

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

March 1963

Number 1

Algeria in Distress

By H. Pichot



A happy little Arab girl thanks you for the doll and any help given to her people

The year 1962 poured a flood of miseries over Algeria. The civil war ruined all classes of society, and due to stress and strain at least ninety per cent of the Europeans and close to one million Moslems fled to France. The harvest was left to rot, factories were plundered, and the empty houses occupied by the firstcomers. The desolate properties lay waste, and thus a great part of the population was left without work and resources. The results were quickly visible, as famine broke out among the laboring classes. With the winter approaching it was imperative to carry out a program of welfare work in order to relieve the undernourished, which represented sixty per cent of the population according to government figures. Somebody had to come to the rescue with clothes and food, if not about one million children were to die from hunger and exposure.

The world press, radio and television broadcast stories and showed filmstrips depicting the suffering, sickness and hunger as it appeared in our country. The Adventist family, always ready to help, came at once to the rescue of these unfortunate people.

Some of the first on the scene with help were our brethren from Denmark, who became terribly alarmed by what they had seen depicted on the television screens, and therefore collected, in short time, a dozen tons of clothes, which were dispatched at once to Algeria. In order to be still quicker on the spot, three young Danes loaded six tons of clothes and food on a truck and drove to Marseilles, through Germany, Switzerland and France, embarked for Algiers and arrived safely with their goods. This swift action brought great joy to the brethren in charge of our work here, as well as to the civil authorities, who tried to express their gratitude to the donors.

In our complex century everything, even the distribution of help, is difficult. We had to run from one administrative office to the other in order to obtain permission to accept these things, which were not even for sale, but gifts. The young men found out, right at the wharf, that they had to be very vigilant in order that their gifts did not go in another direction, namely to the black market. Once all the goods were safely in our keeping, the young Norsemen went out to look at the beauties of the city of Algiers and its surroundings, and to observe firsthand the great misery which is found not far from the magnificent avenues of the city. A numerous native population lives huddled together in tin-villages, suffering from hunger, illness and cold, and without any guarantee they will survive the next day.

The public authorities are unable to relieve this dramatic situation. Three quarters of the soil have been abandoned and left untilled, and therefore, those who used to live on the land have come to the cities in great numbers searching for work, shelter and bread. Many of these leave their miserable hovels in the morning to go out and get some provisions for their numerous families, but often they have to return emptyhanded, and must then rely on public assistance in order to live. How cruel it must be for a father to return to his starving children without anything to give them.

The Adventist Welfare Department in Algiers went into action immediately. Brother A. Sanchez, who is in charge of this work, got in touch with the authorities of the country from the lowest to the highest on the administrative scale, that the gifts might be distributed evenly and wisely. The bales of clothes had to be opened, the things classified, made up into bundles and labeled, so they could be distributed as quickly as possible. Once the distribution had started, it has continued regularly and faster.

During the first days of January the truck from Vie et Santé (our medical institution in Algiers) left with clothes for the mission station in Oran, in order to help the people in this part of the country where the winter is not so severe.

Other distributions have been made here and there, none of them by strangers, but all the time under the direction of our brethren in charge of the Adventist Welfare Organization, so in this way we are certain that all the things reach their proper destination.

We thank God for the gift of \$2,000.— sent by the General Conference, and \$1,000.— from the Southern European Division, which we used to buy food to distribute among the suffering.

We also thank our members in Switzerland, who in December called



Ch. Monnier, president of the Swiss Union Conference, and J. Laich, departmental secretary of the Union, check the tons of clothes and food sent to Algeria from Switzerland



One of the many Algerian children awaiting help

for a special offering in all churches, and in January sent tons of clothing to Algeria. We thank all our brethren and sisters who have shown their compassion for the suffering, and have understood the practical meaning of the words of the evangelist "It is more blessed to give than to receive." We think this is one way to manifest the truth of our message and show that we are the disciples of Jesus.

There is still something for us to do: Pray for these distressed and unhappy people, who are very humiliated because they have to depend upon public charity. Pray much that the gospel of light may be made clear to those numerous masses, who now may be more susceptible to salvation. Pray that the Lord may bless our country and the people entrusted to us.

