

# MISSIONS QUARTERLY

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THEY NEED OUR HELP

TOPIC: Europe and the Near East

## Sabbath, July 2

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

MISSIONARY TEXT: Acts 20:35. Read the text, then have the school repeat in concert.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 621, first stanza.

READING: The Official Notice.

MAP TALK, indicating the fields mentioned in the readings for the quarter.

PRAYER: A short prayer in behalf of our workers in Europe and the Near East.

### The Official Notice

DEAR SISTER PLUMMER:

The General Conference Committee, in choosing an object for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the third quarter of 1921, have selected the European field. Our hearts turn toward that great war-stricken continent as the appeals for help press in upon us.

During the war we could do but little, and grave fears were often expressed as to what the results of that fearful conflict would be upon our work in Europe. But in the time since, full reports have come to us, both by delegations sent to the field and by leading representatives visiting this country, assuring us that, notwithstanding all the destruction and disorganization caused by the war, the message goes steadily on. From a membership of approximately 35,000 previous to the war our work has grown until now we have a membership in Europe of nearly 50,000.

Barriers that long impeded the message have been broken down. The opportunities and calls for workers are many. The demands for literature are altogether beyond

the facilities to produce. Workers, printing machinery, buildings, schools, and other facilities are beyond the power of our people in Europe to provide. A willing army of believers in Europe are ready to rapidly advance the message, not only in Europe but also in Africa, Asia, and other lands if present financial assistance can be given. "Just now," says a European leader, "is the time to place the work in Europe on vantage ground."

In view of this great opportunity and need, and mindful of the interest and liberality of our Sabbath schools around the world, we unitedly ask these schools to raise \$100,000 on the third thirteenth Sabbath of 1921. We do this with the assurance that the same willingness to give will possess our Sabbath schools on this occasion as in the past.

Yours in the Master's service,

J. L. SHAW.

*Associate Secretary, General Conference.*

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## Sabbath, July 9

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

MISSIONARY TEXT: Prov. 11:24. Read the text, then have all repeat it in concert.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 482, first and second stanzas.

READING: The Growth of Our Work in Rumania.

PRAYER: A few sentences in behalf of the work in Rumania.

# The Growth of Our Work in Rumania

A. G. DANIELLS

RUMANIA is one of the mission fields in the Balkan Peninsula which is to receive help from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, September 24, 1921. Rumania is a most promising field, and is in pressing need of help. I do not believe any Thirteenth Sabbath Offering has ever been devoted to a more worthy object or to one in greater need.

By a glance at the map of Eastern Europe it will be seen that Rumania is located in the northeastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. Bulgaria lies south, the Black Sea east, Russia north, and Hungary and Jugoslavia west. Its history is well known since the time of the Caesars, when it was made a Roman province. As one approaches Rumania, running down the Danube from Belgrade, he sees the ruins of bridges, towers, towns and castles built by the Romans when they were extending their conquests throughout Europe.

The government of Rumania is a limited monarchy. The religion is that represented by the Greek Catholic Church. Until recently very little toleration was shown to any religious teaching that in any degree differed from the state religion. Few denominations have been able to make headway in their work in this country.

Our message was first taken to Rumania in the year 1870. But no permanent, continu-

ous effort was put forth for the upbuilding of our work there until many years later. From the very first our laborers and converts in that field have met with bitter opposition and persecution from the priests of the Greek Church, and through them from the government. They have been misrepresented, arrested, tried in the courts, imprisoned, and banished. They have been forbidden to hold religious meetings, and have been shut out of public halls where they have endeavored to instruct the people in the truths of God's word. Our publications have been condemned and their circulation prohibited.

And yet, in the face of all this, our work has made marvelous headway in Rumania. We now have about two thousand five hundred church members in that field. Fifteen hundred of these were in Old Rumania when the war began, about five hundred were added when Transylvania was made a part of Rumania by the Peace Council two years ago, and five hundred have been added during the last two years. There are three local conferences and one or two mission fields in this territory. These are now united into the Rumanian Union Conference.

In company with Brethren L. H. Christian and Guy Dail, I made my first visit to Rumania in the month of July, 1920. Elder Paulini, the president of the union conference, called a general meeting to be held in the city of Bukharest, the capital of the king-

dom. This meeting was attended by about seven hundred of our people. All our laborers in the union were present. It was the largest and most important meeting we have ever held in Rumania. The authorities freely granted us the privilege of having public gatherings, and showed us every courtesy. We secured a good, large hall, which was well filled every day of the conference.

It is not possible to convey by written report the thrill, the inspiration, and the uplift of this meeting. Our people were rejoiced beyond the power of expression. One evening while Brother Christian was preaching, I sat in the gallery with Brother Paulini. Nearly every believer in that large audience had an open Bible and was following the speaker and making notes of the points presented. As I looked upon that inspiring scene, I said to Brother Paulini, "This is a wonderful sight. This is a miracle of God's grace." "Yes," he replied, "this is the Reformation of the sixteenth century now going on in Rumania." And such it is. Luther never witnessed anything better or more truly divine than we are seeing in that country. The brethren and sisters in that audience spoke nine different languages—Rumanian, Hungarian, German, Bulgarian, Russian, Ruthenian, Bessarabian, Serbian, and Greek. Our work is carried on in every section of the kingdom.

