

QUARTERLY REVIEW

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



Faithful Stewardship

By Robert Gerber

We are all engaged in a mighty movement, and we are rapidly hastening on to its victorious climax. It is no longer an insignificant movement, almost unknown in the world. On the contrary, it has grown to be a great organization with many wheels, requiring considerable wisdom and skill to operate it successfully. It naturally calls for tremendous sums of money to carry out its program of proclaiming the message to all the world in this generation.

As I think of all the funds that flow into God's treasure house from year to year, and study the statistics reporting them, I thank the Lord for His many blessings which have made this possible, and for the faithfulness and liberality of our people. This has enabled the leadership to launch a strong forward move in recent years in direct soul-winning work. It has also made it possible to carry out many special projects; such as the erection of church buildings in many places, the strengthening of institutions, the opening of new work in a number of countries, the multiplying of mission stations, etc. Thus all these resources have been a rich blessing to the cause of God.

However, as the work is expanding more and more, it also requires continuously more funds. Greater requests come to us from the fields each year. Until now it has been possible to satisfy many of these requests with the substantial increase of the funds available. But now it looks as though we may have come to the limit in the appropriations we receive, and that we shall not be able to count on any further increases. But should this discourage

us? Shall we do less because of it? Will it become impossible to carry on the work on this account? Not at all. Let us never forget the following inspired word: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." (Zach. 4:6)

We must ever remember that it is not money that will finish God's work on earth. The mighty outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord in the Latter Rain will bring the Advent Movement to a glorious triumph. And thus, whether there be much money, or little, or none at all, let us primarily and always go forward in the power of the Spirit, trusting fully in the Lord and not in the material means available.

Notwithstanding, let us not minimize for one moment the matter of *faithfulness* on the part of our dear people in this question of stewardship. It is so very important in the life of God's children that the consequences are eternal. Take for instance the matter of the tithe, concerning which the Bible gives us very definite instruction. It states clearly that those who are withholding the tithe are robbing God (Mal. 3: 8, 9). No robber will ever enter the kingdom of God even when robbing things from *men*, and much less if he robs *God* in tithes and offerings. It is therefore a question of eternal life and death for our people and for us all. As leaders, ministers, and church officers, we have a solemn responsibility to properly instruct converts in this matter.

The tithe is as holy to the Lord as the Sabbath. Disobedience in both cases causes God's curse to rest upon the transgressor. On the other hand,

faithfulness is a source of great blessing. And if all were faithful in tithes and in offerings, there would truly be meat in God's house (Mal. 3: 10), and the Spirit of the Lord would use these consecrated and sanctified means as an efficient instrument to help finish the work.

"If professing Christians would faithfully bring to God their tithes and offerings, His treasury would be full. . . .

"He whose heart is aglow with the love of Christ will regard it as not only a duty, but a pleasure, to aid in the advancement of the highest, holiest work committed to man, — the work of presenting to the world the riches of goodness, mercy and truth. . . .

"The spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven. This spirit finds its highest manifestation in Christ's sacrifice on the cross. In our behalf, the Father gave his only begotten Son; and Christ, having given

up all that He had, then gave Himself, that man might be saved. The cross of Calvary should appeal to the benevolence of every follower of the Saviour. The principle there illustrated is to give, give. . . .

"Not until God ceases to bless His children will they cease to be under bonds to return to Him the portion that He claims. Not only should they render the Lord the portion that belongs to Him, but they should bring also to His treasury, as a gratitude-offering, a liberal tribute. With joyful hearts they should dedicate to the Creator the first-fruits of their bounties, — their choicest possessions, their best and holiest service. Thus they will gain rich blessings. God Himself will make their souls like a watered garden, whose waters fail not. And when the last great harvest is gathered in, the sheaves that they are enabled to bring to the Master will be the recompense of their unselfish use of the talents lent them." (*Acts of the Apostles*, 338-340.)

Department of Education

While we are not able to report anything spectacular in the Department of Education, we are glad that the fundamental conditions of successful work are given: good leadership and joyful co-operation. A Christian spirit of sacrifice pervades our schools. All are working together to keep within the budgets, although some very careful bookkeeping is required.

We are happy to present a very encouraging report from our Division seminary at Collonges. The most important news is that this school has been accredited with the French government authorities as a college preparing students for the state baccalaureate examinations. Of the five students who were prepared for the second baccalaureate examination (Philo), four passed successfully. In reality this represents a 100 % acceptance, as the fifth candidate was unable to go up for his examination because of an accident.

The enrollment is again about 200. A new teacher, R. Dederen from Belgium, has been added to the teaching staff. Daniel Gouel is now in charge of the college print-shop.

The school in Italy is developing normally. On my visit to this institution, I found an excellent co-operative spirit among teachers as well as students. The house for the principal has been finished, and plans are now under way to provide two additional apartments for teachers.

At the Bogenhofen seminary we have been very busy this past year creating more urgently-needed student accommodations. A building is being added to the boys' dormitory, which will provide more rooms for the boys, and two apartments. A mattress

factory has been established which will furnish work for the students. The enrollment has reached the peak of 57. F. Pieringer having resigned, Paul Steiner was chosen principal at our spring school board meeting. We wish to thank the former for his faithful services throughout the years, and to welcome the latter to his new responsibilities.

In Portugal we are conducting a Bible school in Lisbon, with 17 pupils, — the buildings of our little training school still being confiscated by the authorities.

Our Spanish intermediate school is progressing nicely. The building is being enlarged, and we hope to be able to use the new rooms shortly.

OUR CHURCH SCHOOLS IN EUROPE

Last spring a new church school was opened in the city of Zürich, Switzerland. We are happy to report that this small country has now 5 church schools. The two church schools in France and Belgium have a combined attendance of 26 pupils. The school in Lisbon has 25 pupils.

