

QUARTERLY REVIEW



ORGAN OF THE
SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION
of the General Conference of S.D.A.



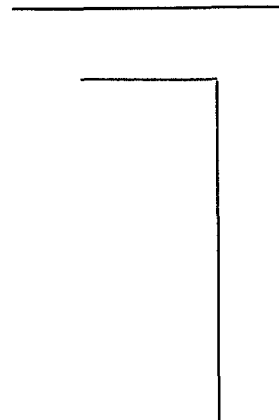
VOL. 12

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NUMBER 4

A f f l i c t i o n s

Blindness helped Paul to see.
Stars are seen only at night.
Everything that strengthens, hurts.
Every man has a wine-press to tread.
Storms bring ships into the harbor.
There is gravel in almost every shoe.
Sand in the mussel develops the pearl.
Every good life must have a Gethsemane.
Gold loses nothing but dross in the fire.
Everybody has more trouble than anybody else.
Thorns in the nest make us take to our wings.
The darkest night will not put out the stars.
Rainbows are seen only when there are clouds.
The best loved child in the home is the cripple.
God sometimes palsies the hand to make it let go.
Some fruits don't turn sweet until the frost comes.
Only the storm can bring music from the aeolian harp.
Crowd the roots of a potted plant, and it will blossom.
The photographer develops the picture in the dark room.
If God sends a rod, He will make it blossom and bear fruit.
It lightens the stroke to draw near to Him who wields the rod.
God sometimes puts men on their backs, so they can look upward.
Moss grows on the north side of the tree where the cold wind blows.
Had the prodigal's money held out, he would not have tasted the fatted calf.
In a stereopticon lecture the lights are shut off to get the eye on the picture.



— Arranged.

Colporteurs on the Field of Battle

By F. CHARPIOT

The nations of earth are engaged in a life and death struggle. Millions are ready to toil, to suffer, to give all they possess, even to consent to the supreme sacrifice of their life, for the greatness of their country and for the triumph of their ideals. But while this destructive warfare is going on for the sake of earthly things, another army is bravely fighting the battle of the cross. This noble host of workers have devoted their life to carrying God's message of truth into the entrenchments of the archenemy.

There are two special objectives to be attained in war: destroy the adversary's fortified lines, and build up the defense; repulse the enemy and strike him down, and husband, restore and strengthen the fighting power of the army's combined forces. So it is, also, in the spiritual struggle for the possession of souls: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" 2 Cor. 10: 4-5.

The above text shows the aggressive action to be achieved in spiritual warfare, while the following scriptures describe the work of upbuilding to be done. "Thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in." Isa. 58: 12. "Feed the flock of God." 1 Peter 5:2. "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils." Matt. 10: 8. "Comfort my people." Isa. 40: 1. "Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you." Isa. 35: 3-4.

A wonderful warfare indeed! While the spirits of devils are going forth to the kings of the earth to stir up evil passions, hatred, bloodshed, destruction, untold suffering and sorrow, the gospel messenger is going from home to home, clad with the whole armor of God, to break down the walls of ignorance, prejudice, indifference and sin, and to bring comfort, peace and hope to a perishing world.

The heavenly seed, sown along all waters, is bringing fruit. When I was in Italy last spring, the union field missionary secretary handed me an old, worn tract bearing a prison stamp. A colporteur had placed the tract in a prison twelve years before. It fell into the hands of a young prisoner, and the message of hope it contained did its appointed work. And when visiting a church a few weeks later, I was introduced to a young man who was to be baptized the following Sabbath. He was the prisoner who through that simple tract had found freedom for his soul while serving a sentence in jail.

In a certain town of Jugoslavia, a woman was dangerously ill for a long time. The doctors gave her up to die. As the family was in great sorrow, a friend came from another town to tell them that

he knew of somebody who could help; and he gave the address of one of our workers. This friend of the afflicted family had come into contact with our work through the efforts of one of our colporteurs who had sold her several books. Our worker was very much surprised when members of the family in question came to him with a request for help. But he responded, of course, to the call, taking with him one of the church elders. After studying the Bible with the family, our two brethren earnestly prayed for the woman. God placed His healing hand upon her, and restored her to health. In a few days she was able to get up and go about her work in the home. The family soon accepted the message.

