



# QUARTERLY REVIEW

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

Vol. XXVI

December 1959

Number 4

## A New Church in the Equatorial Forest of the Cameroun

By *M. Fridlin*



*The Church in Sangmelima, Cameroun*

During the last visit I made to the Equatorial African Union Mission together with Brethren B. J. Kohler, the treasurer of the Southern European Division, and A. Cosendai, president of the Equatorial African Union Mission, we spent one weekend at a small town by the name of Sangmelima, which is about 180 km from Yaounde, the capital of Equatorial Africa. Three kilometers outside Sangmelima we have a mission station called Avebe, where we attended the dedication services of a new chapel on the Sabbath of April 25, 1959.

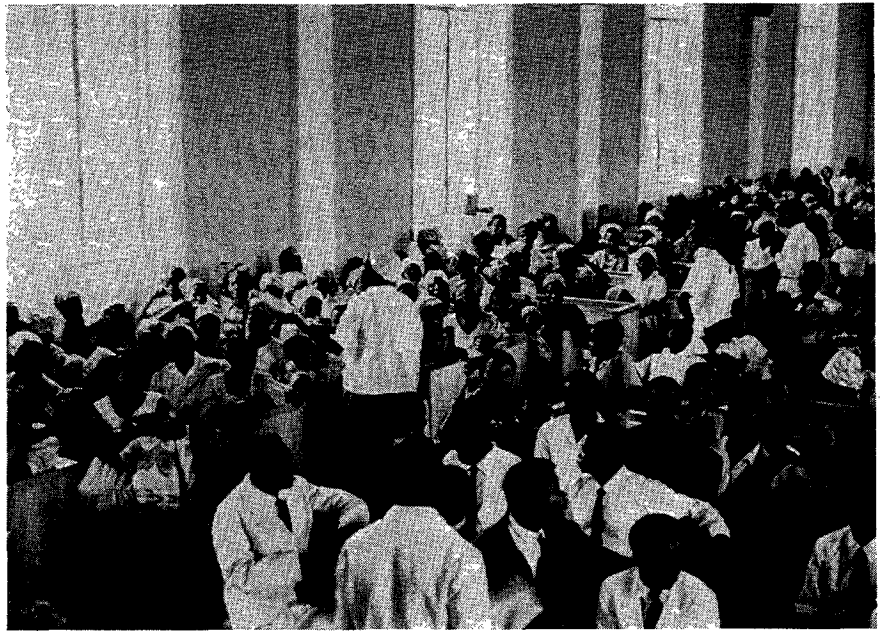
The mission station of Avebe had its beginnings during the last war, about 20 years ago, but only temporary buildings were erected then because of lack of funds. These buildings were soon attacked by termites and had to be renewed. The same thing happened to the chapel where

a torch at one time was left by mischievous hands which caused the whole flimsily built building to be destroyed in a moment.

We reached the mission station just about one hour before the beginning of Sabbath, and how happy we were to see a lovely well-built chapel instead of the old primitive one with the grass roof. The foundation of the church was laid by Brother I. Curmatureauu some years ago, but the construction had to be stopped as there was no more money on hand. It was Brother M. Radancevic who had the great pleasure of finishing the work, and we must congratulate him on the beautiful building which is the result of much hard work and sacrifice. The plans were made by Brother A. Cosendai, the Union president, and Brother Radancevic. This new house of God now stands in the equatorial forest in the midst of 100,000 friendly natives of the Bulu tribe. At the same station we have today nice school buildings in which about 250 pupils are being trained.

How wonderful it was once more to welcome the Sabbath in the forests of Southern Cameroun. The impression gained by this enormous highland covered with mysterious, impenetrable forests with the inexpressibly rich vegetation, is almost overwhelming. As far as the eye can see one discerns only mountain after mountain and hill upon hill. As the sun descended coloring the sky with different hues of pink, there came immediately out of the forest the buzzings and hummings from thousands of insects, interrupted only by the song and warbling of strange birds. After the sun had set we started the Sabbath with a service, and the chapel, which seats 700 persons, was full to the last row.

