



QUARTERLY REVIEW

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

Vol. XXX

June 1963

Number 2

French Adventist Seminary

By Jean Zurcher

For the last three years the board minutes have revealed some very important decisions regarding general improvements to the institution, especially with the idea of erecting new buildings. These provisions have been made as the number of registered students has grown visibly the last years: in 1960/61 we had 190 students; in 1961/62 there were 244, and in 1962/63, the current school year, we have a record number of 303 registered students, which is an increase of 62 per cent.

This development shows the educational possibilities among our young people, but for the present we have reached the limits of our housing facilities, and it is impossible for us to accept all the inquiries for the next few years. Everyone will thus be happy to know that new prospects are under consideration; that considerable sums of money already are laid aside for the future, which will permit us to receive those who wish to enjoy a Christian education in Christian surroundings.

When we consider that only one tenth of our young people come to

Collonges to avail themselves of our special courses: secondary, commercial, music, French for foreigners and theology, we realize that there is room for improvement in this respect. An increasing interest is nevertheless manifesting itself among our members. Spiritual defeats and the irresistible influence of the world make anxious parents understand that for the future spiritual security of their children, it is important that they study in Christian environments.

It is difficult to mention in a few words what has been done at the school just during this past year. In the plans for the material improvement of the institution we can mention first of all the complete modernization of the kitchen, the serving counter and the dining room. Furthermore, a new experienced cook is in charge of this important department, where about 600 meals are served every day, while his wife is in charge of the serving counter, the dining room and the pantry.

Our dormitories have not been neglected. The renovation of the rooms, the furniture and bedding is

done systematically. The boys' dormitory, *Les Sources*, has got a new sanitary block. The girls' dormitory, *Le Parc*, will get the same this year as well as a new bathroom with showers, wash basins and toilets. In these two dormitories the students have fine study rooms, which should inspire them to do good work.

The young people under 16 years of age have also seen their home transformed. The third and fourth floors of *Beau-Site* have been rearranged to house the girls, while *The Home* is in the midst of being enlarged. Above the kitchen and the adjoining rooms, which were done over last year, the students will have a new wing ready next year.

In order to solve the housing problems following the growing influx of students, we have had to rent *Hotel des Alpes* and put several of the theological students as well as the married students there. Some of the last mentioned are also living in more or less comfortable places in the vicinity of the college. We are glad they are not forgotten in the future building program, because the married

students add much to the dignity of the school life.

The current school year is not only the largest in number of enrolments, but also as steady attendance is concerned. Only 8.5 per cent left during the year as compared with 20 to 25 per cent other years. We have never had so many external students before. Of the 49 we have this year, some are the children of the staff members and the married students, but there are also children from Adventist families in Geneva and Annemasse. The Franco-Belgian Union Conference has 126 representatives, of which the French Conference has sent 116, and the Belgian Conference 10. The Swiss Union Conference has 37 stu-

dents this year, 26 from French-speaking Switzerland and 11 from the German part. Almost all the countries in our vast Division are represented: 14 from Spain, 5 from Portugal, 5 from Italy, 5 from North Africa, and 29 from the different mission fields. At last we have about 80 students from countries not belonging to our Division. They come to study French, and of the 80, forty-nine are from America, and the rest from other countries.

Other figures show that our college has indeed become a school for the Advent youth: Among the 303 registered students, 215 are already baptized. There are 7 Catholics, 7 Protestants and 2 Moslems. The

other 73 are the young people under 16 years of age, who are attending various baptismal classes.

Scholastically the Collonges Seminary has different sections to meet the intellectual needs of our young people. The secondary course, under the direction of Roger Guenin, prepares the students for the different state examinations on college and lycée level. The success obtained during the last years, the growing number of students who frequent the classes and the quality of the teachers allow us to recommend our secondary courses.

Our theological department also continues to grow under the able leadership of Raoul Déderen, Bible teacher, and we are happy that the

Faculty and staff members



number of students here increase every year. An army of young workers is now preparing at our Seminary, and the future will prove the value of the theological and practical preparation of our ministers.

One of the great events of the school year 1962/63 is certainly the development of the department of French for foreigners. About 80 students follow an intensive course especially organized to teach those students whose mother tongue is not the language of Molière. This teaching is done under the patronage of Alliance Française, controlled by the University of Paris, and this fact is of interest to a large number of foreign students on university level. This experiment is most interesting and deserves to be followed up. Furthermore, these students have enriched our institution and have contributed a certain maturity to the spirit of Collonges.