News of this miracle was noised abroad, and a number of families became interested. The new converts were faithful missionaries, and they spent much time in giving Bible studies. Naturally the priest became stirred over the situation, and he appointed the sexton of his church to act as a spy for him in order that he might be informed about all that was happening. The sexton faithfully obeyed. But while trying to get information, he also listened to the Bible. Soon his heart was gripped by the message of truth, and he and his family were baptized. Then a very influential man from another town came and heard the truth, and, in spite of all the efforts of the enemies of truth, joined with God's people. Thus a new church was organized through a manifestation of God's power which came as the result of the faithful testimony borne by our God-fearing colporteur and of the books he sold.

In at least three countries of our territory, our work has, in recent times, been threatened by decrees which would have made the activity of the canvassers impossible. In each case the Lord intervened in a providential way. In one country eight lawsuits were brought against our workers, most of them against colporteurs. The enemy has made determined efforts to stop our work, but in each case the Lord gave us the victory, and sales had increased thirty-five per cent by the end of the year.

One colporteur was called before court. The priest in that section had prevailed upon a number of people to sign a document showing that the colporteur had sold his publications on false pretences. Before the trial, the colporteur had opportunity to visit a number of persons who had given their signatures. The colporteur found that the people were friendly and had given their names without knowing exactly what the document meant. When these witnesses appeared before the court, they all refused to testify against our brother. They explained that they had been prevailed upon to sign their names without knowing what the document meant. The enemies of truth were completely undone. The judge threatened the priest to bring

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Statistical Report of the Southern Europ. Division of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending September 30, 1940

Name of Conference or Mission	Number of Churches	Previous Membership	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total Gains	Apostasy	Death	Letter	Total Losses	Net Gain	Present Membership	Ord. Ministers	Lic. Ministers	Miss. Licentiates	Teacher Evangelists	Catechists	Other Workers	Total Workers	Number of Sab. Schools	Sab. School Membership	Average Attendance				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23				
SOUTHERN EUR. DIV.													6	6	8	—	—	—	20							
													5	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	14					
2. FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.																										
3. Belgian Conference	15	590										590	5	6	4					15	22	670	542			
4. East France " "	15	438										438	4	3	6					13	15	398	274			
5. North " " " "	15	768										768	4	4	5					13	26	502	375			
6. South " " " "	25	668										668	4	2	6					12	15	580	380			
	70	2464										2464	22	18	27					67	78	2150	1571			
													4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6					
7. JUGOSLAVIAN UNION CONF.																										
8. Danube Conference	67	1758	34	2	5	41	16	19	1	36	5	1763	6	2	2					26	—	36	71	2226	1596	
9. Sava " " " "	48	1018	25	—	2	27	3	2	2	7	20	1038	5	2	1					19	—	27	48	1038	945	