On Sabbath morning at 8 o'clock small groups of Africans had already arrived: men and women dressed in their best clothes were standing outside the chapel waiting to get in. Several of them had walked 30, 40, and even 60 km in order to be present. It was my privilege to give the consecration service as well as the dedication prayer on that beautiful Sabbath morning. In the afternoon both Brethren B. J. Kohler and A. Cosendai spoke from the Word of God, and all day the chapel was ab-



*Sabbath School in the new Church*

solutely filled to the walls. Besides the members of the church many visitors had arrived, among whom were some representatives from the government as well as some chiefs from the village itself and the neighboring ones. Many people of other faiths, and also heathens, had come to share the happiness of our members, and some had even brought food with them, which they shared with those who had come from distant places.

The solemnity was soul-stirring, and the occasion was made even more moving and impressive when a baptism took place in the river which flows at the edge of our compound. Among the baptismal candidates were the parents of one of our ordained African workers. This man had become acquainted with the Advent Hope some twenty-two years ago, and since that time he had been praying continuously for his parents who did not seem to be at all interested in the Message. His prayers had now been answered, and with tears of joy in his eyes he watched the simple,

but beautiful baptismal ceremony.

The day after the dedication services we had a workers' meeting with the African brethren. The work in Southern Cameroun is not easy. Since the end of the last century different Christian denominations have been working in Equatorial Africa, but here, as in many places in Europe, souls must be won one by one. However, the work at the mission station of Avebe has been richly blessed, and we have today 483 baptized members and 1150 Sabbath school members here. During the year 1958 sixty-eight souls were won, and it almost looks as if that number will be surpassed this year.

Our deepfelt gratitude for this new house of God rose up to heaven, and our voices were raised honoring God by many beautiful Advent hymns. The missionary and his faithful African helpers can in this new church present our wonderful Message of a soon-coming Saviour, and thus it can be spread to the innumerable villages in the immense forests of Equatorial Africa.

## From Far-Away Mauritius By W. A. Wild

The Southern European Division's most distant mission field is the island of Mauritius, 550 miles east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. This British crown colony of 720 square miles, with its 600,000 people, chiefly Hindus, was formerly known as Ile de France. Although English is the official language, French is yet widely used, and in order to carry on the gospel work on the island it is essential that the missionaries know and speak the French language.

It was the privilege of the writer to attend the annual session of the Mauritius Mission early this year and to get acquainted with its workers and members in the blessed hope. Dr. Henri Evard, a missionary from Switzerland, is both mission director and president of the Phoenix Adventist School. There are fourteen organized churches scattered over the island, and the membership of the mission now stands at 1,200.

A modern, spacious church building, seating about 500, has been erected recently in Port Louis, the capital. This city of 80,000 people, built in the 18th century by Mahe de Labourdonnais, the greatest of French governors, is a very curious but picturesque and cosmopolitan town. The new church, we feel, is destined to be the center of evangelization for Europeans, Chinese and Hindus.

The Advent Message was first brought to Mauritius in 1914, and has grown continually since that time. The group of sixteen workers is a loyal and busy band, and it was a great inspiration to listen to their reports and to help them lay plans for the future of God's work. One of the big unsolved problems is to find a way to win more of the 80% Hindu population. Many of their temples can be seen across the island, where periodically the fire walkers make their way over blazing charcoal beds, trying in this way to find sanctification and salvation.

The Phoenix Adventist School with an excellent teaching staff under the able direction of its president, Dr. Evard, is doing much to promote the principles of Christian education among its 360 students. Many of them subsequently carry the ideas of

Christian living into their homes throughout the island, and while the results of the influence of Seventh-day Adventist teaching cannot be measured immediately in number of souls baptized, yet it is more often manifest in the goodwill shown toward the school and its staff by a host of friends thus gained.

The work of God is going forward among the people of Mauritius, the beautiful island where stags can be seen grazing in the woods while monkeys cross the roads every hundred yards; where the beaches of fine sand are bathed by the turquoise blue waters of the sea, and where missionary work can be done under an almost perpetually bright and sunny sky.

### Visitors to S.E.D.

During the summer months many visitors have honored us here in the Southern European Division by calling in at the office. Missionaries on furlough come to talk with the brethren here, and overseas visitors want to see the headquarters of this Division. From America we were happy to have three distinguished representatives from the General Conference among us. They did not come to visit but to work, and spent considerable time in different countries of our field.