FROM THE MISSION FIELDS

The Angola Union Mission has now 4,864 pupils in its primary and secondary schools. Of this number 466 are at the Bongo institution. This large number shows the importance of our schools in foreign mission work. 597 were baptized during the past year.

In the French Cameroun we have 97 elementary schools with 3,845 pupils — 280 more than last year. Our secondary school at Nanga-Eboko reports 6 teachers and 61 pupils.

Report at Division Annual Council,

Vienna, Austria By Dr. O. Schuberth

The educational secretary of the Indian Ocean Union Mission informs us that there are 700 pupils in our city school at Ankadifotsy. While formerly most of the teachers were not members of the church, we now have 10 Adventist teachers. Our training school at Soamanandrarinny has an enrollment of 375 students. They are very crowded, and must absolutely have more class-room space and a chapel. Their present chapel accommodates only about 150 persons. Our school on Mauritius Island is also making satisfactory progress.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We must strengthen our educational work in this Division much more. The need of many more church schools is very urgent. Wherever it is impossible to establish church schools, we must organize classes in religious instruction for the children of our church members.

We invite all of our workers to help us in carrying out the program so clearly set forth by God for our children and youth.

The Challenge of the Metropolitan Masses

By G. Cuperfino

When we repeat that we have but touched with our finger-tips the problem of evangelizing the masses in the large cities, we are not expressing a sentiment of discouragement. We are simply stating a fact, and a fact that should be a mighty challenge to every worker in the cause of God.

Before launching the public evangelistic effort in the city of Milano, Italy, the workers met together for prayer and Bible study. This statement from the Spirit of prophecy arrested our attention: "It is in the cities of the nations that the gospel worker finds the greatest impenitence and the greatest need." — *Evangelism*, p. 25.

As in times of great disaster there is often a penury of doctors, nurses, and medical supplies, but the little one has is given gladly; just so, in the actual presence of the immense needs of the masses in the large cities, our workers must distribute the Bread of Life, and God will bless the "loaves and fishes". We must always remember that where there is the greatest sin, there is the greatest need of a Saviour.

The situation that we find in some of the cities in Italy, and which no doubt is similar to that in many other cities in our Division, might be summed up as follows: restricted liberty, chapels which have been reconstructed since the war, and where there are still many vacant seats to be filled; limited publicity; minimum press possibilities, for prejudice has closed many doors; young, untrained workers, but full of good-will and desirous to co-operate with their elders in an effort which will be a precious experience for them in their future work. And yet how many things can be undertaken!

The Division came to our help for a part of the initial expense of the campaign, and the audience themselves contributed generously. The evening collections covered two-thirds of the total outlay for the effort. Posters and hand-bills were carefully and economically prepared. The advertising at the entrance to the meeting-place was arranged as attractively and artistically as possible by using fluorescent paper and illuminated announcements.

The thousands of people who passed by were conscious that something was astir.

One of the great advantages in holding these public evangelistic efforts in our own halls, is that we have no rent to pay, and they afford us a certain sense of security that we would not have perhaps in rented places where we would be exposed to many risks. The greatest advantage, however, is the possibility it gives us to accustom the people to come to our own houses of worship. Then, finally, but not least in importance, it vitalizes the church itself. The members have something definite to pray and work for.

A visit to some of the city journalists who are not fanatically sectarian, was very helpful. The suspicion of the first contact gave way to friendliness, and three Milano newspapers published the announcements of our lectures. One editor, who had told us quite frankly that he was a tertiary Franciscan, and consequently "acid-proof", somewhat surprised us by publishing six of the seven announcements. This proves that much can still be done through the press.

Our hearts were cheered when on the first evening the hall was filled to its maximum capacity. The church members remained outside in order to give up their seats to the newcomers. The audience sat attentive until the very end, admiring the vision of God's marvelous universe (the lecture was illustrated with slides). The study of the hopeless world situation, and the contrasting hope of a soon-coming Saviour, were presented. Little by little the Bible truth seemed to penetrate the minds of the listeners. Appropriate music and choirs enlivened the meetings. Free summaries were offered. At the close of the effort in Milano, our Bible instructor had 300 new addresses.

It is difficult to recount in a few lines the reaction of some of the listeners. Many confessed they had never understood the good that can come from a knowledge of God through His Word and nature. After one evening meeting, a gentleman grasped my hand saying, "I am a Roman Catholic

priest, and I wish to tell you how much good these lectures have done me." Others remarked: "The next time I shall bring my whole family." One said, "I pray every day that I may die. . . . I am so unhappy! Do help me!" Truly it is only when we draw in the gospel net that we discover the many human wrecks afloat on life's stormy sea! In this beautiful work of evangelism among the metropolitan masses, we begin to understand the profound truth of this triple affirmation: "Evangelism is a necessity; evangelism is a possibility; evangelism is heavenly."

And now we have been in Trieste for a week. After the first two lectures we find the same is true here as in Milano. When we can prepare good, inexpensive publicity, adapted to the existing possibilities, our halls — even those seating 300 persons — are insufficiently large. Undoubtedly some names will disappear from the lists of addresses, but it is certain that interesting contacts have been

made, and the message will find its way to the hearts of many.

The very day we began our lectures in Trieste, another denomination began theirs, openly attacking the dominating church. — their speaker being an ex-Catholic priest. But when we consider the uproar that accompanied their endeavors, we are convinced that bitter controversial discussions are far from being the efficacious means to win souls to the truth. The walls of prejudice fall much more readily when they come into contact with the Spirit of Jesus Christ. The truth must be presented with dignity and love.

We ask the Lord to bless the seed that has been sown. We have greatly enjoyed our association with our evangelists and members. The hour is urgent. May we take up the challenge to evangelize the masses of our great cities, and may this work bring ever-increasing joy to the hearts of all those who participate in it.