10. Morava " " " "	31	1033	30	4	6	40	2	1	13	16	24	1057	4	2	1					25	—	32	42	1360	944	
	146	3809	89	6	13	103	21	22	16	59	49	3358	19	8	4					70	—	101	161	4624	3485	
													6	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	12					
11. RUMANIAN UNION CONF.																										
12. Bucegi-Marea Conf.	162	6991	183	22	22	227	24	9	576	609	-382	6609	24	3	5					15	—	47	145	8949	6059	
13. Suceava-Prut " " " "	56	4456	28	11	11	50	4	8	2646	2658	-2608	1848	7	1	2					6	—	16	39	1258	389	
14. Somes-Mures " " " "	56	4048	13	1	—	14	3	4	2670	2677	-2663	1385	8	—	1					3	—	12	55	2555	686	
15. Timis-Olt " " " "	81	2288	32	2	3	37	2	5	12	25	2313	13	1	3						4	—	21	60	2200	1340	
16. Danarea-Nistru " " " "	36	1732	21	—	2	23	2	—	561	563	-540	1192	7	1	1					5	—	14	81	2594	1017	
	391	19515	277	36	38	351	35	26	6458	6519	-6168	13347	65	7	17					33	—	122	380	17556	9491	
													3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4					
17. SWISS UNION CONFERENCE.																										
18. German Swiss Conference	36	1410	7	—	9	16	10	1	9	20	-4	1406	8	2	6					21	4	41	36	1309	934	
19. Léman " " " "	20	1042	11	1	6	18	6	4	5	15	3	1045	7	2	3					14	—	26	25	762	623	
	56	2452	18	1	15	34	16	5	14	35	-1	2451	18	5	9					35	4	71	61	2071	1557	
													2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3					
20. PORTUGUESE UNION MISSION																										
21. Portuguese Conference	7	487	13	—	5	18	5	2	5	12	6	493	1	3	5					8	—	17	7	394	441	
22. Madeira Mission	1	91	—	2	—	2	7	—	—	7	-5	86	1	—	1					—	—	2	1	93	74	
23. Cape Verde Islands Mission	1	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	1	—	1					—	—	2	2	36	52	
24. Azores Mission	1	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	1	—	1					—	—	2	1	45	42	
25. Saint Thomas Mission	1	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	1	1					—	—	2	1	18	18	
	11	653	13	2	5	20	12	2	5	19	1	654	6	4	10					8	—	28	12	586	630	
													2	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	7					
26. ITALIAN UNION MISSION																										
27. North Italian Mission	14	497	13	3	—	16	5	1	7	13	3	500	6	3	2					10	—	21	20	618	450	
28. South " " " "	17	421	13	—	4	17	8	1	5	14	3	424	7	1	4					6	—	18	20	601	598	
29. Ethiopian " " " "	8	423	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	423	1	1	4					—	—	6	2	92	83	
	39	1341	26	3	4	33	13	2	12	27	6	1347	16	6	14					16	—	52	42	1311	1131	
													1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2					
30. NORTH AFRICAN UNION MISSION																										
31. Algerian Mission	9	253	6	—	2	8	5	1	2	8	—	253	4	2	4					5	—	15	12	253	235	
32. Moroccan " " " "	4	88	7	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	95	1	2	1					1	—	5	4	97	95	
33. Tunis " " " "	1	40	2	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	4	44	1	1	—					—	—	3	2	44	28	
	14	381	15	2	2	19	5	1	2	8	11	392	7	5	7					6	—	25	18	394	358	
													1	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	7					
34. INDIAN OCEAN UNION MISSION *)																										
35. Madagascar Mission	21	466										466	4	4	9					2	4	—	23	23	1229	963
36. Mauritius " " " "	11	619										619	2	3	5					—	—	10	20	797	577	
37. Seychelles " " " "	2	61										61	1	—	3					—	—	4	2	76	62	
38. Réunion " " " "	2	37										37	1	—	2					—	—	3	2	67	54	
	36	1183										1183	9	8	24					2	4	—	47	47	2169	1656
39. SPANISH MISSION																										
40. EQUAT. AFRIC. MISSION																										
	3	363										363	3	2	14					34	—	53	50	4036	4068	

