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A Personal Message to Workers and Members in the Southern European Division

W. R. Beach

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

It is a great privilege and pleasure to speak to you in this personal way through the columns of the *Quarterly Review*.

We have just concluded seven weeks of itinerary in Southern Europe. This renewed contact after some nine years of absence from this great Division has enabled me to see and understand many encouraging aspects of God's work. I have been able to meet many of you again from Athens to Brussels and from Vienna to Paris. I have been honored to meet so many personally as well as in public assembly. Some of you have passed through sore trials and cruel hardships; for others the lot has been cast in pleasant places. You live and labor in language and racial areas with varying political, economic and religious backgrounds. I rejoice that close Christian fellowship binds you together, not by the mere bonds of human organization, but by the power of God's truth. Such is the might of the Advent message, the Living Word of God for our time.

During these past weeks I have been able to witness and measure the success that has accompanied God's

cause. I have been impressed too by a number of basic trends. My purpose in this message is to sum up my impressions and convictions in a few short sentences.

Naturally, my first impression has been one of success and growth. The Division membership now stands at 110,000, which makes the Southern European Division one of the very great sections of our world field. A careful building program has been pursued. More and more the Seventh-day Adventist landscape is dotted with fine churches, institutions and evangelistic centers. I was heartened by the new center at Thessalonica, Greece; with the churches at Innsbruck, Austria; Gland, Switzerland, and the French college. The chief building effort of the past few years has been in the mission fields, and what has been accomplished there is nothing short of miraculous. We rejoice to find the churches at home more solicitous in regard to the development of the work overseas. We recognize thus that the work must be finished everywhere before it is finished anywhere.

I have rejoiced, too, at the evident growth in Godliness that marks so



many lives and homes. I have found a deep longing for a more Spirit-filled life. I believe that this trend will bring a surge of revival and reformation — and unmistakable fruits for God's Kingdom.

I have been impressed with an increased faith in our fundamental doctrines and prophetic interpretations. A predilection for the whimsical, the freakish, finds lodging only in exceptional cases. Doctrinal fads and fancies are the preoccupation of a fast-fading few. I believe that the church in Southern Europe has set

herself to know God and to grow up in His righteousness.

During the past weeks many who have become weary on the way have found again their first love, and will now advance with the church into the full flood of God's latter rain. This should continue to burden us in prayer.

I have found, too, that loyalty to the Adventist brotherhood – one Message, one Church, one worldwide Organization – is deeper and brighter than ever before. This fellowship is not just a philosophical notion, a beautiful ideal: it is a reality that stands as the one thing worthwhile in countless lives. "Is it not wonderful to be a Seventh-day Adventist?" said a Serbian brother as we shook hands for the first time in nine years. He added: "The Advent Message is the only thing I live for." This conviction will add strength to our church: the impregnable fortress that God holds in a revolted world. To this end we must wear the garb of divine revelation and carry ever the atmosphere, not of this culture or that culture, but of heavenly places. We go out to convert men, not to Protestantism or to any special brand of Christianity. We bring men and women to "God's everlasting gospel". Thus can we be received without prejudice, and as conscientious co-operators with all men of good will and purpose.

Lastly, I have felt the throb of sacrifice and missionary zeal in Southern Europe. This can only be drawn from a constantly renewed passion to save the lost and to bring others to the precious light of truth. We must never lose the evangelistic urge. The sharp edge of truth's sword must not be dulled. Every worker, every member is called to evangelize. The president of the Southern European Division has given a good example. Every union and conference president should follow this example in carrying a personal responsibility for a successful evangelistic program.

During the past seven weeks we have been associated with many of your church leaders throughout the field. We are greatly encouraged by these contacts. These leaders are men of God. Indeed, the Lord's work is in good hands.

Then this parting word: Let us unite in an unconquerable fellowship. Let us restate our message and our mission to the world in words that glow with burning brands. Let us believe our beliefs, enjoy our salvation, live a life of victory, and march with

the Word into every "nation, kindred, tongue, and people". Very soon we shall cast our crowns at Jesus' feet and rejoice evermore amidst the shining glories of the Advent triumph!