A Visit to the Bongo Mission Station G. Haberey, *Division auditor*

"Is it not worth while to come to this country to help these blacks?" Doctor Moretti — the doctor to the mission station. We were talking about the at the Bongo hospital — asked me as we came up work God has accomplished among the natives, and how the power of the Gospel transforms the lives of the heathen when they come under its influence. The difference is striking between those who have accepted God's Word and those who have remained hostile to it. This is especially noticeable when they come to the hospital to be treated.

A very impressive ceremony took place on the Sabbath of the annual meeting of the Bongo Mission. 268 natives were baptized in the pond just over the hill on the mission property. The majority of these had received instruction in the baptismal classes over a period of two years before being accepted for baptism. A crowd of more than 3,000 persons were grouped on the two hillsides. The trees were full of young people who had tried to find a more advantageous look-out.

The service was remarkable for its solemnity and order. Everything went off calmly in minimum time, without haste or nervousness. Pastor Balanco presided the ceremony, and in a stirring address in *Umbundu* — the language spoken by the natives in that region — and translated into Portuguese by another colored worker, he explained the meaning and importance of Biblical baptism.

Ten native pastors and two white missionaries, A. Casaca, director of the Bongo Mission, and E. Jewell, union secretary-treasurer, took part in bap-

tizing. In turn each one of the 12 pastors repeated, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost", and then all twelve candidates were immersed at the same time — a candidate for each officiating pastor. When the last person had been baptized — and before coming out of the water — all the pastors formed a circle around their director, and lifting their hands to heaven united in a fervent prayer of thanksgiving to God for His help during the service, and for the joy they had to present Him with such a large number of souls on that beautiful Sabbath morning.

With the 268 new members, the Angola Union has reached 1,474 baptisms for 1954. They hope to reach and go beyond a membership of 8,000 at the end of the year. There were 7,262 members at the beginning of 1954; 1,212 baptisms in 1953; 1,092 in 1952, and 954 in 1951.

The work of the Adventist Movement is making continuous progress in the Angola Mission. This is due to the divine blessing, a methodical, well-planned working program, prayer, and the generosity of all of our churches. Surely it is worth while to consecrate one's life to such a task.

The Sabbath evening after this baptism, a memorial service was held commemorating the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Bongo Mission. We were sorry not to have Dr. Roy B. Parsons, medical director of the Bongo hospital, with us for this service; but he was on furlough in America. Dr. Parsons is a devoted missionary and a skilled surgeon whose reputation has reached far beyond the

frontiers of the Portuguese colony. For 21 years he has contributed in an exceptional manner to the development of this fine mission station. But we were glad that Miss R. Johnson, his devoted assistant, could be with us, and also Miss R. M. Visser who has given twenty-one years' service to the education of native women and girls.

It was during the annual assembly of the Bongo Mission, September 23-25, that I had the privilege of visiting this station. At the close of the Sabbath consecration service, 187 persons of all ages, manifested their desire to henceforth walk in the ways of the Lord, and to be instructed in the baptismal classes. In the whole union there are at present nearly 2,000 persons receiving religious instruction

in these classes. 3,016 persons at least took part in the Sabbath worship. This figure could be easily controlled by counting the straws that were handed to the deacons as the congregation left at the close.

There was only one shadow to mar the day. M. Lourinho, president of the Angola Union Mission, and who had come to Bongo to take part in the service, could not attend one meeting. A violent attack of fever kept him in bed. We were very sorry for this, but happy to report that one week later our brother is beginning to recover. This is another aspect of a missionary's life. Let us uphold them with our prayers, our brotherly love, and liberality.

The Orleansville Earthquake

By Henri Pichot

Stealthily, but like a terrifying, murderous storm, the shadow of death swept over the town of Orléansville and the surrounding villages. The devastation the morning after the earthquake (which caused the death of over 1,600 persons, left more than 5,000 injured, and some 25,000 homeless) reminded the passer-by of the description of the chaos of our world after Christ's coming. Although several weeks have passed since the tragedy, there have been continuous tremors, and distress, agony and terror are abroad. No one dares to sleep in the houses which, with few exceptions, are full of wide, gaping cracks. Immediately after the catastrophe it was necessary to reorganize one's way of living, in tents which, fortunately, the Governor-General could have brought in for the emergency.

None of our members lost their lives, and for this we are most grateful to the Lord. It is quite evident that He intervened miraculously to save a number of them. Only one brother who was living in a hotel in Orléansville, was injured. When the shock awoke him, he had the presence of mind to crouch at the head of his bed, otherwise he would have been crushed to death with the falling debris which half buried him. When he was able to extricate himself, he helped a number of persons escape from being buried alive. In this hotel the entire second floor caved in. Not one of the fifteen guests was killed. We feel that God especially protected this hotel where our brother had his room, and where Adventists had always been so kindly received.

Miss Suzanne Kiricas, who was substituting in the post-office at Pontéba, about four miles from

Orléansville, escaped death miraculously. She usually slept in the post-office where she worked; but being ill that evening, a sister living in a neighboring village insisted that she spend the night in her home. This saved her life, for at the very first tremor the post-office at Pontéba collapsed, and surely Miss Kiricas would have been killed had she slept there. This is another evidence that God watches over His children, and that their lives are precious in His sight. . . .

It is estimated that 75 % of the houses in Orléansville must be razed and reconstructed. The others, with great, open cracks, may be repaired, but with the greatest precaution. It is useless to say that those who lived through that tragic night, still bear the traces of the shadow of death on their faces.

In certain villages everything was so completely damaged that it will be necessary to reconstruct the entire village. When we consider the number of houses destroyed, we must wonder that there were not even more victims. Thus it would seem that mercy's door is still open to these rich populations, so that they may lend a more attentive ear to the voice of this last message.