## Sabbath, July 16

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

READING: Bulgaria.

MISSIONARY TEXT: Rom. 10:14. Read the text, then have the school repeat it in concert.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 481, first and third stanzas.

PRAYER: A short prayer for our work in Bulgaria.

### Bulgaria

GUY DAIL

THE history of our work in Bulgaria dates from the latter part of the nineteenth century, when Elder L. R. Conradi baptized one believer in Rustchuk. From this small beginning the development of the work in Bulgaria was for years very slow.

It was about 1910 that a Bulgarian family of ice merchants living in Bukharest accepted the message, and the adults and the oldest son of the most active of the three brothers were baptized by Brother Paulini. Two of the children, Stephen, who was not very well, and his sister, were sent to Friedensau, where the sister was baptized. They received their training and returned home, the boy as a Bible worker and the girl as a nurse.

In speaking of their first efforts in Bulgaria, the ice merchant told me: "We were so anxious to see results of our missionary work that we were glad to accept almost any one who would be willing to be baptized, caring less for the quality than for the quantity of our members; but now we see that we

must also have respect to their Christian experience, and that it is necessary in our land to accept only such members as have become thoroughly acquainted with the doctrines of the message and with the church itself, after they have shown that they are really attracted by the love of the truth."

While at Philipoppel, Elder Erzberger and I were entertained by a well-to-do family who are friends of the truth, and here we also held Bible studies. We enjoyed the privilege of calling on one of the most sincere Seventh-day Adventists I ever met, an elderly widow who has a well deserved reputation for godliness among her neighbors, and whose soul seems to look right out through her face, which witnesses to the inner communion she enjoys with God.

Proceeding to Sofia, Elder Erzberger and I were together for several days, over the Sabbath, and then he went on to Rustchuk, where he baptized four in the Danube, Sabbath, May 29, 1920. On the morning of June 2 we were up early and went out above the city, where we found a beautiful mountain stream, and baptized fifteen. After I left, Elder Erzberger baptized one more at Sofia. Among the fifteen were fine, promising students, upon whom we hope the Spirit of God may rest, that they may become bright and shining lights to their associates.

Leaving Elder Erzberger at Sofia a few days, I went to Gabrova, with our only evan-



gelist, Stephen Konstantinoff, where we baptized two men and two women, one of whom had been waiting three years for baptism. That afternoon we celebrated the ordinances of the Lord's house. The newly baptized brethren were among the happy members there.

Elder Erzberger and I were much pleased to see the wide-awake spirit among our Bulgarian brethren, and to note their eagerness to learn more of our methods of missionary operations. Think of it! Here were our brethren, practically isolated for a long time, without literature of any kind, yet paying their tithes, praying for the progress of the work, faithful to the church of God, giving of their money for the cause of missions, although unable to get any of this money out beyond their own borders. They invited others to come to the lectures held in the neat little hall provided by Brother Konstantinoff's father at his own expense. There is not an ordained minister or an ordained church elder among them. They call loudly for help, for workers. From many places calls come for some one to baptize those ready for baptism. Our believers there are of good courage, and call for the living preacher.

## Sabbath, July 23

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

MISSIONARY TEXT: Ez. 34:16, first part. Read the text, then have all repeat it in concert.

READING: Experiences in Turkey.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 479, first and last stanzas.

PRAYER: A short prayer for our brethren and sisters in Turkey.

### Experiences in Turkey

H. ERZBERGER

WE often hear of terrible sufferings and hardships endured by Christians in Turkey during the recent war; but the Lord was merciful, and the deliverance of many of these poor sufferers seems miraculous.

Many of the Armenians of the interior had to leave their homes for the dreary desert. In Erzerum 9,000 Armenians, with only a few hours' notice, had to leave their homes for Aleppo. Usually this journey takes two or three weeks by carriage or on horseback. Men and women, old and young, had to go on foot, over unfamiliar mountain paths. They were often exposed to the attacks of the wild Kurds, who also searched them closely and took anything they could find, even their clothing. Sometimes young girls were carried away.

One day, when the Armenians had reached the top of a mountain, they were suddenly attacked by a band of savage Kurds. What this meant they knew too well. Exhausted and in great despair, they fell on their knees

and cried to the Lord. Many made vows for a godly life. A terrible earthquake followed their prayers, which caused such consternation among the Kurds that they ran away, many leaving their weapons of war behind. The Armenians continued their journey without further molestation, but, on account of the hardships endured, on reaching Aleppo only 300 of the 9,000 remained. Among those who vowed to begin a better life only a few remained faithful.

Among the many visitors at our meetings, was a young Armenian who for nine years had been a soldier in Turkey. But he had not given his heart to the Lord, even though he belonged to one of our oldest Adventist families in Turkey. One Sabbath after the service, when I asked who were willing to give their hearts to the Saviour, I was greatly surprised to see him rise.