Very sincerely yours, *W. R. Beach*

Bright Lights on the Island of Réunion

A. Quirici

While the winds of the cold war sweep over the big cities on continental Europe, portending a rather dark future, there emerges a calm and peaceful atmosphere from the island of Réunion, called the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean" on account of its exotic charm.

Covering an area of 970 square miles and populated by 320,000 inhabitants, this heap of volcanic earth offers the travellers a very unique sight.

Réunion has belonged to France since 1642. Until 1946 it was considered a colony, but in that year it be-

came a French department "beyond the seas", and since then a remarkable evolution has taken place everywhere even astonishing the inhabitants themselves.

The living standard, however, is exceptionally low for the majority of the population, and the scourge of alcoholism is felt many places.

The native of Réunion is fundamentally religious, but his religious zeal is somewhat marked by fanaticism and superstition inspired by the religions, which have existed since the beginning of its colonization. His in-

Church in St. Denis, Réunion



tellectual level is dependent upon his social standing, and although illiteracy is on the wane, it has not disappeared altogether.

From this it is evident that the preaching of the gospel is not too easy here. Yet, we see now and again a light shining in the darkness.

Our mission was started in 1939 by P. Girard, and today we have about 1,000 interested persons, of whom 440 are baptized. During the year 1961 almost 100 persons were added to the church by baptism, and these results would be much better if workers were not so scarce in our mission. Other difficulties are the long distances and poor roads, on some of which we are not able to turn a car. Things like that do not dampen the zeal of our members, even those who live in the hills round St. Denis. They often have to walk 14 to 20 kilometers in order to get to Sabbath school in time. They must leave their homes at 1 o'clock in the morning to be on time for the services, which start with Sabbath school at 9 o'clock. The members have to walk because of their financial situation, and also because of poor transportation services.

Such difficulties, however, do not diminish the ardor of our members, who are very courageous and most of whom take an enthusiastic part in all evangelistic activities as well as in the organized campaigns.

One rainy evening, at the beginning of the Sabbath, I noticed at our prayer meeting an old couple. This man and his wife, now about 80 years of age, had been with us since the beginning of the work on the island. When I congratulated them on their courage to come this evening in spite of the rain and wind, they said: "It is always a pleasure for us to be here at the beginning of the Sabbath, after the week's work; in order to glorify and thank the Lord for His goodness to us in sparing our lives yet another week." This simple answer moved me deeply.

To defy popular opinion by adopting a religion different from others, takes courage in an island so beset with fears and insular in its outlook. The following experience reveals such courage:

On another Friday evening, as I went to the door to greet the people who had

been attending the service, I was happy to see Mr. G. and his wife. They presented themselves to me and told me that this was the first time they had ever been to an Adventist meeting, and they had felt inspired and thanked me for the message. The man told me that he had been all over the island, visiting all churches in order to seek spiritual help, but had not found it yet. He was tormented by evil spirits, who worried him almost constantly and especially during the night, so his life was unbearable. He had in vain consulted both priests and physicians. The first mentioned had addressed their favorite saints, and had recommended that he get some relics. He now had so many of these that his room was a proper sanctuary. The physicians had looked at his case from a medical angle, and when they saw they could not help him, they sent him away recommending different ineffective medicines.

His condition grew worse. He had not worked for two years; he hardly ate, and slept even less. In the evenings when he approached what he called his "sanctuary" he saw the statues moving around, which added to his distress. As he was the father of eight children, he felt very distraught on account of his inability to work enough. He now began to attend our meetings regularly, studied the Bible and prayed much, and soon the Lord worked a miracle on his behalf restoring him to full health and strength.

While he was studying, the nuns would come and visit him. They tried to dissuade him from attending the meetings, they took his Bible from him pretending that they wanted to show it to the priest, but it was never returned to him. During it all Mr. and Mrs. G. have faithfully come to our services, and are very happy in the peace they have found.