* One of the young men who went to Algeria from Denmark was Helge Andersen, Y.P.M.V. leader of the East Denmark Conference and also in charge of our welfare work there. He was very much impressed by what he saw on this trip, and the following are a few excerpts from an article by him, which appeared in one of

the Danish papers:

"We have a well organized work in Algeria, and now, when almost nine tenths of the French people have gone back to France, leaving most of our churches empty, our workers have decided to spend their time and energy helping the Arab population. One of our evangelists, Brother A. Sanchez, has been chosen as leader of the welfare work. He has had some experience already, as he helped in organized welfare work near the Tunisian border. Now his headquarters are in Algiers, and all help is organized from this place. It is quite difficult to distribute clothes and food, as the Arabs by nature are suspicious of strangers. The Arab wants to keep his family, his house, and especially his wife to himself. A stranger is wise to keep away from the house of an Algerian family. Just before we arrived in Algiers, a European was shot because he went to the house of an Arab and just asked the way. Thus our welfare work must be organized properly, and messages are sent on beforehand to the different villages in order that all may know why the help is coming. But I am glad to say that the work is organized, and the distribution is in full swing.

In past years not much work has been done by us among the Arabs, and now when we are about to do something for them, it is of the utmost importance that it is made possible for our leaders to help first with clothes and food. Thus the Arabs can see that practical Christianity means warm clothes and good food. After that comes the day when we can preach the gospel, and with the help of God win many of them for His kingdom. Our work in Algeria is centered around our mission stations and clinics, of which there are several scattered across the country, and this gives us an opportunity to keep in touch with the people who have received help.

One sunny day a young man came to our mission hospital. He was a typical representative of the starving Arab population. He did not wear many clothes to protect himself against the bitter east wind blowing from the highlands, and it was easy to see that it was a long time since he had sat down to a well set table. He asked for work, but there really



One million children will die from hunger and exposure, if no help comes in time. I shall never forget the sights I saw there. It made a great impression upon me to see the people sitting on the street corners: old people emaciated by illness, without legs or arms; blind beggars; mothers with small children. One mother I saw sitting with her little boy, who had collapsed from hunger and sickness. He was now lying in the street, and the mother was trying desperately to cover him with her veil. Everywhere one sees people just clad in rags, not enough to hide their famished bodies. They have only death to look forward to, and for many it would be a relief.

Wherever we went in the streets, in the evenings, we would see Arabs looking through dustbins in the hope of finding something to eat. Just imagine, if we would have to live on what we were able to find in the dustbin of our neighbour! And furthermore, I am quite sure that these poor souls were not able to find much among the rubbish. It is one of the greatest evils of civilization, that so many of our fellow beings must suffer so much."

* *

Since this was written, much has been done to alleviate the suffering and need. Tons of clothing and food have beep sent, and much more is being gathered and made ready to be shipped at the approach of next winter. Ed.



The welfare truck sent from Denmark with the three Danish workers and H. Pichot, president of the North African Union Mission

The Year That Passed and the Year Ahead

By M. Fridlin

Looking back at the old year as we enter the new, we cannot help but see many proofs of the worthlessness and fragility of earthly things and the approaching end of this godless world.

If we were to ask an artist to conjure up in one single picture all the events which occurred last year, it certainly would be striking because of the horrors depicted there. We would see earthquakes, floods, and other disasters. We would see thousands of dead as well as thousands of living deprived of everything they once owned. We would see the devastating effect of political conflicts, crowds of refugees and innumerable homeless wandering round the world, victims of the progress of modern techniques and unrestrained traffic. We would see signs of the cold war as well as those of open wars, and we would ascertain again that the folly of aggrandizement is consuming one nation after another; and at last we would perceive through our very own eyes the vision of humanity haunted by the spectre of fear.

In front of such a picture we are forced to acknowledge that the spirit of the century is one of dechristinization. However, as the people of God we must not look only at the terrors and catastrophes of the past year. We must, on the contrary, turn toward the Almighty and thank Him that He has preserved our lives, has led us through these troubled times and given us many opportunities to witness for Him.