RECAPITULATION

1. Southern European Division	70	2464										2464	22	18	27								67	78	2150	1571
2. Franco-Belgian Union Conference	146	3809	89	6	13	108	21	22	16	59	49	3858	19	8	4					70	—	101	161	4624	3485	
3. Jugoslavian " " " "	391	19515	277	36	38	351	35	26	6458	6519	-6168	13347	65	7	17					33	—	122	380	17556	9491	
4. Rumanian " " " "	56	2452	18	1	15	34	16	5	14	35	-1	2451	18	5	9					35	4	71	61	2071	1557	
5. Swiss " " " "	11	653	13	2	5	20	12	2	5	19	1	654	6	4	10					8	—	28	12	586	630	
6. Portuguese " Mission	39	1341	26	3	4	33	13	2	12	27	6	1347	16	6	14					16	—	52	42			

QUARTERLY REVIEW

Financial Report of the Southern European Division of S. D. A. for the Quarter Ending September 30, 1940

Name of Conference or Mission	Total Tithe	Total Offerings (incl. Specials)	Contributions for Home Miss. Work	Contributions for Local Church Work	Colporteur Book Sales	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1. SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION.						
2. FRANCO-BELGIAN UNION CONF.						
3. Belgian Conference	F. Fr.	—	—	—	—	
4. East France Conference	» »	—	—	—	—	
5. North » »	» »	—	—	—	—	
6. South » »	» »	83,720.50	56,741.—	—	—	
	F. Fr.	83,720.50	56,744.—	—	—	
	\$	2,093.—	1,418.61	—	—	
7. JUGOSLAVIAN UNION CONF.						
8. Danube Conference	Dinar	148,807.50	65,175.25	—	98,912.—	
9. Sava »	»	121,292.—	41,375.88	—	77,568.—	
10. Morava »	»	109,080.80	55,834.13	—	109,951.—	
	Dinar	379,180.30	162,385.26	—	286,431.—	
	\$	8,152.40	3,491.28	—	6,158.24	
11. RUMANIAN UNION CONFERENCE						
12. Bucegi-Marea Conference	Lei	1,816,224.—	387,691.50	—	217,621.—	
13. Suceava-Prut »	»	346,844.—	94,165.50	—	62,451.—	
14. Simes-Mures »	»	326,451.—	49,411.—	—	23,422.—	
15. Timis-Olt »	»	410,656.—	67,323.—	—	25,589.—	
16. Dunarea-Nistru »	»	211,640.—	47,507.50	—	31,010.—	
	Lei	3,111,815.—	646,101.50	—	360,093.—	
	\$	23,338.60	4,845.77	—	2,700.67	
17. SWISS UNION CONFERENCE						
18. German Swiss Conf.	Sw. Fr.	36,235.—	16,810.50	2,535.80	4,603.60	33,851.—
19. Léman Conference	» »	28,456.20	11,760.30	6,346.61	4,566.34	20,803.50
	Sw. Fr.	64,691.20	28,570.80	8,882.41	9,169.94	54,654.50
	\$	14,879.—	6,571.30	2,042.95	2,109.08	12,570.53
20. PORTUGUESE UNION MISSION.						
21. Portuguese Conference	Es.	22,447.80	23,576.60	161.35	830.10	7,469.—
22. Madeira Mission	»	2,124.20	1,173.60	31.30	153.15	—
23. Cape Verde Islands Mission	»	553.60	—	—	—	—
24. Azores Mission	»	—	343.80	—	1,345.67	—
25. Saint Thomas Mission	»	736.60	703.60	—	—	—
	Es.	25,862.20	25,797.60	192.65	2,328.92	7,469.—
	\$	1,034.40	1,031.90	7.70	93.15	298.76
26. ITALIAN UNION MISSION						
27. North Italian Mission	Lire	31,686.40	9,498.45	—	1,636.85	20,460.—
28. South »	»	20,144.—	7,499.40	—	1,441.20	11,323.90
29. Ethiopian »	»	9,962.—	2,493.70	—	—	—
	Lire	61,792.40	19,491.55	—	3,078.05	31,783.90
	\$	3,253.30	1,026.24	—	162.05	1,673.41
30. NORTH AFRICAN UNION MISSION.						
31. Algerian Mission	F. Fr.	40,953.—	12,778.25	—	—	17,605.45
32. Moroccan »	» »	22,145.—	5,495.40	—	—	6,112.50
33. Tunis »	» »	9,285.—	1,260.95	—	—	—
	F. Fr.	72,383.—	19,534.60	—	—	23,717.95
	\$	1,809.—	488.38	—	—	592.93
34. INDIAN OCEAN UNION MISSION. *)						
35. Madagascar Mission	F. Fr.	—	—	—	—	—
36. Mauritius »	» »	—	—	No Report	—	—
37. Seychelles »	» »	—	—	—	—	—
38. Reunion »	» »	—	—	—	—	—
	F. Fr.	—	—	—	—	—
	\$	—	—	—	—	—
39. SPANISH MISSION	Pes.	10,591.50	1,956.60	—	—	—
	\$	1,143.10	215.23	—	—	—
40. EQ. AFRICAN MISSION						
	F. Fr.	—	—	No Report	—	—
	\$	—	—	—	—	—

RECAPITULATION

1. Southern European Division	\$	2,093.—	1,418.61	—	—	—
2. Franco-Belgian Union Conference	\$	8,152.40	3,491.28	—	—	6,158.24
3. Jugoslavian » »	\$	23,338.60	4,845.77	—	—	2,700.67
4. Rumanian » »	\$	14,879.—	6,571.30	2,042.95	2,109.08	12,570.53
5. Swiss » »	\$	1,034.40	1,031.90	7.70	93.15	298.76
6. Portuguese » Mission	\$	3,253.30	1,026.24	—	162.05	1,673.41
7. Italian » »	\$	1,809.—	488.38	—	—	592.93
8. North African » »	\$	—	—	—	—	—
9. Indian Ocean » » *)	\$	—	—	—	—	—
10. Spanish » »	\$	1,143.10	215.23	—	—	—
11. Eq. African » »	\$	—	—	—	—	—
Totals 3rd quarter 1940	\$	55,702.80	19,088.71	2,050.65	2,364.28	23,994.54
» 3rd » 1939	\$	61,016.70	25,614.14	1,284.27	2,110.17	25,711.77

*) Report for the 1st quarter 1939.