The most urgent needs for our mission are the following:

The construction of a new church building in St. Denis, capital of the island. The present building with 225 seats, built during the last war, is now too small for the approximately 300 persons attending regularly.

The establishment of a primary school for the children in St. Denis. The situation for many of our chil-

dren is not easy. The government schools are inadequate, inasmuch as there are not enough teachers, and every year many students are turned away because of lack of room. The religious and spiritual education offered in our own school would be of great inspiration and help.

The construction of a chapel in the Montagne district on the hills about 8 kilometers from St. Denis. We have here 25 members, about 20 young people, and many interested persons with their children.

The organization of a church in St. Benoit, a small village at the edge of the sea, 45 kilometers from St. Denis and 15 kilometers from St. André, where we have a chapel with 30 members. An Adventist couple from St. Benoit has to attend the services in St. André, and there are other families preparing for baptism in the near future. We must provide a place of worship for these people, who right now meet in the home of one of the interested persons once in every two weeks. These friends beg us for a house of prayer, and we are sure that by getting such a building the interest in our message in that part of the island will greatly increase.

To realize these projects we seek first of all the aid of the Lord, and then we ask all our members and friends to pray for us, not forgetting that material help will also encourage our work.

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News Flash

From Réunion we have just received the latest Radio report, and from it we learn that twenty-nine souls have been added to the church during the third quarter of 1963. We rejoice with the workers in this remote island, that they do not work in vain.

The Seminary Extension School in Collonges-sous-Salève

P. Steiner

The Summer Extension Course of Andrews University ended on July 31, and the final festive hours proved a grand climax to the busy weeks spent in study and teaching.

The last rays of the sun setting behind the Jura mountains played through the windows of the beautiful church at Collonges-sous-Salève, when hundreds of visitors from far and near hastened up the hillside to find a seat in the crowded hall. Everything in the simple but beautiful chapel was pleasing: the many flowers banked on the platform, and the meetings of many old friends who had not seen each other for years. The sixty-two evangelists and workers, representing 12 different countries, were relieved to know that this evening they would receive the public acknowledgement of their six weeks' hard work. Expectantly they looked toward the one who was going to receive an honorary doctor's degree from Andrews University that very evening.

Anyone who took the trouble to visit the administration building just below the chapel was able to form some small picture of the work done by the summer students. In one classroom the walls were still covered with graphic masterpieces made by the students to illustrate some of the teachings by R. A. Anderson. Four courses had been conducted in the library next door, every day from 8 to 10, and from 11 to 12: Homiletics by Brother R. A. Anderson, the Sanctuary Doctrine by Dr. W. G. C. Murdoch, a course in Calvin's Eschatology by A. Vaucher, and Public Relations by E. W. Tarr. All these men are specialists in their work. From 10 to 11 the chapel hours were conducted in the church building, and this time was usually taken by men from the Division: M. Fridlin, B. J. Kohler, W. A. Wild, G. Cupertino, B. E. Seton, and P. Steiner; by teachers from the Collonges Seminary: J. Zurcher, N. Hugédé, and

R. Dederen; and by visitors like Dr. Daniel Walther and W. E. Read, the latter giving some very fine lectures in Christology.

In the afternoons and evenings, when films or color slides were not shown or discussions held, one could see the library crowded with evangelists pouring over their studies and reading the hundreds of pages required for each course. Only the three-day excursion to the Waldensian valleys, and the Sabbaths, were welcome days of relaxation. As the teaching was done in French and English only, it meant that the courses demanded extra efforts from many of the participants, whose native language was neither of the two. On Friday evenings, when the students from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Yugoslavia, as well as from the different mission fields in Africa, spoke about the work in their own countries, we began to understand some of the numerous language problems and the spiritual burden carried by many during these six weeks of constant listening to translators.