Dear brethren and sisters, let us pray for those who are mourning some loved one lost in that terrible earthquake. Pray for those who are still suffering from their injuries, and for those who were spared, and who in their anguish—believing that the end of the world had come—cried, "Lord save us!" May all of these still hear the loving invitation of the Master and be saved when Jesus *does* come.

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OF S. D. A. FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1954

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	Credentialed Missionaries	Licensed Missionaries	Bible Instr.	Elem. School Teachers	Canvassers	Total Laborers	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	24	
SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV.																								
AUSTRIAN UNION CONF.																								
Danube Conference	21	1508	16	—	8	24	11	3	12	26	- 2	1506	3	1	3	4	—	—	—	11	28	21	1705	1002
Alpine »	19	1121	26	1	13	40	2	2	16	20	20	1141	7	—	1	2	4	—	7	22	19	1146	859	
Total :	40	2629	42	1	21	64	13	5	28	46	- 18	2647	16	2	5	8	9	—	21	61	40	2851	1861	
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN U. C.																								
Total :	114	6474	300	—	—	300	100	150	—	250	50	6524	33	3	2	3	19	—	8	68	160	6000	5400	
FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.																								
Belgian Conference	14	922	47	8	12	67	24	13	18	55	12	934	5	1	—	4	—	—	—	10	18	15	967	662
East France »	18	511	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	511	4	1	1	6	—	1	5	18	17	516	340	
North France »	18	1238	20	1	3	24	2	1	8	11	13	1251	10	5	1	9	2	—	20	47	18	1299	967	
Southeast France »	22	999	9	1	2	12	5	3	7	15	- 3	996	7	3	1	4	2	1	16	34	27	981	700	
Southwest France »	7	206	9	2	1	12	—	—	—	—	12	218	2	1	1	7	—	—	5	16	6	255	235	
Total :	79	3876	86	12	18	116	31	18	33	82	34	3910	35	16	5	30	4	3	50	143	83	4018	2904	
HUNGARIAN U. C.																								
Total :	155	6827	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6827	26	10	4	15	35	—	—	90	175	7000	6500	
JUGOSLAVIAN U. C.																								
Total :	230	7965	400	—	—	400	100	50	557	707	- 307	7658	28	11	2	8	22	—	—	71	300	9000	8500	
RUMANIAN U. C.																								
Total :	551	41140	2500	—	—	2500	1250	1100	—	2350	150	41290	78	11	—	47	—	—	—	136	560	40000	40000	
SWISS U. C.																								
German Swiss Conference	34	1909	14	1	18	33	6	5	28	39	- 6	1903	10	1	2	12	2	4	26	3	57	33	1781	1135
Leman »	25	1343	23	—	16	39	9	6	4	19	20	1363	10	3	1	7	1	3	12	37	24	1273	973	
Total :	59	3252	37	1	34	72	15	11	32	58	14	3266	20	4	4	21	3	7	38	97	57	3054	2108	
ANGOLA UNION MISSION																								
Benguela Mission	—	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	44	- 44	—	5	—	—	10	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	
Bongo Mission	23	3645	698	—	—	698	158	42	35	235	463	4108	8	8	—	7	—	32	—	55	108	6308	5213	
Cuale »	1	385	145	—	—	145	8	—	—	8	137	522	3	1	—	3	—	22	—	29	55	4761	3184	
Lucusse »	1	638	105	—	—	105	111	21	—	132	- 27	611	3	4	—	3	—	25	—	35	33	1284	1147	
Luz »	1	116	16	—	—	16	4	3	—	7	9	125	1	—	—	1	—	10	—	12	19	771	319	
Namba »	1	958	103	—	—	103	—	—	—	—	—	103	1061	2	—	—	—	11	—	13	32	1892	1532	
Nova Lisboa Mission	25	1493	465	106	44	615	251	24	88	363	252	1745	3	8	—	1	—	31	—	43	100	5530	4031	
Total :	52	7279	1532	106	44	1682	532	90	167	789	893	8172	25	21	—	25	—	131	—	202	347	20546	15426	
FRENCH EQ. AFR. U. M.																								
Batouri Mission	3	459	72	—	—	72	—	—	—	—	72	531	3	1	1	7	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	
Bertoua »	2	305	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	- 2	303	2	1	—	4	13	11	—	31	—	1663	768	
Kribi »	3	305	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	305	3	1	—	6	5	16	—	31	—	555	457	
Maroua »	2	281	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	281	1	2	—	14	38	33	1	89	—	815	817	
Nanga-Eboko »	6	1423	88	—	—	88	—	—	—	—	88	1511	1	—	—	2	13	2	—	18	—	4088	3531	
Sangmelima »	4	403	24	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	24	427	3	—	—	3	5	17	—	28	—	595	343	
Yaoundé »	2	90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	91	1	1	—	—	3	- 6	3	14	—	315	240	
Total :	22	3267	184	—	—	184	—	2	—	2	182	3449	15	7	1	38	99	97	5	262	125	10437	7264	