The development of the music department is also due to the increase of

foreign students. Not only has the number of musicians suddenly doubled, but above all, the quality of some young artists has contributed to a purer sound in the school's musical life. The choirs are more important and numerous than before, the quartettes and soloists follow after each other, and the string orchestra has given much artistic pleasure. Soon the churches in the Franco-Belgian and Swiss Unions will have the joy of hearing the spiritual concerts of the Salève choirs, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Buser. If the songs and music are any indication of true spirituality, the inner life of our students must be deeper than ever.

This is also the observation of many visitors. They have no doubt but that the spirit of the students has improved. The beautiful new church building has also contributed to this fact, and the 23 baptisms at the end of last school year was further proof. A good harvest of souls is being prepared for this coming June. We

already had one baptism at the end of the young people's Week of Prayer. At this same time we were glad to see the first fruits of the mission activities in that region, which proved that the young people are only satisfied with continued progress.

For the Seminary's future plans there are many promises. At the lower level of the garden a beautiful building with six apartments for teachers will be erected soon, and this coming fall we shall start the building of a new dormitory for 120 boys behind the administration building. Other enlargements are planned to meet the ever increasing number of students who want to attend the college. The problem is not to know how to fill up the available space, but how the available space will suffice.

We thank the Lord because we know that He will always provide, and today He needs a youth zealous to do His service and capable of finishing the work entrusted to the Advent Movement.

Students, faculty and staff, school year 1962/63



La Lignière Church

By A. Lecoultre

God is generous!

In his prayer offered at the time of the dedication of the Jerusalem temple Solomon asked the Lord "that thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there" (1 Kings 8:29), and the Lord answered, "I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually" (1 Kings 9:3).

With similar fervor we pray that the divine presence may watch over the church at La Lignière recently dedicated to the glory of God.

La Lignière is not only a church with its sanctuary, it is a unique institution in our Division, because both a hospital and a food factory are here in this beautiful place. When these institutions were set up here, an Adventist community and its church were established at this same place midway between Lausanne and Geneva.

We may ask, how did it all develop here?

1904. La Lignière was purchased. It was, and still is, a beautiful site, with large forests and green fields, the dreamy Lake of Geneva in which are reflected the majestic Alps. At first a Bible school was directed here in the main house by Jean Vuilleumier, and in this building, right in the room where Dr. H. Mueller has his office now, the Adventists met to worship on Sabbath mornings. There were about 25 members to begin with, composed of students, the families of the employees and the director, as well as a couple of farm laborers. The three or four children gathered in a small room next door, which also served as a dining room for the students. In those days of yesteryears the members gathered as often as possible outside under the ancient oaks on the property. These were unforgettable times.

Then the food factory "Phag" was erected.

There where changes made at the house, called the Chalet, at the bottom of the property near the lake. The stables were converted into kitchen and dining room for the personnel, and here the members met each Sabbath from 1905 onward.

Three or four patients arrived from Basel. They were treated as well as possible, and seemed to be happy to mingle with the Advent family. "How happy we were in those days," someone wrote to me.

The west wing of the Chalet had been used as an orange house, where the former owner had kept these big green plants during the winter to protect them. In 1906 this orange house was made into a chapel, and it was used as such until the fall of 1962.

In the year 1920/21 the last students were received at La Lignière. The chapel was now far too small to house all. It was too much when the personnel from the sanitarium, the food factory, the publishing house (which had been established here in 1911), garden and farm, as well as the office staff of the Latin Union, nursing staff, patients and about 40 students all crowded into the small chapel.

However, the publishing house moved away after a while, the Latin Union ceased to exist, the school changed name and place, and for some years after 1925 the members at La Lignière had plenty of room in the small chapel.

In 1944 there were some renovations. Under the direction of Dr. Mueller and in cooperation with an architect from Rolle, a small hall was added in order to give the members room to leave their coats and umbrellas. This made the meeting hall more appropriate, but diminished the space somewhat.