Now, however, all work was forgotten, and the happy knowledge of a work well done was clearly visible in the faces of the men, as they marched into the chapel followed by the professors and official guests, who took their places on the flower-decorated platform. As the organ prelude ended, the congregation sang "Fairest Lord Jesus," and remained standing as Brother F. Lavanchy, president of the Franco-Belgian Union Conference, read from Proverbs 4:1-10 "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (verse 7). After Brother W. Ruf, president of the French Swiss Conference, had asked God to be present among us, a ladies' choir

sang O. Barblan's "Nothing Without God" under the leadership of Mrs. G. Buser.

As the summer course had stressed evangelism, it seemed only appropriate that Elder R. A. Anderson should preach the sermon for the evening. He is the secretary of the Ministerial Association of the General Conference, and had just recently received an honorary doctor's degree from Andrews University in recognition of his many years' work for the furtherance of evangelism, and the excellent books he has written on the subject. His forceful message reminded the workers always to seek the Fountain of Wisdom, who gave the commission: Go out and teach all people."

While the call to holy service still lingered with us, Dr. W. G. C. Murdoch and Dr. J. Zurcher stepped up to the table on which the diplomas were arranged in neat rows. As the names were called, each participant went up to the platform to receive his certificate from the hand of Dr. Murdoch, director of the course and dean of the Theological Seminary of Andrews University. One could see how each student wanted to show his gratitude to this man, who had influenced them so much during the last six weeks by his spiritual and theological Adventist teaching. With a fatherly expression in his eyes he greeted everyone of the recipients. The high rate of scholarship was evident, as more than half of the students received an "excellent" or "very good."

Evangelist P. Nouan expressed the appreciation of all students, and humorously hinted at the required reading material in the English language, which had caused many dismayed exclamations among the students. He also stressed that the subjects had been very well chosen, and expressed the hope that all the participants may be able to use what they have learnt to the triumph of God's work. A very beautiful bouquet of roses was presented to Dr. Murdoch by Mrs. Villeneuve as well as gifts from the students to all the teachers. In a similar way the translators, R. Dederen and Ch. Rochat, were honored for the excellent work they had done. The secretaries, who had translated and typed the syllabi

in French and English, were not forgotten.

The festive evening reached its climax when the dean of the Theological Seminary of Andrews University conferred an honorary doctor's degree in theology on A. Vaucher. A former principal of Collonges Seminary, and presently professor in church history at Andrews University, Dr. Daniel Walther, and Dr. J. Zurcher, the present principal of Collonges Seminary, confirmed in English and French the reasons for this honor. They stressed Brother A. Vaucher's forty years as Bible teacher, his great research ability, especially in the field of eschatology, which has made him one of the best experts in the literature of Pater M. de Lacunza y Diaz; they praised the lucidity of his "History of Salvation", its construction and style, which make it a well documented presentation of

the Advent belief in French; his apologetic writings on the Sabbath, the Commandements of God, the Sanctuary, and many others. They praised the Bible interpreter, whose modesty contrasts with his fruitful life. As Dr. Murdoch presented the sealed document to him, signed by the president of the General Conference, he said that this is only the seventh time that this high honor has been bestowed upon any one, and never had the choice been more undisputed. This did not hinder A. Vaucher in referring to this honor as "undeserved". Three women, he said in his response, has influenced his life. His grandmother, who was the first Adventist woman in Europe, his mother and his wife. As Mrs. Zurcher presented him with a bouquet of flowers, the whole congregation rose spontaneously to honor the first European to

receive an honorary doctor's degree from Andrews University.

After the educational secretary of the Division had thanked Dr. and Mrs. J. Zurcher for the hospitality of the school, for the services of the personnel and the good food enjoyed by all, the men's choir sang Prætorius' "The Lamb of God" led by Brother A. Buser.

As the final words of farewell had been spoken, the great, most beloved hymn by Martin Luther "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" was sung by the whole congregation. In his benediction, M. Fridlin, president of the Southern European Division, recommended the workers and the mission school to God's care and asked His blessing upon our Division. It was a worthy conclusion to the renewed consecration to greater service for God, and to Him only the greatest honor is due.