QUARTERLY REVIEW

Specification of Mission Offerings (Column No.3)

	Sabbath School Offerings (exc. 13th Sabbath)	13th Sabbath Offering	Harvest Ingathering	Annual Offerings	Miscellaneous Offerings	Self Denial Offerings	Special Offer.		
							Big Week	Young People's Collection	(Relief Fund) Weekly Offerings
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.									
2.									
3.									
4.									
5.									
6.	10,058.80	2,679.15	26,832.--	17.50		10,663.--	6,487.55	6.--	--
	10,058.80	2,679.15	26,832.--	17.50		10,663.--	6,487.55	6.--	--
	251.47	66.98	670.80	-44		266.58	162.19	-15	--
7.									
8.	17,289.--	3,916.75	38,640.50	267.50	--	2,772.--	997.75	738.25	553.50
9.	12,001.25	5,733.25	18,929.--	--	--	3,221.50	461.--	417.--	612.88
10.	11,108.75	2,460.25	35,006.75	57.--	--	5,369.--	815.--	560.75	456.63
	40,399.--	12,110.25	92,576.25	324.50	--	11,362.50	2,273.75	1,716.--	1,623.01
	868.58	260.37	1,990.39	6.98	--	244.29	48.88	36.89	34.90
11.									
12.	179,900.50	35,520.--	69,201.--	1,914.--	--	53,124.--	27,151.--	4,331.--	16,550.--
13.	39,720.--	13,791.--	24,721.--	--	--	8,640.--	4,041.--	417.--	2,835.50
14.	31,980.--	7,574.--	--	--	--	5,705.--	1,647.--	--	2,508.--
15.	34,396.--	9,639.--	15,583.--	137.--	--	1,410.--	4,174.--	547.--	1,437.--
16.	19,279.--	8,122.--	17,136.--	--	--	943.--	--	190.--	1,837.50
	305,275.50	74,646.--	126,641.--	2,051.--	--	69,822.--	37,013.--	5,485.--	25,168.--
	2,289.57	559.84	949.81	15.39	--	523.66	277.60	41.14	188.76
17.									
18.	5,166.--	1,065.--	10,000.--	257.--	196.--	--	--	55.--	70.50
19.	5,005.92	1,401.59	3,759.84	--	1,217.85	2.--	92.40	271.--	9.70
	10,171.92	2,466.59	13,759.84	257.--	1,413.85	2.--	92.40	327.--	80.20
	2,339.54	567.32	3,164.76	59.11	325.20	-46	21.26	75.21	18.44
20.									
21.	3,681.15	2,653.70	14,251.35	--	--	2,670.60	45.75	274.05	--
22.	480.05	121.85	--	32.50	--	420.--	118.90	--	--
23.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
24.	153.50	147.65	--	--	--	40.65	--	--	--
25.	168.30	168.50	--	--	--	366.80	--	--	--
	4,485.--	3,091.70	14,251.35	32.80	--	3,498.05	164.65	274.05	--
	179.40	123.67	570.05	1.31	--	139.92	6.59	10.96	--
26.									
27.	4,518.20	1,603.10	2,595.90	--	--	450.--	--	315.--	16.25
28.	3,784.20	982.30	2,214.20	20.--	--	145.--	272.20	81.50	--
29.	1,874.05	609.65	--	10.--	--	--	--	--	--
	10,176.45	3,195.05	4,810.10	30.--	--	595.--	272.20	396.50	16.25
	533.79	168.22	253.25	1.58	--	31.33	14.33	20.88	-86
30.									
31.	4,018.45	1,385.30	1,934.85	--	70.--	5,303.65	66.--	--	--
32.	2,360.60	965.50	--	--	--	1,493.05	676.25	--	--
33.	585.30	103.65	--	--	--	572.--	--	--	--
	6,964.35	2,454.45	1,934.85	--	70.--	7,368.70	742.25	--	--
	174.11	61.37	48.37	--	1.75	184.22	18.56	--	--
34.									
35.									
36.									
37.									
38.									
39.	1,433.50	251.20	--	--	271.90	--	--	--	--
	157.69	27.63	--	--	29.91	--	--	--	--
40.									