The sanitarium grew bigger, more personnel arrived, and the chapel became inadequate. Without doubt it looked very pretty, as several alter-

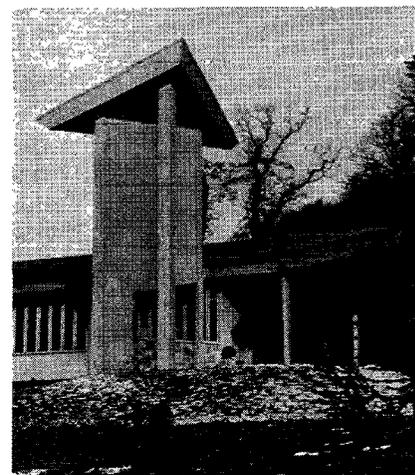
ations had been made, but there was lack of room, sometimes desperately. It even happened that the members took turns to attend the services, as it was impossible for everyone to crowd into the same room. There was a nice room for the children, serving also as a pastor's study, where now and again one could find a place and receive some crumbs from the table of the children of God. But who would be satisfied for a long time with a situation like this? It was not uncommon to see people faint here because of poor ventilation in the overcrowded room.

Many times the means for the enlargement of the chapel were studied, but it took almost forty years before conditions improved and the construction of a new chapel was begun.

The question was, of course, the money. The Lord impressed upon the heart of many members to do their part, and even before the campaign started, a gift of SFr. 8,000.— was donated by one family alone. Each member, even the children, gave generously. The church did not carry the whole burden, but the Conference, the Swiss Union as well as the Southern European Division did their part.

There was much work and many problems, but everything went well at last, and on November 24, 1962, the church at Gland dedicated to the Lord a well proportioned and beautiful sanctuary. We thank the Lord for it!

The new chapel at La Lignière



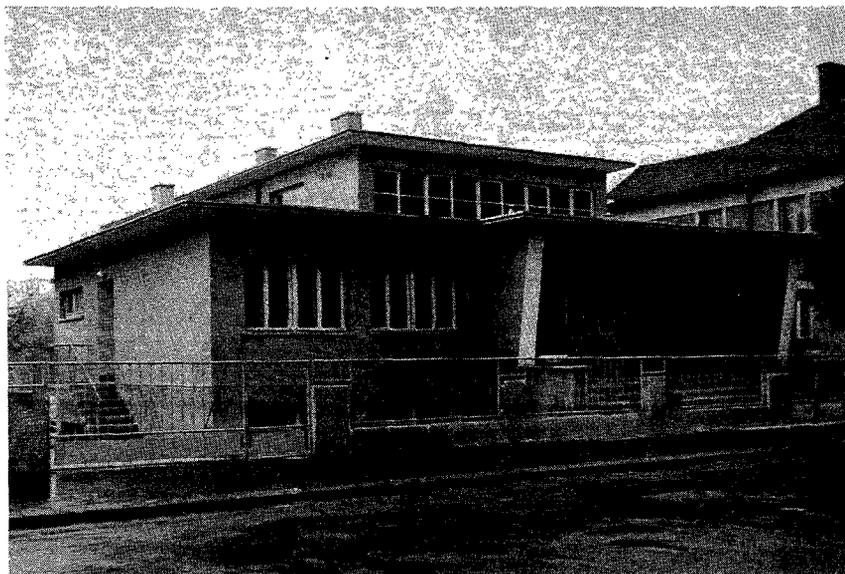
Dedication of a New Chapel in Zagreb, Yugoslavia

By J. Slankamenac

The old chapel in Zagreb has long been too small, and for the last few years two services have been conducted each Sabbath morning in order to accommodate the people. It was, therefore, absolutely necessary to get a second church. God heard our prayers, and on December 22, 1962, this new church was dedicated to the Lord in the city of Zagreb.

The church building has a hall seating 320, three small rooms in the basement, and an apartment for the preacher. The meeting hall is simply, but beautifully decorated.

On the big day about 500 members



were present, and it was a pleasure for all that Dr. J. Nussbaum, religious liberty secretary of the Division, could be there also. The union president, A. Lorencin, preached the dedication sermon and offered the dedicatory prayer. The choirs from Belgrade and

Zagreb made the day a very festive one by their beautiful hymns and songs.

We pray that this new church in Zagreb may be a monument to God's glory and instrumental in bringing many people to salvation.