Elder E. L. Minchin from the M. V. Department spent almost two months holding youth campaigns in the capitals of several European countries, and a report of his successful work appears on pp. 4-5 of this number. Elder W. A. Higgins from the Publishing Department also spent some weeks on continental Europe participating in book evangelist institutes, and Elder Walter Schubert of the Ministerial Association is still working successfully in Turin and Milan, Italy, conducting public efforts in these interesting, but difficult cities. Reports from these two last activities will appear in the next numbers of the *Quarterly Review*.

### Mission News

\* **Mozambique Mission.** This Mission has just ended a very successful camp meeting season. In the Munguluni district alone eleven camp meetings were

held with a total attendance of 5515, and thus spiritual uplift and refreshment were enjoyed here by a larger number than ever before. The largest camp meeting was held at the Munguluni Mission Station with an attendance of 1650. Here altogether 53 churches and groups were represented, and 400 souls were baptized, which is 60% more than the previous year. The largest single baptism was held at Mangassanja, where 109 souls were baptized and taken into fellowship. The camp meeting offerings amounted to about 40% over those of last year. During this same camp meeting season 1000 medical treatments and 368 injections were administered.

\* **Sénégal.** On November 2, 1959, a new grade school was opened in Dakar, French West Africa, and 135 students were enrolled, all of whom were able to pay their school fees. There are three classes taught by African teachers, and there seem to be bright prospects that three more classes may soon be added. This new enterprise is being directed by Brother Robert Erdmann, the director of the French African Mission, and it is hoped that this Christian Education Program will be a powerful tool in reaching the Mohammedan population of the city. Recently Brother Erdmann also had the great joy of baptizing the first European in this part of Africa.

\* **Nova Lisboa, Portuguese West Africa.** It is only a year ago that the first Bible Correspondence School was organized in Angola, and at the same time arrangements were made to release the Voice of Prophecy program over three radio stations. Now, one year later, we have received the news that the first student of this Bible Correspondence School has been baptized, and one more radio station has taken on our program.

\* **Equatorial Africa.** Heinrich Walder and family, formerly of the Swiss Union, are leaving in January, 1960, for Equatorial Africa, where Brother Walder will be in charge of the Sangmelima Mission, Cameroun. During the first part of January, 1960, Miss Bluette Rossier is also leaving Switzerland to connect with the medical work in Northern Cameroun as nurse at Dogba Mission.

\* **Israel.** Elder Henri Jaquenod and family are leaving from Venice on January 7, 1960, to go to Israel where Elder Jaquenod will take up his duties as president of the Israel Mission.

---

SOUTHERN EUROPEAN QUARTERLY REVIEW  
Organ of the Southern European Division of Seventh-day  
Adventists published every quarter

Address of Editor (to whom all manuscripts should be sent): Hüheweg 17, Berne, Switzerland.

W. A. Wild ..... Editor  
Mrs. B. J. Kohler Editorial Secretary

# Youth Aflame for God

By Paul Steiner



*E. L. Minchin*

whole program for the junior and senior activities was studied to make it more efficient in saving and training our youth for the mighty work God wants them to do in these last days.

Then came the thrilling days of campaigns in Austria, Belgium, France, Italy and Switzerland. With the exception of Zurich and Geneva no halls had been rented, and the services were held in our own churches or school buildings. Thus the church-centered character of these campaigns was clearly stressed according to the wishes of Elder Minchin. Although the societies and the youth leaders had not had much time to prepare for these weeks of youth evangelism, they had done a fine work. Thousands of folders had been printed and distributed by our young people; friendship teams had invited scores of their comrades, who were not yet baptized or who had left the church, as well as other friends and strangers. The workers and other members of the churches co-operated wonderfully, and each day they came together for special prayer seasons.

At every place people came by the hundreds. When they heard God's servant unfolding the living treasures of God's Word their number increased each night, and during the week-ends the halls were packed to capacity, and we were especially happy to see that about half of them were young people.