About six months after his baptism the armistice was signed. By the conditions of the armistice treaty the Ottoman subjects who were Christians were to be released immediately from service. As those in exile returned, he heard from friends that, with the exception of his little sister, all his relatives had died. He was now anxious to find her. The means which was sent by our members in America for the relief of the unfortunate, enabled us to help him. So he disappeared one day.

For a long time we did not hear from him.

but one evening he and his sister arrived in Constantinople. She was then twelve years old. Her face, arms, and hands were tattooed like those of an Arab girl. The Arabs did this with all the Armenian girls in their possession, so they would look like their own. After many inquiries and researches, he had found trace of her east of Aleppo. There an Arab used her as a shepherd girl. For six years she had not seen her brother, and she was scarcely seven years old when exiled. As her parents had to go farther into the desert and face starvation and still greater misery, they sold her to an Arab, that she might at least have a chance to live. There, day by day, in the burning sun as well as in rain and cold, dressed in a rough garment, she had to care for the sheep and goats.

The brother's first care, after he found her, was to see that his sister was properly dressed, then joyfully and triumphantly he came back with her. But now the hardest task with her began. Without any care among these ungodly people, she had become quite wild. To be free now and to have a good brother meant to satisfy all her fancies.

Having no school of our own, we assisted the brother in placing her in another school. Gradually she became more mild and gentle. Shortly before I left for Europe the brother told me he had to come to Constantinople on account of his work, and he brought his sister with him. As he could not find a proper

school for her, he put her in an orphanage. Every third Sabbath she got permission to see him. Once he succeeded in getting permission for her to attend the morning service. She expressed a wish to be baptized soon. Her desire to be one of God's people filled my heart with grateful thanks and joy.

Our earnest prayer is that other children may be brought to a knowledge of the Saviour. There are poor widows to whom we give financial help regularly that they may be able to care for their children. There is urgent need that these youth be given a Christian education that they may do acceptable work for the Lord. We are glad for the assistance that our loyal people everywhere are giving us.

May the Lord grant that out of this seed of tears and sorrow many a sheaf may be gathered for His glory.

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## Sabbath, July 30

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

MISSIONARY TEXT: Prov. 11:30. Read the text, then have all repeat it in concert.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 480, first and third stanzas.

READING: Experiences of Our Brethren in Rumania.

PRAYER: A short prayer for our brethren and sisters in Rumania.

## Experiences of Our Brethren in Rumania

P. P. PAULINI

A BROTHER doing military service in Bukharest was condemned to six months' imprisonment because of his unbounded loyalty to the truth. After serving his term he was transferred to a provincial city to prevent his reaching his comrades with his teachings. In his new environment he was able to convince a number of his new friends of the correctness of our message, and fifteen were baptized. For many months the priests and the police made attempts to induce our simple peasant brethren to give up the truth, tormenting them in every way possible, but to no purpose. The number of believers increased. The authorities then arrested the leader of this newly organized church. The military guard led him about from place to place for the inspection of the villagers. When the people asked the gendarmes as to the guilt of our brother, they replied: "This is what happens to any one who forsakes the faith of his fathers and becomes a heretic." Having been submitted to this sort of humiliation for eight days, the brother was allowed to go free once more. Later many to whom the brother had spoken of his faith under such trying circumstances, studied the truth with him, and in a short time were baptized. Today we have four new churches

in this district, with a total membership of about fifty.

A few months ago two other brethren visited a neighboring village where were a few "friends of the truth." One of their



**A CALL FOR HELP**

WE NEED SCHOOLS  
WE WANT BOOKS  
WE WANT LEAFLETS  
WE WANT BIBLES  
WE NEED EVERYTHING  
FOR WE HAVE NOTHING  
PLEASE HELP US  
WE ARE WAITING

**SEPTEMBER 24 IS THE DAY**

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number having died, they wished to bury him. At once the priest appeared with thirty drunken villagers, who began to beat our two brethren and their friends. The priest promised the villagers that he himself would be personally responsible before the court and secure their release if they killed these "heretics." One brother had his teeth knocked out,

and the other was severely wounded on the head. We appealed to the minister of the interior, and for the first time the government ordered an investigation. Many came and confessed their wrongs, desiring to know more of the faith of those whom they had been persecuting. Today there are fourteen preparing for baptism in this neighborhood, so that the suffering of our brethren will result in the organization of a new church here.

Notwithstanding we do not enjoy perfect liberty of worship in all parts of this country, yet we can truthfully say that great progress has been made. Hungering, truth-seeking ones often travel long distances to reach Bukharest, where they can meet us and receive instruction in the truth. They are very anxious to obtain Bibles and other publications in their languages, but we have nothing to give them. We have not a single tract or book. The political situation hindered us from getting publications from Germany, and on account of the high rate of exchange it is impossible for us to import from America. Before this reaches our readers there will undoubtedly be 2,500 members in our union speaking the Rumanian, German, Hungarian, Ruthenian, Russian, and Bulgarian languages. I hope the needs of this people will appeal to you for help. The time for our country is now. We need a press, a publishing house, a school, a large chapel, and headquarters for our union.



## Sabbath, August 6

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

MISSIONARY TEXT: Ps. 126:6. Read the text, then have the school repeat it in concert.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 588, first and last stanzas.

READING: Notes from Russia.