Dedication of Church in Vacoas, Mauritius

By Pat Brú

Vacoas on the island of Mauritius is a small agricultural village surrounded by large fields of cabbages and cauliflowers, and the first Seventh-

day Adventist church here was dedicated on Sabbath, June 16, 1962. It is situated in the center of Vacoas and is surrounded by other buildings, so the small church looks like an object of defiance compared with the big Catholic church, the tower of which reaches proudly to the sky. We hope that this little church will henceforth be a center for the propagation of the message of the soon coming of Christ. The Adventists on

Mauritius are very pleased to be known under the name of Badaut, the first missionary to their island, and they recognize that this man braved the storm of persecution. Because of his fortitude and courage it has now been possible for us to dedicate this church in peace and quietness.

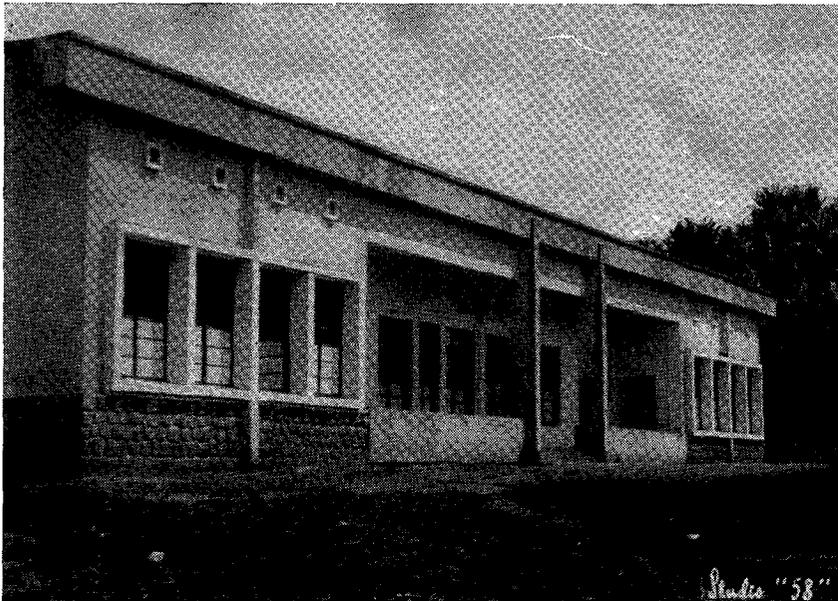
At nine o'clock sharp Pastor Grasier, president of the Mauritius Mission, walked on the platform accompanied by Pastor Johnson. The audience rose and sang a song of adoration and thanksgiving. The pastor read the passage from 2 Chronicles relating the dedication of Solomon's temple, after which he thanked all who had contributed to the construction of the church in Vacoas, especially the Indian Ocean Union Mission and the Mauritius Mission. At the end he offered the dedicatory prayer.

We pray that God will accept our deepfelt thanks for this chapel. We realize that our prayers have been answered, and we now have our own little church, which will henceforth, by its members, witness for Him in the town of Vacoas, Mauritius.



Chapel in Vacoas, Mauritius

Our School in Tamatave, Madagascar



Classroom building

Teachers and staff at Ambatoharanana School



By *J. Rajoelison*

The travellers taking the plane from Tamatave, the great Malagasy port on the east coast of Madagascar, to Tananarive, the capital of the island, are always surprised to see, shortly after take-off, a group of very modern buildings appearing in the middle of the gently rolling hills beneath them. The white walls shine in the dark forest, and the inquirer is told that this is the mission station of the Seventh-day Adventists at Ambatoharanana.

It was established some years ago to offer a good Christian education to the young people from the Betsimisaraka tribe, but it is quite an important institution now, as its fame has spread far and near in spite of many obstacles which at first seemed to thwart its progress.

As it is mainly an educational center, there are two buildings with bright, spacious and airy classrooms, essential in a country where the heat is depressing most part of the year. There are about 180 students, some boarders and some day students. The last mentioned come from the nearby villages hidden in the thick darkness of the ravines; others came from Tamatave, or more distant places like Diégo-Suarez to the north, Mahanoro to the south, the country of Sihanaka, and even from Tananarive. The boarders, both boys and girls, comprise one third, and are mostly secondary students.