INDIAN OCEAN UN. MISSION ..	10	270	20	—	2	22	—	—	—	—	22	292	3	3	1	10	—	2	1	20
Antsirabé Mission	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	6	—	—	2	11
Diego-Suarez »	9	148	18	—	1	19	—	2	—	2	17	165	2	1	—	8	—	5	2	18
Majunga »	1	89	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	—	89	1	—	—	4	—	1	2	8
Tamatave »	25	857	7	—	1	8	—	—	9	9	-1	856	5	—	—	5	—	5	5	20
Tananarive »	18	950	5	—	4	9	—	—	6	2	8	1	951	6	—	10	—	14	1	31
Mauritius »	7	286	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	286	1	—	—	5	—	—	1	7
Reunion »	1	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	75	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Seychelles »	72	2691	50	—	8	58	—	8	21	29	29	2720	22	6	1	52	—	28	15	124
Total :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	1	14	—	—	—	26
ITALIAN UNION MISSION	11	585	20	—	3	23	10	2	4	16	7	592	2	4	—	4	1	—	28	39
Central Italian Mission	15	601	15	—	2	17	—	—	2	2	15	616	4	2	1	6	1	—	20	34
North Italian »	27	903	7	—	4	11	4	3	11	18	-7	156	—	2	1	2	—	—	6	11
South Italian »	53	2089	42	—	9	51	14	5	17	36	15	2104	20	12	3	30	4	—	68	137
Total :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	4	—	—	—	7
NORTH AFRICAN UN. MISSION	12	527	18	—	5	23	—	—	5	5	18	545	2	2	—	7	—	5	16	11
Algerian Mission	4	152	5	—	—	5	1	—	—	1	4	156	—	2	1	2	—	—	6	11
Moroccan »	3	76	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76	1	1	—	3	—	—	2	7
Tunisian »	19	755	23	—	5	28	1	—	5	6	22	777	5	5	2	16	—	—	13	41
Total :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	7	—	—	—	11
PORTUGUESE UNION MISSION	15	1303	25	4	3	32	4	7	4	15	17	1320	4	2	—	6	1	1	10	24
Portuguese Conference	1	116	11	—	—	11	4	—	—	4	7	123	1	1	—	1	—	—	3	2
Madeira Mission	3	104	10	2	1	13	—	—	—	—	13	117	1	1	—	2	—	1	1	6
Azores »	4	216	9	—	—	9	1	4	2	7	2	218	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Cape Verde »	1	223	3	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	2	225	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
St. Thomas »	24	1962	58	6	4	68	9	12	6	27	41	2003	11	5	—	16	1	5	12	50
Total :	39	3172	200	—	—	200	100	75	—	175	25	3197	9	4	—	10	—	—	23	39
BULGARIAN CONFERENCE	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	4
FRENCH W. AFR. MISSION ..	5	206	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	206	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	7
GREEK MISSION	6	470	118	—	—	118	—	—	—	—	118	588	3	2	—	4	10	2	—	21
PORTUGUESE EAST AFR. MIS.	14	949	39	—	5	44	—	2	5	7	37	986	8	4	1	8	2	1	5	29
SPANISH CHURCH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17

RECAPITULATION

SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	1	5	44	—	—	—	74
Austrian Union Conference ..	40	2629	42	1	21	64	13	5	28	46	18	2647	16	2	5	8	9	—	21	61
Czechoslovakian »	114	6474	300	—	—	300	100	150	—	250	50	6524	33	3	2	3	19	—	8	68
Franco-Belgian »	79	3876	86	12	18	116	31	18	33	82	34	3910	35	16	5	30	4	3	50	143
Hungarian »	155	6827	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6827	26	10	4	15	35	—	—	90
Jugoslavian »	230	7965	400	—	—	400	100	50	557	707	-307	7658	28	11	2	8	22	—	—	71
Rumanian »	551	41140	2500	—	—	2500	1250	1100	—	2350	150	41290	78	11	—	47	—	—	—	136
Swiss »	59	3252	37	1	34	72	15	11	32	58	14	3266	20	4	4	21	3	7	38	97
Angola » Mission	52	7279	1532	106	44	1682	532	90	167	789	893	8172	25	21	—	25	—	131	—	202
French Eq. Afr. U. M.	22	3267	184	—	—	184	—	—	2	—	2	182	3449	15	7	1	38	99	97	5
Indian Ocean Union Mission ..	72	2691	50	—	8	58	—	8	21	29	29	2720	22	6	1	52	—	28	15	124
Italian »	53	2089	42	—	9	51	14	5	17	36	15	2104	20	12	3	30	4	—	68	137
North African »	19	755	23	—	5	28	1	—	5	6	22	777	5	5	2	16	—	—	13	41
Portuguese »	24	1962	58	6	4	68	9	12	6	27	41	2003	11	5	—	16	1	5	12	50
Bulgarian Conference	39	3172	200	—	—	200	100	75	—	175	25	3197	9	4	—	10	—	—	23	39
French W. Afr. Mission	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	4
Greek Mission	5	206	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	206	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	7
Portuguese East Afr. Mission ..	6	470	118	—	—	118	—	—	—	—	118	588	3	2	—	4	10	2	—	21
Spanish Church	14	949	39	—	5	44	—	2	5	7	37	986	8	4	1	8	2	1	5	29
TOTALS 3rd QUARTER, 1954 ..	1535	95009	5611	126	148	5885	2165	1528	871	4564	1321	96330	380	125	36	378	210	274	237	1640
TOTALS 3rd QUARTER, 1953 ..	1497	90418	6214	20	196	6430	1349	568	256	2173	4257	94675	367	129	31	369	193	229	227	1545

Our Unfinished Task

W. A. WILD, *Home Missionary Department Secretary,
Southern European Division*

It is indeed a matter of thanksgiving as well as of great joy to be associated with the workers and church members in the Southern European Division. Its territory is of tremendous proportions; the Mediterranean Sea being the dividing line between the home base fields which lie north of it, and the mission fields which on its south side begin with North Africa and reach into Angola and Mozambique, and extend on to the islands of the Indian Ocean.

The many nations and people with their numerous languages and dialects within this immense stretch of country, are our great challenge. They need to know that Christ is soon coming again, and it is the duty of every worker and church member of this vast Division to preach and to teach this glorious message to the 280,000,000 souls living within its boundaries.