PRAYER: Short prayer for our work in Russia.

### Notes from Russia

L. H. CHRISTIAN

DURING the war we printed one book in Russia. We also sent out several lessons written on a typewriter. Three papers were started at various times and places during the war. Our publishing work has now been closed. The Bolsheviks do not permit any religious literature to be printed. As a result, we have no paper, and only here and there a few typewritten copies of Sabbath school lessons. These lessons were prepared by Elder Reinke during the war. He also wrote eight readings for the week of prayer. These were manifolded and sent out to some of the churches.

The Esthonian Conference has no money in the bank, as it is unsafe to deposit money. The conference president risked his life by keeping the conference money in his home when the Bolsheviks were in Dorpat. On one side of his home they searched a house three times, and on the other side twice. When they found money in the house they killed the man. Our workers were very anx-

ious for two weeks, not knowing when they might be killed, but God protected them.

In Dorpat the Bolshevists committed murder every day. They took people out on the ice, cut a hole, shot them, and threw them in; others they killed and carted off to the woods. Professor Hahn, the leading Lutheran preacher and teacher in the university, was murdered, with many others, in the death hole. When the Bolshevists were driven out they left 200 of the best people in town in a dungeon. When these were found, several of them had been killed the night before, and others were almost dead from plague, vermin, and sores. About 200 Bolshevists were then thrown into the dungeon, and treated as they had treated the others.

Our church in Mitau, Letvia, had 112 members before the war. All but five were banished or fled when the Bolshevists entered the city. These members, as well as members from other Letwian cities, went throughout Russia, and even into Siberia. They remained firm to the truth and witnessed for the Lord in every place. Most of them have returned, and the church now has a membership of ninety-five members. Elder Sproghe's son, recently from Russia, tells us there are more members in Russia now than when the war began.

## Sabbath, August 13

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

READING: Palestine and Syria.

MISSIONARY TEXT: Acts 1:8, last part. Read the text, then have the school repeat it in concert.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 566, first stanza.

PRAYER: A few short sentences for our work in Palestine.

### Palestine and Syria

W. C. ISING

Of all mission fields, none should appeal more warmly to the heart of every Seventh-day Adventist than Palestine and Syria, countries to which our minds and our thoughts are directed when we read the Bible. Hallowed by the nativity of our Lord and Saviour, the message of salvation has gone forth from Palestine into all the world, just as the Master foretold it would.

Again the eyes of the world are turned in a special way to this interesting country. As in the days of the Crusaders, the Holy Land has been wrested from the rule of the Mohammedan Turk. Many believe that a new era of liberty for mission operations will be ushered in, as the religio-political barriers have been removed through the war, and the doors are thrown wide open for aggressive work.

Amid the many societies operating here, the third angel's message has gained a promising foothold since Elder Holser first visited

the field, about 1896. Ever since he was here there has always been a worker in the field more or less permanently. Means and workers were lacking to establish the work on such a basis as seemed necessary in view of the conditions obtaining here. Nevertheless, a foundation has been laid that will prove very helpful in time to come.

It was my privilege to be connected with the Syrian Mission from the year 1908 till 1914. We were then operating treatment rooms at Jerusalem and Beirut. Together with my associate European and native workers, evangelistic efforts were put forth at Beirut, Lebanon, Haifa, near Mt. Carmel, at Joppa, Jerusalem, and at other places. A number accepted the message and were baptized.

In Brother Zakarian, an Armenian native of Persia, I had a good helper in the circulation of literature. Besides the places mentioned, he passed over to the land east of Jordan, selling our Arabic literature. There is hardly any village of importance on Lebanon that has not been visited by him, in spite of the opposition of the Catholic clergy. Some very bright and promising believers have thus been brought into the message.

As a result of our evangelistic and canvassing work, an interest was created in various places, and many calls were coming to us for workers, when the World War broke out, which greatly interfered with our work. Fi-

nally all our German workers and believers had to leave the country. Our native brethren, scattered in different places, were left without appropriate help.

Several foreign workers are needed, further literature in the Arabic language should be prepared, and facilities created to develop and train young native workers as canvassers and evangelists. The field is ripe for harvest. Surely we must bestir ourselves, for the Lord is opening the way before us.

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## Sabbath, August 20

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

MISSIONARY TEXT: Matt. 9:37. Repeat in concert.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 547, first and last stanzas.

READING: An Appeal from Ophrah.

PRAYER: A few sentences in behalf of our workers in Palestine and Syria.

### An Appeal from Ophrah

W. C. ISING

TIME and again in the course of our evangelistic efforts in Palestine and Syria appeals have come to us for the establishment of schools in which to give a good Christian training to the children of those who became interested in our message. Calls have come to us from a number of places on Mt. Lebanon, where one of our native sisters had a very promising school for some years. The appeal that reached us just before the war,

from Taibe, the ancient Ophrah of Gideon's day, is typical of the many that might be mentioned. Brother Gregorius had been holding meetings there for some time, and when the people became acquainted with our message, the elders called a public council and drew up the following appeal, the heads of the different families attaching their seal to the document:

"We Christians residing in the village of Taibe with one accord ask Mr. Frederick Gregorius to show us the great favor and to approach his mission society, requesting them to establish a school among us where we can teach the Christian principles and foreign languages to our children in accordance with the regulations of the society. With one accord we are willing to bring our children to this school, for we stand greatly in need of it, because there is no school here worth mentioning, and Christians are turning away from us on account of our poverty. We now offer a lot to you free of charge for this purpose, and in the name of God we should beseech the society that if our village is agreeable to them, the heart of the mission might have mercy on us, and that the Lord Jesus might answer this our urgent request.