In the seventy-one meetings held during these six weeks about 4000 to 5000 must have heard the message of the saving power of Christ. Most of them had attended all the services which generally lasted a whole week, even though many came from far distant places: parents and children, old and young, baptized and unbaptized. The whole church and hundreds of non-Adventists experienced a revival the like of which has rarely been seen before, and it

"There is no other class that can do as much good as young men and young women who are consecrated to God" (IT p. 511). Already when the first volume of the *Testimonies* was written in the year 1867 this inspired message was brought to the church. The modest but momentous beginnings of this movement had already proved the value of consecrated youth. Twenty-four years later Mrs. White wrote: "The church is languishing for the help of young men who will bear a courageous testimony, who will with their ardent zeal stir up the sluggish energies of God's people, and so increase the power of the church in the world" (*Review and Herald*, June 16, 1891, also *Messages to Young People*, p. 25). Is this not even more true today?

Building on these stirring messages and responding to an urgent need to give new zeal and spiritual impetus to our Youth Societies, the M. V. Department had, together with the Committee of the Southern European Division, already in 1958 planned a council of the M. V. secretaries

from the European fields which should be followed by evangelistic campaigns in some of the great cities.

The months of September and October, 1959, had been set aside for these activities, and these two months brought unforgettable experiences to the youth secretaries as well as to thousands of young people and church members. God's special instrument was Elder E. L. Minchin, a godly revivalist and representative of the M. V. Department of the General Conference, who had been invited for this special purpose.

The council was held in Valbella, where the M. V. secretaries from Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Madagascar, North Africa, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland came together for a few days. In a Swiss chalet, 5000 feet up in the Alps, they learned from Elder Minchin some of the secrets of successful youth leadership. In great earnestness they all reconsecrated themselves and offered their lives to a more Christlike, soul-winning ministry. New methods in youth evangelism were approved, and the

was not a revival with excitement and undue emotional display, but the gentle presence of the Holy Spirit was clearly felt by all as the wholesome doctrine of Christ was presented. This brought about a sincere heart-searching, confession of sins, true reconciliation with God and man and a sincere desire to become the kind of Christian God wants us to be; but most important of all, it worked a beautiful response from the youth who wanted to serve the Lord.

The climax of these several weeks was always the last meeting with the testimonies given by the young people. This proved to be the most powerful agent in evangelism. About one hundred and fifty young people came forward in Vienna, Paris, Florence, Zurich, Collonges and Geneva, claiming with great sincerity the Saviour's strength and grace to overcome sin and witness for Him. Very impressive were the clear, spontaneous confessions of faith in the Advent Message by many of our Missionary Volunteers. Even children 12, 13 and 14 years of age testified of their love for Jesus. Many members, who had not been attending church for years, publicly said that these meetings had brought them back into the fold, and more than 200 fine young men and women answered the specific call for service in God's work. These spirit-filled, youthful testimonies, sometimes uttered with trembling lips, but always in great earnestness, brought faith and strength to thousands of our own people and their friends. They not only gave evidence of personal surrender, but also brought victories to those who had resisted to the last moment. The children and young people literally stirred up the whole church.

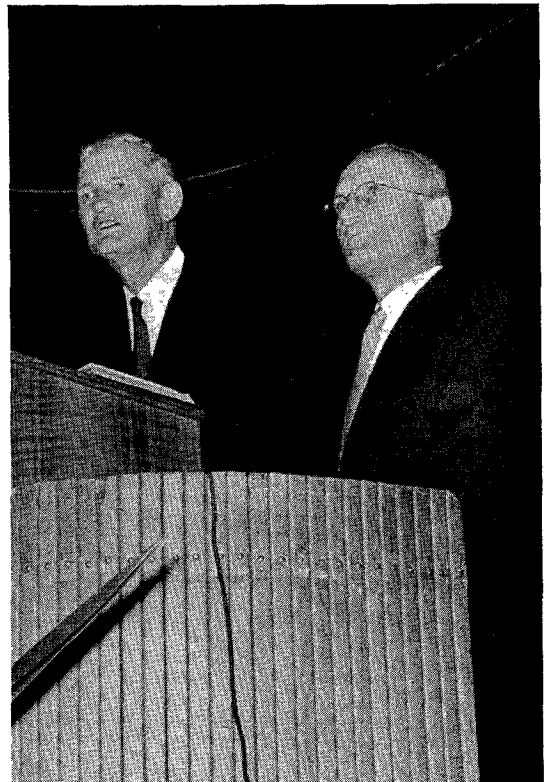
In Florence a lift-boy, who had never heard of the Advent Hope before, and who came to our church for the first time, testified to the irresistible power he felt from the very first moment he stepped into the building. In Vienna a Hungarian student at the University of Vienna said that his mother had been an Adventist, but that he himself had not lived after her faith for many years. He also confessed that he had never had the courage to come into the church building during his three