The school prepares the students for different state examinations, and the results in recent years have been very encouraging as well as promising for the future. The personnel consists of 10 instructors plus a preceptor and a preceptress, an accountant, a gardener and a cook.

The scholastic instruction, however, is only one aspect of the education. We have tried to follow the advice given by Mrs. E. G. White, that true education will develop harmoniously both the physical, mental and spiritual energies. That is the reason that a place of honor is given to both useful and productive manual labor.

The property has an area of about 90 hectares. There is a kitchen garden, a field of maniocs, orchards with oranges, lemons, pineapple and bananas, which give the young men an opportunity to develop physically and also to earn part of their living expenses. We must add, however, that spiritual subjects take first place in the educational program of the school, as we know the truth of Solomon's proverb that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:7). The youth of today is in need of strong characters to be able to stand up against the enemy of souls. Such characters are only developed by a daily contact with the Word of God, and by trying to live lives in accordance with its principles. It is to help the young people to reach this goal that systematic Bible teaching is included in the program. As a tangible expression of this pre-eminence of the spiritual over the rest, our chapel stands in a central place between the two classroom buildings, and dominates these by its height.

Finally, the school is a center of evangelism. Not only are the future evangelists for the field educated here, but a direct evangelistic program is also carried out among the people in the heathen neighborhood with good and encouraging results.

The needs are yet great for new equipment and other things that our aim may be fulfilled: To prepare "the student for the joy of service in this world, and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (Education, p. 13). Relying on the promises of God we look to the future with confidence.

In the evenings, when darkness descends upon the country, our station on the hill with its white walls is a symbol of this aim: To be a lamp to the feet of the young, and to lead them on the road to service and eternity.

An open door in Morocco!

By *Emile Haran*

For some time we have tried to make it possible for Morocco to hear the Voice of Prophecy in French. Today we thank the Lord that He has fulfilled the promise made in Revelation 3:8. As yet we cannot measure the full importance of what has happened, but already there are evidences that God is working for us, and we have prospects of contacts with the Moroccans.

As in all Mohammedan countries nationalism in Morocco is strengthened by religious zeal. The toleration, enjoyed during the period in which the morocconization of the administration was accomplished, has passed although Sunday has remained the official holiday. Both Catholic and Protestant religious broadcasts have been deferred, and the weekly broadcast for the Moroccan Jews has been limited to religious philosophy read by the speaker. Thus all religious propaganda, except Moslem, is excluded from the Moroccan radio.

Nothing concerning Isreal and its history must be preached in public. That is the reason a zealous official advised us not to mention the name of Jesus, but we think we have convinced him now that Jesus was a man without a country, even rejected by the state of the Jews. This year we visited the ruler himself and gave him a beautiful Bible with his initials stamped in golden letters.

But the exclusiveness of Islam is always hostile to all Christian proselytism. The public meetings in Casablanca have been better attended this year, however, and at the end of three months our team was able to baptize five souls of European origin. To visit the homes with the Bible correspondence course made for Europeans remains our most effective means of meeting people, but it is still a rare privilege to be allowed to give a regular Bible study in a private home. At one occasion a Moslem teacher became interested in our lectures, and he let his students listen as he translated into French what a preacher

was saying on Biblical subjects. He thought that as the Koran serves as a foundation for the Arab lectures, there is no reason why the Bible should not be used in the study of French. Today the teacher-translator is obedient to the Ten Commandments and has the faith of Jesus. As we told him to be careful with the people around him, he answered with a grave smile: "If I have to die, well, so much the better, it was worth it."

The gospel is sure to find a way in spite of difficulties, and God has answered the prayers of the Moroccan church, using our previous attempts, and a young student from Collonges who had been canvassing in the Rabat administration. Since June 10, 1962, the French channel of the Moroccan broadcast has sent out, each Sunday after the 1 o'clock news, a ten minutes talk on "Education and the Family" prepared by the Voice of Hope.

Our educational course for the family is presented here, and it is the speaker himself who invites the listeners to write to us: Moroccan Radio and TV, P.O. Box 2, Casablanca.

Like the author of one of the first letters received we wish that our broadcast may have a long life, but what we wish most of all is to have a program made especially for North Africa, so that we can use the 15 minutes given us by the Moroccan authorities free of charge.

Although the present broadcast is for the Europeans in the French language, we sincerely believe that educational and health subjects are the means by which we can reach the masses of the Moslems thirsting for instruction, and for whom very little has been done because it was not possible.