"With one accord we are your Christian children. Amen."

What a pity that for the time being this urgent appeal had to remain unanswered! But we believe that the Lord is mindful of the needs of this dear people who are trusting in Him, and that their prayers will finally be answered.

## Sabbath, August 27

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

MISSIONARY TEXT: Matt. 28:19, 20. Read the text, then have the school repeat it in concert.

DIALOGUE.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 583, first stanza.

PRAYER: A few sentences for our work in Europe and the Near East.

### Dialogue

#### Meeting of the Helpers' Missionary Club

(SCENE: Meeting of the Helpers' Missionary Club. Enter Mary, who arranges six chairs informally and greets five little girls as they enter, each with small basket or bag.)

MARY (shaking hands): Good morning, Elsie! You're right on time, as usual. What have you in that bag of yours that we can distribute among the poor today?

ELSIE (seating herself and opening bag): I've just come to the end of all my ideas, but mother let me bring this shawl. It will keep somebody warm. What have you done?

MARY: Oh, I have a perfectly wonderful plan. Wait till the other girls come, so I'll only have to tell it once. Lay aside your wrap, Elsie. Here the girls are now.

MARY and ELSIE (rising): Good morning, everybody.

GIRLS (removing wraps and finding seats): Good morning.

ALICE: Well, everybody is here, so I suppose it is time to get right down to business. (Opens bag, then hesitates.) What do you suppose I saw on my way to school yesterday? Why, Mr. Brown, in broad daylight, was carrying a clothes basket full of something into Mrs. Smith's house! I could tell it was heavy from the way he walked.

CARRIE: Why, now that you speak of it, I remember that I saw several barrels carried

from her house last night and placed in a truck. Do you suppose they are moving?

ALICE: Well, I'm sure if I were moving, I wouldn't have folks donating things by the clothes basketful, just so I could have the pleasure of packing them. No, that can't be the answer.

MARY: Now, that was the news I was waiting to tell you. All over the United States a call has been sent for clothing to send to destitute people in Europe and the Near East. Mrs. Smith's house is one of the places where they are taking the donations and packing them for shipment.

ELSIE: Europe and the Near East? What countries do they mean by the Near East?

DORA: Oh, I believe I know! The minister from Europe who is to speak next Sabbath took dinner with us yesterday. Of course, I didn't hear him say anything about the Near East, but he did have a lot to say about several countries. He told about so many places where people were dying of starvation that I could scarcely eat my dinner for thinking how many needed it far more than I did.

CARRIE: What countries did he talk about?

DORA: Oh, he called one place the Balkan States.

MARY (leaving circle and returning with atlas): Here's the atlas with new maps of Europe as it appears since the war. Let's settle this Balkan question.

(All eagerly scan the book, as opened by Mary.)

MARY: Yes, here they are—Rumania, Bulgaria, Czecho-Slovakia and all. There are so many different nationalities in those little states that there has been a great deal of political unrest, and revolutions have been common.

ALICE: I suppose missionary work is difficult for the same reasons.



DORA: Yes, he said the work was very slow—five or six baptized in the Danube, ten or twelve in a mountain stream, companies of twenty-five or thirty waiting three or four years for a minister to arrive, and ever so many other difficulties.

JEAN: The newspaper had an account the other day of conditions in Russia—that is, all the territory which we called Russia before the war. The Bolshevists have done their dreadful work so thoroughly that even the wealthiest families have been made destitute and consider themselves fortunate to have a little milk and black bread for food. One tiny little girl six years old had to knit stockings all day long to earn enough to buy a little bread. It went on to state that the farmers buried their food supplies so that the Bolshevists could not take them for their use. Machinery, furniture, books, art collections—everything—has been destroyed; and as if that were not bad enough, the Bolshevists have even taken clothing, and many persons are so destitute that they cannot appear upon the streets.

DORA: Yes, the minister mentioned Russia, too. He said that old men past seventy years of age were walking the streets barefooted and very scantily clothed. And a Russian winter is no mild affair, you know. He also said that the Bibles had been confiscated, and it was an impossibility to buy a Bible at any price in all Russia today.

MARY: They say our people have suffered banishment and persecution in Rumania, especially the men who served in the army. For a time the priests of the Greek Catholic Church pronounced a special blessing on all who would discover and report members of the Adventist Church. But this very persecution seemed to bring the truth to the attention of those who might not have heard it otherwise, and the

church is constantly growing. In one little village where two of our members were badly treated at the hands of a mob, even some of their persecutors have been converted, and fourteen are now waiting for baptism. In Bulgaria there are as many religions as there are nationalities, and they are nearly always at war with one another. People think it very strange that when these people are really converted they can forget their differences and love one another as Christians should.