Participants in Seminary Extension School, the Collonges-sous-Salève

Equatorial Africa greets You!

G. Cupertino

All over the world we find representatives of the great Advent family. Our church members in the homelands work and pray for the brothers and sisters in countries less civilized than their own; they send their children as missionaries; they give of their means and take up collections to help them. Each Sabbath they are told experiences from the mission fields across the seas, and are thus reminded of their many needs. It is therefore natural that a visitor, who recently shared the joys and sorrows of the missionaries on the spot, would wish to impart some of his impressions to the church members, telling them of the life of our workers in these isolated and distant parts of the earth.

When we see these courageous men and women at their jobs out there, our own so-called problems seem insignificant. We forget sometimes that we are lucky to live in countries with clean water, where the light comes on at the touch of a switch. Here life is organized in such a way as to satisfy the various demands of the individual. The doctor lives just a few steps away; the temperatures do not vary too much, and we are not plagued by ants and mosquitos. We can say in truth that civilization offers man the maximum in comfort.

Of course we have our difficulties and struggles, but we know we have friends nearby in whom we can confide and ask counsel. What a pleasure it is to go into the attractive shops, where we find everything to satisfy our material needs. A long tradition has accustomed us to an easy life, and it is only by a visit to the mission field that we can compare the differences between the life in a civilized country and that in the mission field.

I write these lines in Nanga-Eboko. I have had the pleasure of accompanying Brother A. Cosendai, president of the Equatorial African Union Mission, through our territories in this union, and to conduct a series of workers' meetings.

While visiting the Equatorial African Union, I could not help thinking of the other countries in Africa, where I have had the privilege to stay and work. Whether in Ethiopia, Madagascar, on the islands of the Indian Ocean, Angola, North Africa or Cameroun, everywhere we find people who thirst after a better knowledge of these simple but marvelous truths of the gospel, particularly the return of Christ and a balanced Christian life. When we see these black or bronzed bodies, these sparkling eyes, these artless faces lit up by big smiles as they listen to the foreign preacher, then we understand why missionaries leave their well-loved countries, their families and their own world to face the uncertainty of pioneer life.

I cannot mention the numerous missionaries I saw at work in Africa, because I might involuntarily forget one. I shall confine myself to mention some of the presidents of the fields: for instance, Brother P. Girard, who has worked long years in the Indian Ocean Union Mission, with headquarters on Madagascar; Brother E. Ferreira of Angola, for whom our prayers are especially needed at this time because of the present problems in his field; Brother H. Pichot and his group of workers in North Africa, who have refused to give in to existing difficulties, and have waited in silence for the help of the Lord; and lastly Brother A. Cosendai, who has served for many years in Cameroun. All these servants of the Lord deserve our love and admiration. As I have accompanied them from place to place, like I am doing now, I not only see the preacher standing in the pulpit, but I see workers laboring with their different and often thankless tasks.

Like in the homelands, they often have to attend long and difficult committee meetings. Afterwards they must prepare for a tiring journey. They must never forget that they might have to camp on places lacking all comforts, so they must bring their camp beds, oil stoves, matches,

mosquito-nets, water and food provisions, medicines, and the necessary things to repair a car. The driver does well in knowing his motor, because in the jungle there are no garages.

Journeying from Yaoundé to visit the station in Niamvoudou, where a seminary for our evangelists is under construction, we were surprised by a torrential rain. The track was soft as a river of red mud. Suddenly the car refused to go on, the wheels turned quickly in the mire, and it rained incessantly. Three times Brother Cosendai tried in vain to move, and only the fourth time did he succeed. The night came upon us, and we still had fifty kilometers to drive, and under what conditions!