No Report

No Report

RECAPITULATION

1.									
2.	251.47	66.98	670.80	-44	--	266.58	162.19	-15	--
3.	868.58	260.37	1,990.39	6.8	--	244.29	48.88	36.89	34.90
4.	2,289.57	559.84	9,191.81	15.39	--	523.66	277.60	41.14	188.76
5.	2,339.54	67.32	3,164.76	59.11	325.20	-46	21.26	75.21	18.44
6.	179.40	123.67	570.05	1.31	--	139.92	6.59	10.96	--
7.	535.79	168.22	253.25	1.58	--	31.33	14.33	20.88	-86
8.	174.11	61.37	48.37	--	1.75	184.22	18.56	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
10.	157.69	27.63	--	--	29.91	--	--	--	--
11.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	6,796.15	1,835.40	7,647.43	84.81	356.86	1,390.46	549.41	185.23	242.96
	8,215.14	1,839.37	12,926.72	54.83	255.62	1,071.40	868.69	184.79	197.58

The Situation in Rumania

By A. V. OLSON

In the month of September of this year, the newspapers in many countries announced that a decree had been promulgated by the authorities in Rumania dissolving the Baptist and the Seventh-day Adventist church organizations, and confiscating all their denominational properties. In justice to the present Rumanian government, we consider it our duty to make a statement regarding this matter through the columns of this paper.

It is true that on September 9 the minister of cults, yielding to heavy pressure from certain elements, did issue such a decree. It was published in the newspapers throughout the country, and announced over the radio. It was to go into effect immediately. As there had been no sign or indication of any kind that trouble was brewing, the publication of this drastic decree came to our people and to our Baptist friends as a bolt of thunder out of a clear sky. It threatened them with immediate destruction.

The leaders of the Baptist church in Rumania came to our union office in Bucharest to confer with the leaders of our work. Together they cried unto God for help and deliverance, and together they laid plans for carrying their protests and petitions to the government. When they arrived at the ministry of cults, they were told that the minister was away and could not be reached. Being unable to reach the man who had issued the decree, they sought interviews with other cabinet members and government officials. These men received them kindly and listened with due respect and consideration to their statements and requests. Through proper channels the situation was also brought to the attention of the head of the government.

While these negotiations were going on, the provisions of the decree were being carried out in numerous places. Chapels were taken over by local authorities. Seats and other furniture were carried away to be used for other purposes. Sunday morning, September 15, the president of our beautiful training school at Brasov was notified that the officials would arrive during the afternoon to take over the institution.

Friday evening, September 13, the Baptist and Adventist leaders were invited by the minister of cults to meet him at the ministry. Instead of informing them, as they had hoped, of a modification in the decree, he tried to convince them that they must return to the old established state churches from which they had come. Our brethren tried to reason with him, but he was adamant.

By this time all fear had left our men. In their hearts there was a comforting assurance that God would bring deliverance. Most of our churches were still in our possession, and Sabbath morning our people met together as usual. Unitedly they sent up their earnest petitions to the throne of God, and committed their case into the hands of Him who still ruleth in the affairs of men.

Sunday morning the newspapers announced that certain changes had been made in the government. When our men looked down through the list of ministers, they discovered that the former minister of cults had been removed, and his office given to another. That same morning the new minister made it known over the radio that the decree dissolving the Baptist and Adventist churches had been suspended, and that the order to confiscate their properties had been annulled. At the same time orders were given that any property that had already been taken from these churches must be restored without delay. The people were admonished not to persecute the members of the churches in question, but to treat them kindly and well. Promptly the chapels that had been closed were opened, and the furniture that had been carried away was brought back. The officials who were to take over the school that very day never came.

By thus setting aside the decree which smacked of the dark ages and which was intended to annihilate the work of both Baptists and Seventh-day Adventists, General Antonescu and the present members of his cabinet have demonstrated that it is their desire and purpose that the members of the above-mentioned churches shall retain their right to exist.

It was my happy privilege to spend the month of October in Rumania, where I visited our union headquarters, the publishing house, the school and a number of churches. Everywhere I found our dear people happy and courageous in the Lord. All were praising God for His good hand that had been over them. They also spoke of their gratitude to the government for the liberty which has been granted them. Despite the difficulties of the times in which we live, the cause of God is making good progress in Rumania.



It is remarkable . . .

