especially in the autumn evenings when the sun sets like a blazing globe. It is indeed worth seeing, and everywhere on the island of Corsica we have been enchanted with the beauties of nature.

But we did not come here to seek the tourist attractions, but to look for sincere souls, desirous of doing God's will and prepare for His coming. This task seemed easy at first, because the Corsican population is extremely friendly. They also give the appearance of having a particularly broad and tolerant mentality, as well as truly inborn good sense and hospitality, which made it possible to make immediate cordial contact with the people. Because of this we were able to conduct meetings in Corte and Ajaccio, which were well received, and many doors were opened to us for Bible studies. That does not mean, however, that everything went smoothly. We have many times had to face the fact that although the approach is comparatively easy, the way between religious conversation and the conversion of the heart is just as long here as elsewhere; and maybe even longer because the Corsicans are very much attached to customs and traditions, and have, religiously speaking, never been anything else but Catholics.

From the following figures will be seen how we stand today. As a result of our efforts and prayers we have had the joy of seeing seven souls give

themselves to God, bringing the number of members up to 14, scattered over the island. In October, 1959, we secured a place to hold our services in Ajaccio, which we have inaugurated under the name "Study Center of the Voice of Hope." A Sabbath school of 15 members has been organized, consisting of an adult section and one for children. The latter meet in an adjacent room and here we have a sand tray, picture rolls and even a cradle, made by Mrs. Bertalot, who conducts the class of three children. She has also organized a Dorcas Society, which has functioned about one year, and on every Wednesday afternoon seven women, members of the church and friends, come together to devote themselves to this excellent work of making things for others.

Several lectures with slides have been given on these premises, which are very comfortable.

It is with confidence we look to the future, although the task before us is great. Corsica has a surface area of 800,000 hectares, and the more than 2,000 km of roads have 10,000 turnings on which the most difficult test of the International Automobile Race "The Tour of Corsica" is run. The roads are also rough, and one can easily imagine the turns the missionary makes on his scooter when he drives through the country. Both vehicle and nerves are put to a severe test. It is impossible to travel round the island during the winter, because the passes are often covered with snow, and the mountain roads are icy.

The 25,000 inhabitants of the island are divided into 366 parishes. Everywhere in these villages, perched on the mountains and along the seaboard, we find an intelligent population, interested in the visitor as well as very helpful. It is our dream that someday a team of well-equipped evangelists will have the wonderful experience of working here, and because we desire more than anything else that the torch of truth may shine brightly in the island of Corsica, we sincerely hope this dream will be realized. To this end we need your prayers.

To finish on a Biblical note, we remember the marvelous prophecy of Isaiah, which is very cheering to us: "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law" (Isa. 42: 4).