We continued on a track, which seemed to be completely washed away, and which wound its way like a tunnel in the tropical thicket. At every turn we felt the ruts, the pebbles and the jolts of the car. But our chauffeur kept on with a skill touching recklessness. That is because he thoroughly knows Africa and its trails. I stopped trying to penetrate the darkness, as the headlights of the car only lit up a few yards before us, and I understand now what it is to "walk in faith". In the back of the car sat five of our native believers, who also were going to Niamvoudou. During the night I heard them singing our beautiful hymns in French. In spite of the numerous jolts and the constant danger of an accident, these African believers were not afraid, because they knew they had a courageous driver at the wheel. If we only would be more like them, if we could always sing during the tumults of life assured that our heavenly Pilot will lead us, we would be more faithful and reliable Christians.

At last we arrived at our destination. We were able to stay in the house of the family Waber, as they were away on furlough. At the dim light of a kerosene lamp a very simple meal was prepared. The bread, bought on the way at a native market, because we had forgotten to bring it from Yaoundé, was burnt off over the lamp, "carefulness is the mother of wisdom". An hour later,

to the tunes of the nightly symphony of the equatorial forest, I tried to go to sleep thinking of my loved ones so far away.

The next day we looked at the buildings going up. It was a joy to watch Brother Cosendai as work manager at the site. After we had talked with the brethren on the station about their different problems, we visited the village chief, who was surrounded by twelve wives: Polygamy is still in evidence!

When we reached Sangmélima, we found about twenty workers from the nearby districts assembled for a three-day workers' meeting. Here we were again struck by the workers' eagerness to learn. Also here the missionary, presently Brother H. Walder, must concern himself with evangelism, church, school and numerous jobs on the mission station. His wife is the nurse, midwife, counselor and mother of all children, big and small.

The visit to Sangmélima having come to an end, we returned to Yaoundé where a union meeting was held. At this moment I would like to say something about the printing press in Yaoundé. This institution, which is financially completely independent, was started on the initiative of Brother K. Scheidegger. The present director, Brother J. Lafrancesca, has given fresh impetus to the place, and where earlier there was only one press, there are now seven machines working constantly.

After the union meeting we went to Nanga-Eboko, where another preachers' convention was arranged. On this important station we have a seminary where native workers are educated. Brother R. Bergstrom was our traveling companion on this trip. This pioneer of the Advent work in North Cameroun has worked here for 34 years without losing his strength, courage and sense of humor. And what a wealth of amusing stories he had in store!

At Nanga-Eboko several families are working. They take care of the schools, the sick, the church, and the education of the workers. The seminary in Niamvoudou will open in October 1963, and will thus relieve the situation in Nanga-Eboko, where the seminary is full to overflowing.



Participants in the Workers' Meeting, Nanga-Eboko.

About sixty of our African workers expressed their gratitude for the instruction they had received at the mission. One of them said: "We thank you, our European brethren, that you have not left us to ourselves. We do need you."

As the ministers' convention was finished, we spent one day in the interior visiting Simba and Mesa. We found here, as everywhere else, the same passionate interest, the same thirst to hear the eternally new gospel story.

In Batouri Brother A. Kinder and his wife do all in their power to make the most out of the local possibilities. Here we found a manioc mill, a palm oil press, a wood workshop, schools, a dispensary, not forgetting a small colony of pygmies, who have sought refuge near our mission. All this makes the station a lively center of activities, even though it is not an easy job.

Sabbath morning about 300 persons throng into the chapel. The school children, nicely dressed, march in order down the streets of

the village: thus everyone can see that it is the Sabbath of the Adventists! The district governor, whom we visited, assured us that the Adventists in his district are very much appreciated. He said furthermore that he had told the president of the republic of our gratitude for the good understanding which exists between the civil authorities and our missionaries.

It was in Yaoundé we finished our round trip of Cameroun, and it is here I am about to finish this article. This evening I expect to be in Douala, where a public evangelistic effort is conducted by Brother E. Cupertino in the center of the city, and where Brother A. Ekitiké is the local pastor.

At the end of this visit to our workers and our mission stations in Cameroun, I cannot help agreeing with the apostle Paul, who at his arrival in Rome "thanked God, and took courage" (Acts 28:15). Nothing is more pleasant and wonderful to an ambassador of the Lord than to ascertain the progress of the work in the places he has visited.