CARRIE (scanning map): Isn't the map of Europe changed, though! Now here is Turkey in Europe. Did the minister have anything to say about Turkey?

DORA: Oh, yes, indeed! All the Christians who cannot afford to come to America are pouring into the city of Constantinople for protection. There have been many street fights and massacres, and the people are very poor. The Mohammedans are very hard to convert to Christianity, but it seems that now is the very time our people should work the hardest for them. You see, they have been taught that in the last days their prophet, Mohammed, would return and save them. So when they hear our missionaries speak of the return of Christ, they are interested at once; and many Mohammedans are now buying Bibles. What Turkey really needs is a few good schools where her people—Greeks, Turks, Armenians and Jews—may enjoy a systematic study of the Bible. Poland, too, is sadly in need of schools and a publishing house as well.

ELSIE (scanning map): Wouldn't you think it would be interesting for a missionary to work in the city of Iconium, where Paul escaped stoning? And here's another city mentioned in the Bible—Tarsus. Wasn't that Paul's birthplace?

ALL: Yes, yes.

ALICE: And think how much help our people must need in the new republics which have been formed recently.

JEAN: I heard some time ago that our work in Palestine and Syria was just beginning to look rather encouraging when the war put a stop to almost all our efforts. The people have sent in many petitions for schools, but the Mission Board has had neither men nor money to send. Isn't it a pity? In Mesopotamia, Brother Bashir Abo Hasso, well educated in the university, conducts a pharmacy directly opposite the ancient city of Nineveh. But he ought to have someone to help him in his missionary efforts.

ELSIE: Now, Mary, tell us what plan you had for our missionary work next week. We've spent a lot of time talking. I think it is time to get to work.

MARY (drawing chair closer to girls): It's this: A lot of the clothing taken to Mrs. Smith's for Europe and the Near East needs mending. It would be a shame to send those needy people garments that need buttons, wouldn't it? I dare say that they have enough to do without mending the articles America sends them. So what do you think of going to Mrs. Smith's house tomorrow for some real missionary work?

CARRIE: Oh, fine!

ALICE (rising hastily): Let's go and talk to her about it this very minute.

ELSIE (gathering up bag and gloves): You know, now that I think of it, I remember hearing that the next thirteenth Sabbath offering is to go to Europe and the Near East. It all sounded so far away, I suppose I didn't charge my mind with it at the time. But I'm all stirred up now.

(All rise and adjust wraps.)

ALICE: Now, my difficulty in any undertaking is getting *started*. If we know, this far ahead, that the next thirteenth Sabbath offering is to go to Europe and the Near East, and we begin now on this donation of clothing, don't you see that's our *start*?

MARY: That's what I thought, too, Alice. It will be so much easier to deny ourselves in

money matters for the next offering if we begin ahead of time on that mending.

JEAN: I'll put the atlas away for you, Mary. (Takes atlas and looks once more at map.) Here we come, Europe and the Near East! Six needles are going to work for you this week, and six girls are going to deny themselves for you, and you are going to have all the schools, Bibles, and missionaries you need, if we have our say.

(Places atlas on table and all pass out.)

—Mrs. Barbara K. Albertsworth.

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## Sabbath, September 3

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

MISSIONARY TEXT: Matt. 24:14. Read text, then have the school repeat it in concert.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 548, first stanza.

READING: Experiences of Our Brethren in Russia.

PRAYER: A short prayer in behalf of our brethren and sisters in Russia.

### Experiences of Our Brethren in Russia

L. H. CHRISTIAN

AN Adventist sister riding in a street car in Petrograd told one of the passengers that the second coming of Christ is at hand. The Bolsheviks began to argue with her. They cursed and said there was no God and no hereafter, and that to teach the second coming of Christ was anti-Soviet. She was immediately imprisoned, and shortly after sentenced to death. Later this sentence was changed to life imprisonment. She was finally released, but her health was undermined by suffering and torture.

People often fall dead on the streets of Petrograd from slow starvation. Those who starve to death do not suffer much; they grow weaker and weaker. It often happens that a man will go to sleep quietly at night and be dead in the morning. Elder Wilson and his family for three months have had nothing to eat but turnips. Elder Eglit's wife is dying from consumption, brought on by slow starvation. We wanted to send help to her, but the Red Cross man in Riga told us not to do so even if we could. He said: "If the Bolshevists learn that your man gets help from the outside they will shoot him, and may decide to kill all the Adventists."

Elder Reinke, after spending twenty-four days in prison, was set at liberty. Elder Isaak and his family lost all their furniture and nearly all their clothing. Elder Sprohge came to Esthonia with no furniture and very little clothing for his family. During the winter, children and women are never seen on the streets in Russian cities. They have no shoes, and very little clothing. During the summer, men and women walk the streets almost naked. A man is satisfied if he has a vest and a pair of short trousers—no hat, shoes, or shirt.