In all the conflicts which the Devil brings about to afflict the world, his main object is to defeat God's purpose, hinder His work, and destroy His people. This appears to be his plan now more than ever. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 12:17.

In many parts of our Division, God's people have certainly had their share of trials and hardships of late. They have had to feel the blows of the archenemy of humanity. Many have had to flee from their homes, and have not returned to them as yet. Some have lost all their earthly possessions. Other difficulties and restrictions in the way of our brethren and sisters might be mentioned.

The present situation necessarily affects also

the Sabbath schools. It has been impossible in certain sections to furnish supplies such as lesson and mission quarterlies, without mentioning other helps for teachers. No doubt that for a time certain schools have not been able to meet. Some fields are unable to send us their reports. However, in spite of all these handicaps, it is remarkable how well the Sabbath school is weathering the storm.

The report of the first two quarters of this year were excellent, and the same can be said of the third quarter's report, even though it was not altogether complete. The membership has decreased somewhat because a considerable number of members in a certain section were transferred to another Division before the end of the second quarter. But the Sabbath school offerings for the first nine months of this year, in spite of the fact that some reports and funds have not been received, are but slightly under those for the same period of 1939.

Total S. S. offerings, nine months 1940 . . . \$ 27,597.64
 Total S. S. offerings, nine months 1939 . . . \$ 28,145.52
 Loss . . . \$ 547.88

We must expect some further decrease during the fourth quarter, and perhaps for some time in the future. It is remarkable, however, the way the Sabbath school is not only holding its own, but going ahead from victory to victory. We may confidently apply to it the following promise: "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper." Isa. 54:17.

R. GERBER.

Colporteurs on the Field of Battle

(Continued from page 2)

him before court for his false accusations. A number of the people present at trial, among whom were lawyers and judges, gave their subscriptions for our paper right there in the court building.

In another case, a number of people appeared against our colporteur. These too had been prevailed upon to accuse him falsely. The priest had also influenced the judge, and our brother was condemned. The outlook was quite dark. But God surely gave wisdom to the lawyer who was defending the case. Little by little he succeeded to bring contradiction between the false witnesses, and soon they were in utter confusion. The judge himself saw through the situation, and had to set our brother free. Before this was done, however, there was a wonderful opportunity for our brother to explain publicly all about our work and to tell of the good our people are doing in all the world. After the trial, two of the witnesses who had so bitterly accused our brother, came to him to ask his pardon, and to order a Bible.

We have had similar experiences in other places showing how the hand of the Lord is outstretched to turn the enemy's wrath to victory.

Just lately we again saw the hand that intervenes. We were facing a very perplexing problem in connection with our French literature. In one field, there were no books left, and the colporteurs had to stand idle. In three other fields the stock

of books was running low. Our French publishing house had its shelves full of great stacks of literature of all kinds, but owing to war conditions, it had become impossible to send them out. We had earnestly prayed about it, but the way remained closed. Weeks ran into months, and still there was no sign of any opening. We had to resort to the expensive solution of printing one book and a number of papers in one of the fields. But where would we find money to reprint other books to keep our colporteurs at work?

The publishing house, in a very unexpected and providential manner, just as the situation was becoming most critical, was able to provide the fields with stocks of books large enough to keep the colporteurs busy for many months to come. This providential intervention also provided the publishing house with much needed funds, enabling it to carry on with the work and to pay its staff of workers.

Reports from the different parts of the Division are, on the whole, very encouraging. Some fields have had serious setbacks in colporteur sales as a result of war, or unsettled conditions due to war. Today, however, the work is being reorganized, and is moving forward again in most fields. In spite of the fact that many colporteurs have been, and still are being drafted for military service, several unions show gains for the first nine months of this year. Surely "the Lord is good and greatly to be praised."

There is no sign of armistice on the battlefield of the Lord. Our noble host of canvassers are pressing on to the very gates of the enemy, destroying fortresses of sin, error, doubt and opposition, bringing up the broken-hearted, encouraging the weak, delivering the captives, bringing the light of hope and peace into many souls which long for the better world.