The heathen of Africa, especially, have a strong claim upon our sympathies and help, although there are also thousands of nominal Christians in the countries of Southern Europe who today long for a deeper Christian experience.

Nothing can be more distressing than to see human beings held in spiritual darkness, and to know that they themselves are unable to discover the light and power that can be theirs through the study of the Bible and obedience to its teachings.

It is really imperative, then, that ample provision should be made for the careful and systematic spreading of the special last days' message. Money is indeed one of the factors whereby this program can be hastened considerably, but it is not the only one necessary.

The 100,000 baptized members in the Southern European Division can and will not evade their personal responsibility in the matter. The preaching of this message to all nations and peoples of this large sector of the world is every member's business. It is certain that no true, loyal Seventh-day Adventist desires to shirk his or her share in carrying out this necessary and urgent work.

Great things have been done in the past, and we know full well that it has not been without severe self-denial and arduous labor that the far-reaching and efficiently working organization of this Division has been brought about. Its head-

quarters in Christian and non-Christian lands, its educational, medical, publishing and other institutions; its hundreds of mission stations — all these witness to the fact that much has been achieved, and it all causes us to rejoice and be thankful.

But the real life of the Seventh-day Adventist church does not depend upon such material monuments. Rather, the life of this church depends much more upon the living witness of its whole worshipping body. Evangelism, both ministerial and lay, is and must be our continuous concern.

The Christian witness of devout laymen and women in their daily contact with their non-Christian fellows still carries the greatest force and conviction. The mobilization of the entire laity in the cause of evangelism is the only solution to bring about an accelerated tempo in the great task of finishing God's work. This necessarily may mean the adoption of new strategies and of new methods of approach. We need the courage to undertake bolder experiments in this direction. In their business relations and their professional work, Seventh-day Adventist laymen and women are already right on the frontiers of conflict. But many of them who show gifts above the average should now be trained for special kinds of voluntary service in the church; such as lay preachers and lay Bible instructors. This is of fundamental importance. It can be accomplished through the holding of regional schools of lay evangelism.

Then in addition to this specialized training program, it must be the duty of the church to train its whole congregation in each place to be a missionary team, and to have a consistent missionary attitude toward its neighborhood. On the double ground of lay preaching and home visitation, there is no doubt that the Lord will add His blessing, and that as the result of such a great and efficiently organized soul-winning effort thousands will be added to God's people in Southern Europe and its mission fields.

Why should not the Church, charged to preach the Gospel to all nations, *now* make her strongest advances? Anything less must necessarily delay the conquest of the cross in this vast world of darkness and degradation, and retard the coming of our Lord.



Deeds of Heroism

M. Schwab,

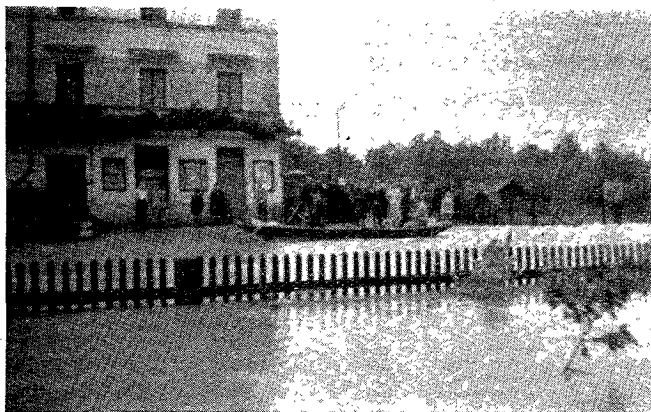
Thank God, deeds of heroism are not all in the past. We have an example in our good Brother S—, the head deacon of the Linz church. A Christian, he is always willing to help whenever anyone is in need. So naturally when the flood swept over

mulated during years of hard work, were swept away in the mad surging stream.

Knowing so many people were in danger, Brother S— could no longer remain in his home. He rushed down into the street, which had already become a canal, got a boat, and began his work of rescue. A night, a day, and still another night, he toiled on. That was *really* helping one's neighbors. He saved not only many human lives, but also animals, precious supplies of fuel, furniture, and other belongings of the flood victims. Later he said, humorously, "I was just helping my clients — those who had taken my missionary papers!"

A few days later, however, signs of overwork began to show themselves. Our brother collapsed, and lay in his bed at the point of death with jaundice. The doctor's diagnosis was: infection, poisoning from overwork and from standing too long in rubber boots.

We pray God to restore our dear brother, that his example of unselfish heroism may long be an inspiration among us.



House of the heroic brother

certain sections of the town in July of this year, our brother did not stand aloof.

Night fell, — the time of rest for weary toilers, — but many of the inhabitants of Linz dared not close their eyes. They were haunted by the vision of the frantic waters of the Danube that had long since overflowed its banks. The dirty, brown tide rose higher and higher in the streets of the adjacent suburbs, flooding cellars and yards. And with the swift rising current, the anguish and terror in the hearts of the people arose also. The water came rushing in around our brother's house, and close by hundreds of other houses were already partially submerged. Cries for help from those in danger rang out on the night air. Man and beast were in danger of death. Possessions that had been accu-



Flooded area Linz on the Danube

Tent Effort Tour-de-Peilz, Switzerland

Charles Cornaz

In harmony with a resolution adopted by the assembly at the time of the annual meeting of the Léman Conference, the committee decided to undertake a tent effort. The necessary material was advantageously rented, and ground was found on which to pitch the tent — and this right in the heart of the French Swiss Riviera — at Tour-de-Peilz.

The evangelistic team (W. Ruf, Flora Meisser, Mrs. Cornaz and myself) set to work courageously and enthusiastically. Nothing was forgotten: moving picture films, slides with scripture texts, colored slides, choir numbers by the Clarens church, solos

and music.