The conference president had a black suit that was much worn. When asked how long he had had it, he replied that a broker had given it to him two years ago. The brother had said, "You cannot wear the clothes you

have any longer. I have kept my wedding suit for thirty years. I am a farmer and don't need it." So he gave it to the conference president. Another man, a tailor, got hold of some old clothes that the soldiers had discarded. They were full of vermin, but he washed the garments and boiled them, and cut out some clothes for his wife and little girls. He himself had a suit which he had bought before the war. One of our workers said that during a whole winter he had bread for himself and family once a week—for their Sabbath dinner. During the week they ate beets and turnips.

One Seventh-day Adventist sister in Letvia at the outbreak of the war owned an estate of 2,000 measures of land. When the Bolsheviks came they took her land, stole the deeds to the home and property and burned them, took away 150 milk cows and 50 horses, scattered all her servants, and confiscated 95,000 rubles (\$50,000), which she had in the bank. Her son died, and also his wife, leaving her three orphan grandchildren—a girl of fourteen, one of eight, and one of six. This formerly wealthy family was entirely destitute. The grandchildren and the grandmother worked from morning till night to earn a little black bread and some milk. Even the little girl of six had to knit stockings all day to help earn the daily bread. Once they were entirely out of food, but a man who had also been wealthy but had been despoiled of

all he had, came some distance late at night to bring them a loaf of bread.

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## Sabbath, September 10

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

MISSIONARY TEXT: Acts 10:34, 35. Read the text, then have the school repeat it in concert.

READING: Mesopotamia.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 535, first stanza.

READING: Experiences of Our Brethren in Turkey.

PRAYER: A few sentences in behalf of our workers in Mesopotamia and Turkey.

### Mesopotamia

W. C. ISING

A LETTER recently received from Brother Bashir Abo Hasso from Mosul, just opposite the site of ancient Nineveh, brings the good news that he is getting along well in his work, in spite of the difficult situation created by the war. Brother Bashir was formerly a student at the American University of Beirut, where I became acquainted with him and had the pleasure of receiving him into the church. He took his degree there, as master of pharmacy, and went on to Bagdad, where he connected with the English Church Missionary Society as pharmacist in their hospital.

When the war broke out he was drafted into the Turkish army and was connected with the Red Cross work as an officer. On being captured by the British, he was trans-

ported to India, but later released on condition of remaining in the occupied territory. Brother Bashir improved the situation and opened up a pharmacy on his own account at Bassora.

When the war was over, he returned home to Mosul to see his family, having been absent for a number of years. His father is elder of the Protestant church there, and some of his relatives are also connected with its work. I am greatly indebted to them for the kind hospitality they showed me when I visited them some years ago. Brother Bashir has now established a pharmacy in Mosul, with his brother in charge.

While we have no worker sent out from the mission to this Arabian field, yet I am sure that Brother Bashir is very faithful, and is typical of the people that are to be found among his countrymen. Standing alone, yet always rejoicing in the Lord despite the loss of his wife and child, he may be assured of our prayers and that help will come ere long.

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## Experiences of Our Brethren in Turkey

MRS. LOUISE ERZBERGER

SCARCELY was the armistice signed when the Turkish government gave orders for the exiled Armenians to return to their homes. We are not to think that this was a happy return.



These exiled ones had tried to create a source of income for themselves, but soon as they were somewhat settled in one place they were sent to another place. At this time, too, they were notified to be ready in a few hours to start for their homes. We can imagine how much one can get together in two or three hours. Besides, they had to return at the most unfavorable season of the year—winter—crowded in open cattle wagons. On this journey from the near interior to Constantinople they were exposed to cold and rain for two or three weeks. Among these exiles were many of our brethren and sisters.

On their arrival they were informed that their houses were still occupied by Turks, who would not leave for two or three months. What could they do? Many were sick. We opened our doors to them, although we did not have enough room and bedding to provide for all these shelterless ones. Our meeting hall and our own rooms were filled. Though these people were ragged and dirty and covered with vermin, they were still our brethren and sisters, and when the heart is filled with love, the Lord helps. One dear sister, in spite of all the care we were able to give her, died of pneumonia.

Fortunately, in a few weeks they could return to their villages, only one orphan remaining with us. Later a few other orphans came to our house. There are many whose widowed mothers are scarcely able to care

for them, and to whom we have to give assistance regularly. Our greatest problem, however, is how to train the people to become true men and women of God. We are praying earnestly that the Lord will show us how to do this.

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## Sabbath, September 17

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

READINGS: Baptizing in the Danube. Story for Children. (See "Our Little Friend," dated September 16.)

MISSIONARY TEXT: Luke 6:38, first part. Read the text, then have all repeat it in concert.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 594, first stanza.

PRAYER: A short prayer for our work along the Danube.

## Baptizing in the Danube

P. P. PAULINI

ON Sept. 21, 1920, a fellow worker and I crossed the Danube River. Arriving at the seaport, we showed our passports to the police authorities, and entered the home of a dear brother. The next forenoon we examined the candidates for baptism and went to the Danube to baptize them. While I was still in the water with them, a young man came running with the message that three secret service men had been searching for us. Two minutes after we had left the meeting house these agents had come and asked where the Adventist preachers of Bukharest were.