years' stay in Vienna until he saw the poster outside "A Call to Youth". When he entered he felt the Spirit of God and said that he had decided to become a true disciple of Christ. He had already started sharing his faith by bringing a friend from the university along with him. In another city a college teacher confessed that he at first resisted the call, but in the end he could not help himself, but came forward to confess his faith in Christ, saying furthermore, that if he were called he would gladly enter denominational work. In Zurich a Rumanian refugee spoke about the wonderful way Christ had led him. When the audience heard from a Bible worker that he had had to borrow clothes from his brother, who was in military service, in order to come to the meetings, hundreds of Swiss francs were spontaneously offered to him in order that he might buy the necessary clothing.

Nobody can tell exactly the final results of these revival weeks, but they have again proved that meetings, with the youth witnessing for Christ, are one of the most effective means of evangelism. About 150

young people from our churches and non-Adventist families have signed the decision cards to prepare for baptism, 46 in Paris and 48 in Collonges alone. That is an exceptionally high percentage, even compared with youth congresses. To God alone is the glory because it was evident that these decisions were wrought by the Spirit of the Lord through a servant who, like Paul, admonished with tears (Acts 20:21), helped by a church in prayer.

The time has come now when the Missionary Volunteers, seniors and juniors, must rise and bear testimonies of their faith both in the church as well as in the world. Let us pray that these hundreds of boys and girls, young men and young women, who have dedicated their lives to soul-winning service, will not fail in these days when the youth so desperately needs Christ and His saving power. And as a church let us have faith in them and use their youthful vigor and zeal to hasten the return of the Lord. There is no limit to the good they may do, if Christ is their strength and God's Word the rule of their lives.



*E. L. Minchin - P. Steiner*





The SABBATH SCHOOL WORKER contains a wealth of helpful suggestions on the various phases of Sabbath school work. Its many practical suggestions for superintendents and division leaders, together with teaching aids for all classes, from the cradle roll to the adult division, make the SABBATH SCHOOL WORKER an invaluable tool for all who are endeavoring to build successful and progressive Sabbath schools.



R. R. Figuhr, *President  
General Conference*

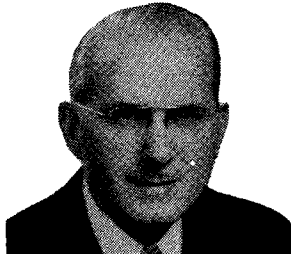
The SABBATH SCHOOL WORKER, with its helps for teachers and leaders in every division of the Sabbath school, and with its timely messages from world Sabbath school leaders, is an invaluable aid to every officer and teacher in their soul-winning activities through the Sabbath school.

G. R. Nash, *Secretary  
General Conference  
Sabbath School Department*



THE SABBATH  
SCHOOL

# Worker



L. R. Mansell, *Pastor  
Takoma Park Church*

The WORKER is virtually an entire Sabbath school workshop in miniature! With its wealth of unexcelled source data and promotional material, plus the well-planned lesson helps for every age level, this journal is a MUST for busy pastors, teachers, and laymen alike. I always keep my WORKER within easy reach!

It is a pleasure to recommend to Seventh-day Adventists everywhere the excellent, timely helps appearing month by month in the SABBATH SCHOOL WORKER. Edited with simplicity yet depth, it brings help to Sabbath school teachers and superintendents everywhere.

R. G. Campbell, *Manager  
Periodical Department  
Review and Herald Publishing Association*



..... Church Missionary Secretary or

Name .....

..... Book and Bible House

Address .....

Please enter subscriptions to SABBATH SCHOOL WORKER as checked below:

- One year \$2.90
- In combination with one or more other magazines purchased by same person at one time, per year \$2.50
- Three or more copies to same name and address, one year, each \$1.95

Name .....

Address .....

Enclosed find \$.....

**ORDER FROM YOUR BOOK AND BIBLE HOUSE  
REVIEW AND HERALD PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON 12, D.C.**