We must express our gratitude to the Lord, and praise Him for the many souls brought to the church through the faithful collaboration of workers and members. We will look to the future and seek in the service of God the help and consolation with which we can meet the new year with courage. Because we are the children of God and members of a church which is conscious of its spiritual shortcomings and sad Laodicean condition, let us approach our heavenly Father with contrite hearts and ask Him to help us renew our spiritual life that we might be found victorious on the great day of the Lord.

For our encouragement I would like to tell a few striking experiences from the work in our Division.

First of all I think of the Algerian drama, which seems to have been solved at last. Even though we rejoice that the conflict is finished, we find that our mission activities in North Africa have been greatly affected. Several of our workers and many members have moved away, having lost everything. Some beautiful new churches, built just after World War II, are now almost empty. To mention one example: In our lovely chapel in Algiers, where we used to have 225 regular members, we find today about 15 faithful souls worshipping.

It is nevertheless encouraging to know that most of our workers have remained on their posts, and they are ready to continue their ministry for the Algerian population, even though the task is not too easy just now. Don't forget to mention in your prayers the workers and work in Algeria.

Our Division is perhaps the most tried in our world field. More than sixty per cent of our members live in countries where the church of God is suffering persecution and great repression. But, in spite of the obstacles, dangers and difficulties, our brethren and sisters remain faithful to the truth, and work untiringly to win other souls for the kingdom of God.

At the last General Conference session in San Francisco, we were able to report that 25,296 new members had been added to the church during the past quadrennial. This number has now increased to 33,000, as all information has reached us. At the end of the third quarter of 1962, our membership stood at 111,513 baptized members and 159,060 Sabbath school members.

The governments in most mission fields under our administration demand that the new missionaries, teachers and doctors have more education and are better instructed than before, and even though our home fields do not have too many members especially well trained, we have been able to send an important group of missionaries overseas. Moreover, those who went out again after their furlough, returned with joy to their old fields of labor.

It is impossible within the limits of this article to give a detailed description of the progress of the work in all our territories. This we can say, however, the members and young people are untiring in their efforts to advance the cause of God wherever they are.

I will just mention a few items from our activities in Mozambique, the mission field in East Africa where our work this past year has gone forward in the most spectacular way:

Twelve years ago our mission in Mozambique numbered 238 baptized members. At the end of 1957 there were 1,944; four years later, in 1961, there were 2,672, and at the end of the third quarter of 1962, we had 3,338 baptized members in this field. Thus, our membership is fourteen times larger today than it was in 1950. According to a recent letter received, 680 persons were baptized at one single baptismal service at our mission station in Munguluni.

Through the sacrifices of our members it has been possible to build and dedicate several church buildings this past year. To mention some of them: One fine building has been erected in the city of Tananarive, Madagascar; the chapel in Koza, North Cameroun, has at last been realized, and also in Nova Lisboa, Angola, a very modern church building is now gracing the city. In Italy we have built two chapels, one in Bari, and the other in Gravina. In Austria we have the beautiful church in Innsbruck; in Liège, Belgium, another chapel was recently dedicated; and lastly, our Division Sanitarium in Gland, Switzerland, is now in possession of its own very modern church, situated on the hillside overlooking the Lake of Geneva.

On the beautiful Bongo Mission, where Dr. R. B. Parsons has worked untiringly as medical missionary for more than thirty years, we now have a new church building. It was possible to erect this chapel through the funds coming from the local hospital.

Furthermore, much effort has been expended to establish chapels in Palermo, Sicily, and Salonika, Greece. We also hope, by the grace of God, to be able to acquire a third church in Paris. This building, seating about one hundred, will serve not only as a church, but also as an evangelistic center.

It is a pleasure to be able to report that the tithes during the last four years have gone up by 29 per cent; forty per cent for the offerings for the twelve Sabbaths, and 70 per cent for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering since 1957. We are very grateful to our faithful members for their never failing generosity.

Let us together thank the Lord that He has considered us worthy to be His witnesses. Let us pray that He may fill us with the same love and sacred passion which was found in the early Christians, that we may help to increase the number of souls turning to God through the preaching of the last warning message.

May God help us to be ambassadors of peace everywhere. May he induce us to sacrifice even more for His cause, and may He help us to live our lives to His glory, and as faithful witnesses in the eyes of the world.