Association of Adventist Students in Montpellier

A. Zurcher

At the French Conference session in Vichy last May a resolution was adopted on behalf of Adventist students presently studying at the university of Montpellier.

Statistics inform us that since the end of the war the number of registered students has increased by 50%, and it is anticipated that in the very near future this will grow to 100%. In that case the number of Seventh-day Adventist students will also increase.

After having finished their secondary studies at Collonges or some other school, the young people who wish to proceed with their studies must register at a university, and many dangers and difficulties await them there. These institutes of higher learning are filled with snares, and it is only if he has a faith solidly based on the teachings of the Bible that an Adventist student can stand victoriously in his daily contact with philosophy and the teachings of men. There are other difficulties to face like courses and examinations on the Sabbath, as well as the spiritual solitude which lowers the morale of any young Christian alone in a group of university students.

To combat these different dangers, several Adventist young people, studying at Montpellier, decided three years ago to form a cultural and friendly association. With the consent of the local church and its pastor they started to meet in the church hall to conduct studies and talks on music, paintings, religion, etc.

These young people are not only present at the Sabbath services, but are pillars and instigators of all missionary activities in the church. They are Sabbath school leaders and teachers, and they are the heart and soul of the prayer meetings. To give a legal basis to their association a committee has been formed, and its resolutions have been deposited with the local government.

This year sixteen Seventh-day Adventist students have registered at the university of Montpellier for studies in the departments of medicine, the arts and sciences. They represent several French-speaking countries like Tahiti, the Antilles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Cameroun, French Switzerland and France. They have even formed a choir, which has helped to unite this group of students from so many different environments.

At the termination of this school year not a single examination was set on the Sabbath. Last year the final examination for the first year of medicine took place on a Sabbath, and this proved a great embarrassment to six of our young students, as none of them appeared on that day. Their courage definitely helped to influence the dean of the faculty of medicine, who has given us the assurance that as far as it is possible, no examinations will be set on the Sabbath in the future.

This question, which is so important for the future of our students, should be studied and decided upon with the help of God. Most of the students are here on state scholarships, and if one has to repeat a year, he will not be able to benefit from a second scholarship.

As a result of the vote taken at the conference in Vichy, this association will be recognized and supported officially by our denomination. Steps will be taken to make the association of French-speaking Seventh-day Adventist students from all over the world known to the academic authorities. We will also at this occasion make our Sabbath principles known to the authorities, asking them not to set any examinations on that day. Having this fundamental assurance, our students will be able to work with less apprehension.

As a denomination we are always in need of doctors, teachers and evangelists, and it is thus good for us

to know that right here is a proper mine of educated young people, consecrated to the service of God. We must therefore surround them with love and understanding, doing all we can to help them solve their problems. Don't forget these students in your prayers!

* * *

First Union Youth Congress in Madagascar. The first Union MV Congress to be held in Madagascar was conducted from July 31 to August 11, 1963, on the large campus of the Indian Ocean Union Training School in Soamanandrarinny, near the capital of Tananarive. Two hundred and thirty-one young people from Tananarive, Tamatave, Majunga, Fianarantsoa and Fort Dauphin, and even from the islands of Réunion and Mauritius, came together for the first time as such a group of young missionary volunteers. They enjoyed the excellent programs arranged, and competed to have the best and cleanest bedrooms and in giving the most perfect renderings of the information received. The high cost of travelling hindered hundreds of pathfinders in coming. Half of the thirty-one participants from Réunion had earned their camp money by selling Christian literature. G. M. Mathews from the General Conference and P. Steiner from the Southern European Division were present. Dozens of young people decided to be baptized, and others accepted the call to work in God's cause. Brother P. Lanarès, the new union president, can reckon with help from the Advent youth of Madagascar, Réunion and Mauritius in his new and bigger plans for evangelism. These three islands in the Indian Ocean near the south-eastern coast of Africa have 2,072 children and young people in the MV organization.

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