Many plans are in preparation, as events force us to consider soberly the reason for our presence in North Africa. We are here first and foremost to look after the Jews and the Moslems, who we have too often forgotten, as it was easier to get good results among the Europeans. Already our brethren have worked out plans for the large field of North Africa, and we wish that this door, opened to us by the Moroccan radio broadcast, and supported by the relay from Oujda, may be for Algeria also a door to salvation.

Hospital Service in Cameroun

By *Liliane Propst*

The following excerpt is from a letter to W. A. Wild, secretary of the Southern European Division, from Miss Liliane Propst, a young Swiss nurse who recently went to work in the Cameroun Mission Hospital:

"I have now completely recovered from the measles, and I am thankful that as yet I have not had malaria. I have not escaped an attack of dysentery, although I am glad to say that it lasted only for one day. Since my arrival I have lost about seven pounds, but I eat well and feel fine.

"The rainy season is already over, it appeared to me to last only a short time. I had imagined that the rains would come down in torrents every day, but that was not the case; there were some real torrential rains at the beginning and the end of the season, when the rains came down horizontally, driven by the force of the wind. In the shelter of my house or at the hospital I admired the furious outbursts, meditating on the power of God, but at the same time thinking of the natives' frail houses, which so easily collapse. At that moment we got in an old man, who had a broken femur, and the leg in plaster. His house had fallen down while he slept, poor soul. The plaster, however, relieved his pain so much that he wanted to have one on the other leg as well, as he suffered from arthritis in the knee.

"I am asked about my impressions of the nurse's work for the Kirdi population. It is a tremendous task, and to my inexperienced eyes it seems almost unsurmountable.

"First of all, these people have been tied down to their heathen customs since the beginning of time, and they do not seem to see any reason why they should change their way of life, since their ancestors always have lived like that. Secondly, they are very stubborn and have no idea of hygiene.

"However, I love the Matakams, they have dazzling smiles the like of which I have never seen, as they have the most marvelous teeth. It is a pleasure to nurse them, as they do not

fuss at all. They will not go to bed if it is at all possible for them to stay up, and if they actually consent to lie down, it is serious, because they only do this if they expect to die. I can say that I have seen real 'resurrections' during an epidemic of dysentery, chiefly by the help of sodium chloride intravenous drip. It is strange to see a patient sick to death the one day, the next day he gives you a feeble smile, and after another few days he walks around very happy to be alive again, when he had expected only death.

"Between yesterday and today eight patients ran away, because a couple of them had dreamed they saw a sorcerer in a flame of fire, and in spite of all we say to reassure them, it does not make an impression. Two or three of them were very sick with high temperatures, and one of them left his bandages behind, so intent was he upon getting away. Luckily his burns were almost healed, but this is all the work of Satan, and very sad.

"They have another custom: When there has been a death in a village, men go into a neighboring place with their arrows to kill someone there in order that this community also may be sorrowing.

"Once a severely wounded man was brought to us by ambulance, and a doctor from another hospital came to us, somewhat embarrassed, saying that the police had brought him to make an autopsy; but when they came the man was alive, so they had nothing to do. The patient looked like an old man when he came in, as he had a deep gash across his stomach, but after a few days with us it appeared the 'old man' was about 18 years of age.

"From the same mountain district came another young man. He was brought to us with his skull almost crushed by a violent knife cut. I thought for sure he would die, but not at all! He remained speechless for a long time, but as soon as he was able to speak again he left us quite happily.



"As far as the evangelistic work is concerned, I have already said that it is very difficult. It seems to me that true Christian converts can be counted on the fingers, and that the others have absolutely no thirst at all for the Word of God. I pray that the Holy Spirit may come to our compound, and that a desire for the Word of God may be felt in the tribes around us. It is difficult to realize that in certain places of the world people are converted and baptized by the hundred.

"It is now ten years ago since Pastor R. Bergstrom started to preach here, and he has worked with ardour and devotion, and has also finished the beautiful church building we have now. We have prayer meetings twice a week, and with the young missionary volunteers we go to the nearby hills inviting the children to come to us on Sabbath afternoon.

"At the hospital the doctor has treated thousands and saved many lives; if it takes years to get results, we will just have to exercise patience."

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