The general theme for this effort was God's Great Plan, and it seemed to awaken a real interest. Even the bad weather did not prevent a good attendance. The two pastors of the parish honored us with their presence. The press kindly published the releases we gave them.

One evening, while we were speaking on the signs of Christ's return, a storm broke over our heads in terrific fury. One could have thought that the end of the world was right upon us. These meetings were held every evening with the exception

of Fridays, for three weeks. The audience, 80 in number at the beginning, increased to 135 for the last two lectures. We were privileged to have many personal interviews with a number of persons, and some of them gave their hearts to God.

We noticed that one woman, a mother of five children, would never miss a meeting. Then later her husband accompanied her. One evening, after a personal conversation with Mrs. Cornaz, they made their decision and the victory was won. Here were souls freed from the slavery of sin — saved by the grace of God. Away with past grudges and offenses! Away with tobacco, drink, worldly pleasures! A new life had begun. Jesus had taken over.

A sister who had been a church member for

many years, wrote us: "It was in that tent that I was really converted. Now I understand the true meaning of the words '*Ye are saved by grace!*'"

Mrs. Cornaz held special children's classes during the afternoons. The attendance of 45 at the beginning reached 130 before the effort closed. Every day the children would learn a new Bible text by heart. At the closing meeting, before a vast audience, seven of these little girls could repeat all the texts of the series. They received prizes, as did those who had never missed a class.

W. Ruf will continue to keep in touch with the interested persons. They are now meeting for further instruction in a good hall. May God watch over this sown seed, and may it bring forth eternal fruitage.

Baptisms — Oran, North Africa

By Roland Exposito

Sabbath, July 31, was a day of great rejoicing for the Oran church. It was the second time within a period of six months that we had the joy of celebrating a baptismal ceremony. The recently-renovated meeting-hall proved too small for the occasion. In spite of the fact that we had rented fifty extra chairs, the 230 persons present could not be seated. Beautiful flowers, generously donated by Brother Zangger of Mostaganem, added a festal note to the whole decorative picture.

Ten new converts had decided to unite with "the little flock" so dear to the heart of Jesus, and for whom He will soon come again to take home to the eternal mansions.

H. Pichot, president of the North African Union

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Elder R. Bähler who passed away on Sunday, September 12 at Villeret, Switzerland. Brother Bähler accepted the truth in Zürich in 1905, and later took ministerial training at the Friedensau school in Germany. He worked faithfully and successfully in Belgium, Germany, and since 1923 in Switzerland his homeland. Brother Bähler was president of the German-Swiss Conference for a number of years. He retired from active work in 1950, but continued to serve a number of churches until his death. He laid down the armour with the faith and resignation of a valiant warrior, after having suffered from a long, painful illness. To his bereaved widow, his children, and other members of his family, we extend our deepest Christian sympathy.

Mission, was with us for this joyous event. In his sermon he emphasized the importance of the new birth, and of Jesus Christ our only hope of salvation.

The youth took an active part in the service, with their melodious, well-chosen choir numbers — veritable sermons in song which deeply moved the hearts of the listeners.

The candidates were baptized by Brother Pichot. What a thrilling moment, this crowning of many months of devoted endeavor, fears, battles, prayers, and, finally, victory! when God's workers receive the reward of seeing souls leave the ranks of the enemy to take their stand by the side of Prince Emmanuel! Sister Rovira, our devoted Bible instructor, was unspeakably happy, and I could share her feelings.

Having entrusted our new members to the tender watchcare of our all-powerful Heavenly Father, Brother Pichot appealed to the congregation to accept Christ. Twenty persons responded to this appeal.

At the close of the afternoon Lord's Supper, a number of our brethren and sisters testified publicly as to what had brought them to accept this message. How touching were these simple, fervent testimonies! The converting power of God is still being manifested today in the hearts of those who are willing to be guided by His Spirit. Among the newly-baptized was a sister who had been an ardent partisan of a certain political party. She told how before her conversion she would even have fought for what she believed to be the truth; so much so that at the head of a mob, and with a flag in her hand, she had courageously led them on to hold up a train. Today she is happy to have found Jesus, the only One Who can satisfy the hungering, thirsting soul in its search for justice. This sister is now ex-

pending her strength and ardor in working for lost souls. She has already gathered several families in her home to talk to them about her Saviour. Her cousin — a mother of eight children — was also baptized on that same Sabbath morning. She testified how amidst the vicissitudes and cares of life she had found Jesus, the Elder Brother of all those who suffer and long for better days.

The hour to separate came all too soon, and it was with deep regret that we left this place of worship which has been the scene of so many precious hours, and of eternal decisions. But it was also with deep thankfulness to our Heavenly Father, for our hearts were overflowing with that joy which the world cannot know, and which cannot be bought with silver or gold. Truly we could exclaim with the Psalmist, "A day in Thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."



Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve fine, full-grown months, see that they are thoroughly free from all old memories of bitterness, rancor, hate, and jealousy; cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past — have them as fresh and clean as when they first came from the great store-house of Time.

Cut each month into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. This batch will keep for just one year. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot in this way), but prepare one day at a time, as follows:

Into each day put twelve parts of faith, eleven of patience, ten of courage, nine of work (some people omit this ingredient, and so spoil the flavor of the rest), eight of hope, seven of fidelity, six of liberality, five of kindness, four of rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad — don't do it), three of prayer, two of meditation, and one of well-selected resolution. If you have no conscientious scruples, put in about a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Pour into the whole, love *ad libitum*, and mix with a vim. Cook thoroughly in a fervent heat; garnish with a few smiles and a sprig of joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness, and a Happy New Year is a certainty.

— H. M. S.