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Missionary Sailings 1962

January

Mr. and Mrs. A. Bodenmann, and two children, of Switzerland to Cameroun (returning)

Miss Juliette Yérétzian, of France to Cameroun (returning)

Mr. M. Grisier, of France to Mauritius (returning)

Miss Liliane Probst, of Switzerland to Cameroun

Mr. A. Pires, of Portugal to Angola (returning)

February

Mrs. M. Grisier, and two children, of France to Mauritius (returning) Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Morgado, and two children, of Portugal to Mozambique (returning) Mr. and Mrs. A. Rodriguez, of Portugal to Angola (returning)

March

Mr. and Mrs. V. Chaves, of Portugal to Angola (returning)

April

Mr. and Mrs. E. Cupertino, and two children, of Italy to Cameroun

May

Miss Raymonde Pernelle, of France to Cameroun

Mr. and Mrs. A. Jordan, and two children, of France to Cameroun

June

Mrs. A. Pires, and two children, of Portugal to Angola (returning)

September

Mr. and Mrs. M. Fayard, and three children, of France to Senegal Mr. and Mrs. M. Le Gal, of France to Cameroun

November

Mr. and Mrs. A. Valente, and two children, of Portugal to Angola (returning) Mr. R. Bergstrom, of Sweden to Cameroun (returning) Mr. and Mrs. J. Kempf, and four children, of France to Central African

Republic (returning) Mr. and Mrs. E. Ludescher, and two children, of Austria to Cameroun (returning)

December

Mr. and Mrs. H. Walder, and one child, of Switzerland to Cameroun (returning)

News Items

In the month of November, 1962, Mrs. Palmer, wife of P. E. Palmer, died in Seattle, Washington. Mr. Palmer is known in the Southern European Division as the founder of the Palmer Fund, from which appropriations are granted to needy students attending the French Adventist Seminary, Collonges, France.

A small school has been opened by P. Bernard in Algiers, North Africa. It is functioning very well, and Jean Kamm has been assigned to help.

Bible instruction has now been introduced in the school in Dakar, Senegal Mission. As this school is attended by many Moslems, it is an important step forward in our endeavors to reach these people.

An Evangelistic Convention for work among the Moslems will be held in Algiers from March 11 to 22, 1963.

Authorization has been received for the publication of a church paper in Angola. The first number has been issued under the name *Boletim Adventista*.

"Steps to Christ" has been printed in Portuguese and Umbundu in Bongo, Portuguese West Africa.

In Israel five new members have been added to the church by baptism.

SOUTHERN EUROPEAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

Organ of the Southern European Division of Seventh-day Adventists published every quarter

Address of Editor (to whom all manuscripts should be sent): Höheweg 17, Berne, Switzerland.

W.A. Wild Editor Mrs. B. J. Kohler Editorial Secretary

Statistical Report of the Southern European Division of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending December 31, 1962

Name of Conference or Mission	Number of Churches Previous Membership	Baptism Vote Letter	Total Gains Letter	Death Apostasy	Missing Members	Total Losses Net Gains	Present Membership	Ord. Minist. Active • Honorary Cred. Miss. Active • Honorary	Lic. Ministers * * Honorary	Licensed Missionaries	Bible Instructors Elementary School Teachers	Colporteurs	All Other Regular Workers	Total Workers Number of Sabbath Schools	Sabbath School Membership	Average Attendance
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RECAPITULATION

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Greek	Mission	8	221	3 —	- 6	9		1			1	8	229	4				1	- 4	l		3	1	13	7	235	190
Israel	Mission	1	45	1 3	3	4		_				4	49	1					- 1					2	2	38	38
Mozambique	Mission	16	3338	30	· -	30	7	13	8		28	2	3340	5	—	1 -		3 -	- 8	3 —	25		8	50	50	9965	9047
Sénégal	Mission	1	17										17	2				2 -	:	3 —				7	2	17	14
Spanish	Church	20	1750	15 —	- 23	38	37	11	6		54	-16	1734	12	2			10 -	:	3 5	3	9	2	46	2 0	2049	1580
Totals 4th Quarter, 1	1962	1690	113517	1395 8	4 685	2164	863	331	593	705	2492	328	113189	485	33	38	5 1	95	5 35(3 202	443	165	369	2296	2457	165622	137723
Totals 4th Quarter, 1	1961	1703 1	08138	5192 19	6 1565	6953	989	774	1731	288	3782	3171	111309	488	31	53	51	87	6 320	185	452	161	260	2148	2392	162517	141536
															-												