F. Charpiot.

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INTERESTING ITEMS

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The European crisis is not only international. It is more than that. There are conflicts not only between nations, but also between groups within nations, on grounds of class interest or of politico-economic ideology. The lines of cleavage are horizontal, running through the nations, as well as vertical, separating them. This situation cannot but threaten Europe's edifice with upheaval and destruction. It also threatens the Christian church. In any case, the responsibility of God's people in such a time is evident. Today, still more than in former ages, the church must guard itself against the world. Hatred, envy and pride, both individual and national, must be barred from our hearts. While standing for truth and right, we must transcend the cleavage of party and people, and demonstrate the glorious reality of Christian fellowship. The unity of the Advent Movement must be maintained at all cost. Thus only can God's work be pressed onward to completion.

During the past quarter there has been a rapid shifting of national frontiers in eastern Europe. Rumania has been asked to cede sections of her territory to Russia, Bulgaria, and Hungary. Through these transfers our Rumanian Union has lost about a third of its membership - 3,500 to Russia, some 3,000 to Hungary, and a few churches to Bulgaria. This realignment of frontiers has made necessary many adjustments in organization and working forces. The territory turned over to Russia (Bessarabia and North Bucovina) still functions as a conference with headquarters in Cernauti. The part of Transylvania which has become Hungarian territory, is known as the Transylvanian Conference, and has its headquarters at Cluj, as formerly. Then, a new conference office has been opened in Sibiu, Rumania, for the administration of Rumanian Transylvania and adjoining provinces. The churches ceded to Bulgaria have not entailed any change in organization. Naturally, all these transfers have had an important bearing upon the budgets of the fields involved. Other problems have arisen from the

repatriation of populations. The main one has been the shifting of workers, which has caused financial embarrassment to certain fields.

Certainly Rumania has had a hard way to tread during the past months. There have been changing economic conditions, mobilization, and general disarray. And now an earthquake has wrought havoc in many parts. The full extent of this last disaster has not yet been made known, but we do know that our denominational property has been seriously affected. Several chapels have been destroyed and many others gravely damaged. A recent report from Rumanian Union headquarters makes it clear that more than \$ 4,000 will be necessary for the most urgent repairs and restorations. We know that the hearts of God's people around the world will go out in sympathy with our Rumanian brethren and our church leadership as this new difficulty is dealt with.

The present lack of transportation facilities has made it impossible for two missionary families to sail for their fields of labor: Mr. and Mrs. Roger Hirschy, who are on furlough in France, are unable to return to the Cameroon. Brother Hirschy has taken up evangelistic work temporarily in the South France Conference. And then there has had to be a change in plans concerning Mr. and Mrs. Henri Drouault, who last September were placed under appointment for work in Madagascar. In view of the situation, Brother Drouault offered to spend some time in study in the United States, and his plan has received the approval of the Division committee. Brother and Sister Drouault sailed for New York December 14, on the s. s. Nyassa.

A recent report from Elder R. Gerber, president of the Swiss Union, sounds an encouraging note regarding the work in this home base. He points out that a larger number of souls have been won to the truth during the first nine months of this year than during the same period of 1939, and also that financial reports for the two conferences show an increase in both

tithe and mission offerings for this period. Another point can be mentioned, and that is that the recent Harvest Ingathering campaign has been most successful. Our people in Switzerland appreciate the privilege that is theirs in having been spared the ravages of war, and they have rallied to this great financial effort whole-heartedly. Their watchword has been: "God's cause shall brook no defeat." Truly, we thank God for Switzerland today.

Since the outbreak of war in Europe, most of the currencies used in our Division have sustained constant and heavy losses in value. The real depreciation is, moreover, greater than the bank exchange rates generally would indicate inasmuch as the currencies often can be bought abroad at rates far below the official quotations - sometimes at less than 1/2. Because of this inflation, and because also of a growing scarcity of supply due to blockade and counter blockade, the falling off in production and the unfortunate destruction of food and other commodities, the cost of living has risen in many lands to such heights that our workers are no longer able to buy the bare necessities of life with their present salary. In certain lands the increase in the cost of living has raised more than 100 per cent. This situation obviously makes some salary increases very urgent, and sympathetic study is being given to the problem at present.

A permanent return from the mission field must be noted for the first quarter of 1940 Elder C. Tolici and family left Diego, Madagascar, in March for Rumania. For many weeks we were without definite information as to their whereabouts (which explains why we did not report the item earlier), but happily the return trip was made without accident, and Brother Tolici has now settled in his native land where he expects to take up labor after a short period of recuperation. This missionary family returned to Madagascar in November, 1936, for a second term of service notwithstanding Mrs. Tolici's very poor health.