Calendar Reform — An Urgent Appeal

The Religious Liberty Department has never addressed a direct, general appeal to our brethren and sisters for their collaboration, and yet these same brethren and sisters have always shown a ready response whenever we have needed their help in some special campaign. But now a most urgent task awaits us, and it demands the co-operation of everyone who is willing to help. It is the task of combatting the proposed Calendar Reform.

Last July, in the city of Geneva, Switzerland, the United Nations Organization studied the possibility of substituting a "world calendar" for our Gregorian calendar. This "world calendar" is conceived in such a way that the Lord's holy Sabbath would fall on a different day of the week every year. This would bring most of our brethren face to face with insurmountable difficulties. They would be obliged to choose between abandoning their religious principles or their means of livelihood.

The Economic and Social Council has decided to ask all the governments in the world to send in their views concerning the proposed Calendar Reform before March 1, 1955. In order to influence the statesmen who will have to make this decision, we must compile a document clearly setting forth that public opinion is either indifferent or hostile to the change in the calendar.

For this document we should like to receive short declarations by manufacturers, business men, working men and women, political men, doctors, and lawyers, stating that the present Gregorian calendar is perfectly adapted to the needs of commerce, industry and civilian life, and that to adopt another calendar would only result in disorder and confusion.

The brethren and sisters who are willing to solicit in their vicinity such declarations, are urgently requested to write to the Religious Liberty Department, addressing their letters to Dr. J. Nussbaum, 49 Avenue de la Grande Armée, Paris 16^e, France; who will send them all the necessary documentation to undertake an efficient campaign.

Who will arise and combat with the Lord, as did Gideon's 300 men, and deliver God's people?
Dr. J. Nussbaum, *Paris*.

SOUTHERN EUROPEAN
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M. Friedlin Editor
. Editorial Secretary

Here and There

During the past summer four of our faithful missionaries of the French Equatorial African Union Mission spent their furlough in the homeland with their families. These are: **A. Cosendai**, president of this union; **I. Curmatreanu**, president of the Sangmelina Mission; **S. Meyer**, president of the Cameroun seminary; and **F. Hügli** of the industrial department. **R. Erdmann**, who is in charge of the French West African Mission, also spent his furlough in Europe this summer with his family.

All of these missionaries returned to their stations during the last quarter of 1954. It has been a pleasure to have them with us, and they have given valuable help in a number of our annual meetings. As they take up their work again with renewed courage, we wish them another happy term of service.

☆

It was our privilege to have **Dr. T. R. Flaiz**, secretary of the Medical Department of the General Conference, with us for a few days during the month of November, on his way to Southern Asia. Dr. Flaiz gave us some valuable counsel concerning our medical work, and especially the Gland sanitarium.

☆

A new radio broadcast in the Portuguese language is now going over the air from Radio Africa-Mahreb. This can be heard every Sunday at 10:15 p. m. This Portuguese program is the same as those which are being heard in the Portuguese-speaking countries of South America.

☆

Dr. D. Walther, who was appointed radio secretary of the Southern European Division during the General Conference session in San Francisco, has declined this call for personal reasons. **M. Fridlin**, who had already served in this capacity for a number of years, has been asked to take care of the Radio Department once more.

Miss Hortense Fehr, for many years laboratory technician at the Gland sanitarium, has left this institution to connect with the New England sanitarium at Melrose, Massachusetts. We wish to thank Miss Fehr for her faithful and efficient services at our medical institution in Switzerland, and we hope that after a brief stay in the United States, she will return to continue medical work in Southern Europe.

☆

Miss Lydie Girard, daughter of P. Girard president of the Indian Ocean Union Mission, and who finished her studies at the Collonges seminary after having passed her French baccalaureate degrees successfully, has accepted a call to serve as a teacher in one of our schools in Madagascar. Miss Girard arrived in her field of labor during the month of August, and we are glad that she could join in mission work with her parents.

☆

The Austrian Union had the privilege of dedicating two new chapels during the month of October. On October 16 a neat hall, with a seating capacity of about 250 was opened for church services and evangelistic meetings at **Villach** in the southern part of Austria near the Yugoslavian border. The following Sabbath the new hall in **Salzburg**, where the offices of the Alpine Conference are also located, was dedicated to the Lord. This is a very fine hall, with a gallery, and a seating capacity of 450. **H. Schnötzing** has already commenced public evangelistic meetings in this hall. **R. Gerber**, treasurer of the Division, presided the dedicatory service at Villach, and **M. Fridlin**, Division secretary, was in charge of the service at Salzburg.

☆

A. Henriot, president of the East France Conference, has been appointed secretary-treasurer of the

Franco-Belgian Union in replacement of **H. Roeland** who is now the secretary-treasurer of the Belgian Conference. **Karl Sturzenegger**, former president of the German Swiss Conference and at present pastor of the Berne church, has accepted the call from the Franco-Belgian Union to replace **A. Henriot** as president of the East France Conference. Brother Sturzenegger will take up his new work early in 1955.

☆

Mrs. Anny Herzog-Tissot, who has given valuable help in various capacities in the Division office for eight years, left our headquarters on December 15 to make her home in Olten, Switzerland, where her husband, **Dr. H. Herzog** will take up his dental practice. Mrs. Herzog's efficient and faithful services have been greatly appreciated, and our charming receptionist will long be remembered not only by the Division staff, but also by the many visitors who have called at Höhweg 17.

☆

G. Haberey, Division auditor, has just safely returned from an extended trip in Africa and the Indian Ocean, where he has been auditing the accounts of the different union and local mission fields.

G. Cupertino, Division press secretary and assistant Ministerial Association secretary, has spent the last two months in Italy assisting in evangelistic efforts in Milano and Trieste. Articles by these two brethren appear in this number of the QUARTERLY REVIEW.

May the New Year
bring a great measure of
the Lord's blessings and
happiness to each reader
of the
QUARTERLY REVIEW.