* No Report

Name of Conf or Missio		Number of Churches	Previous Membership	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total Gains	Letter	Death	Apostasy	Missing Members	Total Losses	Net Gain	Present Membership	Ord. Minist. Active	 Honorary 	Cred. Miss. Active	Licensed Ministers	 * Honorary 	Missionaries	Bible Instructors	Elementary School Teachers	Colporteurs	All Other Regular Workers	Total Workers	Number of Sabbath Schools	Sabbath School Membership	Average Attendance
SOUTHERN EURO	PEAN D	IV.					•			·					22	1	11	2 -	- 2	28				174	2 38			
Austrian	U. C	40	2713	86	5	85	176	85	56	60		201	-25	2688	18	3	6 —	6 -	1	13	6		18	4	74	4 1	2958	1962
Czechoslovakian	U. C.* .	50	7505								—			7505	43			26 -	_	2				—	71	160	6000	5400
Franco-Belgian	U. C	89	4870	271	21	397	68 9	235	46	62	-	343	346	5216	48	11	4 3	13 -	1	13	14	1	38	10	155	76	496 9	3888
Hungarian	U. C	153	6066	105	22		127		109	88	69	266	-139	5927	32			8 -		4				6	50	175	7000	6500
Rumanian	U. C.* .	6 46	35629	-										35629	108	·			- 12	27					235	646	53200	48000
Swiss	U. C	58	3569	135	12	132	27 9	123	53	59	2	2 37	42	3611	23	3	22	4 -	1	13	3	4	33	4	91	58	3320	2308
Yugoslavian	U. C	232	8656	563	49	419	1031	439	145	164	16	764	267	89 23	34		2 -	14 -		5	31	<u> </u>			86	3 00	9100	8600
Angola	U. M	62	15747	1417	1	74	1492	203	141	351	778	1473	19	15766	27	1		47 -	- 4	16		123	1	62	307	306	28798	24103
Eq. African	U. M	38	7737	748	43	1495	2286	1471	99	61	465	2096	190	7927	20		6	13	1 1	19 :	131	200		62	452	287	20459	12766
Indian Ocean	U. M	103	4738	492	9	70	571	96	33	65	76	270	301	5039	29	2	2 —	18	3 2	28		83	12	20	197	126	8938	6400
Italian	U. M	59	2892	163	8	106	277	127	33	28		188	89	2981	26	6	2 —	13 -	- :	15	5		35	13	115	94	2914	2447
North African	U. M	15	841	44	7	29	80	187	12	25		224	144	697	9		2 -	3.		7	3		1	2	27			B
Portuguese	U. M	31	2548	220	7	70	297	77	26	25	3	131	166	2714	13	4		8	1	7	4	4	15	1	57	3 9	2 990	2280
Bulgarian	Mission*	68	3197											3197	9			4 -		10					23	68	2672	2200
Greek	Mission	8	220	6		6	12		3			3	9	229	4			1 -		4	_		3	1	13	7	235	190
Israel	Mission	1	41	5	3	1	9	1				1	8	49	1				_	1					2	2	38	
Mozambique	Mission	16	2672	727		2	729	22	28	11		61	668	3340	5	—	1 —	3.		8		25		8	50	50	9965	9047
Sénégal	Mission	1	14			4	4	1				1	3	17	2			2 -		3					7	2	17	14
Spanish	Church	20	1654	165	3	43	211	76	24	31		131	80	1734	12	2		10 -		3	5	3	9	2	46	20	2049	1580
Totals for the Year,	1962	1690	111309	5147	190	2933	8270	3143	808	1030	1409	6390	1880	113189	485	33	38 5	195	5 3	56	202	443	165	369	2296	2457	165622	137723
Totals for the Year, * No Report	1961	1703	108138	5192	196	1565	6953	989	774	1731	288	3782	3171	111309	488	31	53 5	187	6 32	20	185	452	161	*260	2148	2392	162517	141536

Statistical Summary of the Southern European Division for the Year 1962