That we might not fall into the hands of such men, we thought best not to celebrate the ordinances that day, but wait until the next Sunday afternoon. We decided to leave that evening for a village about thirty-one miles distant, where fifteen believers were anxiously awaiting baptism. Although this trip would take us through an uninhabited wilderness infested with robbers, we started by moonlight, reaching our destination safely the next forenoon. Many were anxiously awaiting us here. After examining these candidates, we proceeded to the Danube, about nine miles away, in four carriages, for baptism.

We were to begin our return trip Sunday, September 26, but at three o'clock in the morning we heard the harsh voice of the village policeman call: "Arise, Petku! Light your lamp and come out! Tell us who is in your house, and who has come in these carriages." Then he invited all the guests to report at the police station. The next day, after we had finished our communion service, I presented myself at the police station. The officer received me kindly, and I noticed at once that he was not bigoted, but was guided by good principles of freedom of conscience. I gave him the desired information about our faith and organization. He was surprised to find the teachings of the Adventists so different from the false reports circulated about us. He told me how he himself had tried

to bring about a friendly feeling between the Rumanian and Bulgarian people, but the animosity existing between these two nations made his efforts fruitless.

At this point I told him how harmoniously our Rumanian and Bulgarian brethren take part in church service, and how they were brought to this state of unity and neighborly feeling through the truths of the gospel. He recognized the truth of this, and replied, "That is why I have not hindered the believers of your faith in their public worship. They shall assemble henceforth in peace." He requested literature from which he could learn more of the principles of our denomination. This I promised to send him.

On this trip I clearly saw that we are behind in our work, and that there are many districts which have not been reached by the threefold message. Thousands of inhabitants in the hundreds of Turkish and Bulgarian villages are living shut away from culture and civilization, with no opportunity to learn the truth. This situation lies heavily on my heart. Here are these many nations, and we cannot even give our brethren among them the simplest Sabbath school lessons in their own languages. Many of them have not even a Bible. How shall they grow in the knowledge of God and of His promises?

## Sabbath, September 24

[Suggestions for Missionary Feature]

MISSIONARY TEXT: Dan. 12:3. Repeat in concert.

MISSIONARY SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 545.

RECITATION: "Is It Nothing to You?" (See "Making Missions Real," pp. 170, 171.)

READING: Rumania's Need.

QUARTET: Special selection.

Take offering.

PRAYER: Pray that the blessing of God may go with our gifts to these needy fields.

### Rumania's Need

A. G. DANIELLS

ALTHOUGH at the time of our visit to Rumania we found much of an encouraging nature, we were made sad almost to the point of depression by the great lack of experienced men and facilities to carry forward the work that has been brought to its present stage. The responsible leaders were overburdened with cares and perplexities.

Rumania is in dire need of literature. Before the war their literature was supplied by the Hamburg Publishing House, but this cannot be done now. A small paper and two or three tracts are all that these two thousand believers have for circulation among millions of people. It was decided at the Zurich Council, and approved by the Indianapolis Council, to establish a small printing plant as soon as the money can be secured.

Another very pressing need is Christian schools for our children and young people.

They have no schools except government schools. In these schools the priests of the state or Greek church are very active in teaching and impressing the creed and superstitions of the church upon the minds of the young. These teachings regarding religion are in violent contrast with our views of the Bible. In our churches there are hundreds of fine, active, ambitious young people who long to throw their whole lives into the finishing of this work, but they have neither the education nor the training to fit them for such work.

At the time of our visit there we were importuned to help them start educational work. In a council regarding the problem one brother cheerfully offered to give his small farm to the enterprise if the location should be considered suitable. The brethren composing the council courageously assumed the responsibility of raising \$10,000 to assist in providing a training school for our young people in Rumania.

The church in Bukharest is in great need of a suitable place of worship. They are in a deplorable condition, and are unable to extricate themselves. There are three hundred members in that city, but they have no place of worship that will hold more than one hundred, and the small places in which they gather are altogether unsuitable. It looks as though they have gone about as far as they can go until they are able to take better care

of the members they have, and also provide a creditable place where they can invite people who are investigating the truth.

These are some of the great needs that are to be met by this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. We who have had this glorious message so long and are enjoying so many of its benefits and blessings are now given the privilege of rendering most valuable service to our dear fellow believers in the Balkan Peninsula. That region, as we all know, is called the cockpit of Europe. For centuries the people there have endured the horrors of war. It is marvelous that there should now exist any desire for the things of the kingdom or any hope of the future; but the spirit of God is at work in all these countries—Rumania, Jugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, and even Turkey—putting into the hearts of all who will be influenced, a yearning for just what the threefold message of Revelation 14 has for them.

And let it be fully understood that just now is our day of opportunity in the Balkan field. Never in the history of that war-torn region have the conditions been anything like so favorable for the proclamation of the gospel as they are now. Any delay will mean loss that cannot be regained. With all the earnestness and anxiety of my soul I join in the appeal for the greatest Thirteenth Sabbath offering ever made since this wonderfully helpful plan was adopted. The various re-

gions of that field need, and can quickly put to the very best use, every dollar that will be given. May I venture to suggest to you who have more than the average incomes or pos-



sessions that you take this call seriously to heart and put into this worthy effort some big gifts?

In behalf of the thousands of our dear people in that field who are looking and praying for a great offering, I wish to thank you in advance.