



# QUARTERLY REVIEW

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## The Cyclone on the Island of Mauritius

By *L. Belloy*

"What is your impression of the pearl of the Indian Ocean?" This is a question which has been put to me several times since my return from my recent visit there.

The island of Mauritius with the luxurious vegetation, the glowing colors, the flowers and gardens certainly merits the name of "pearl"; but when the cyclone struck, this beautiful Garden of Eden was quickly and savagely transformed into a gloomy battlefield, a scene of indescribable desolation. Nothing seemed to escape its violent fury: The strongest buildings were roughly treated; the telegraph poles of reinforced concrete were laid low like reeds caressed by the wind; the crop of sugar cane, the main resource of the island, was half destroyed; the most beautiful trees, the banyan trees known under the name of "multiplying", laid strewn by the hundreds on the ground; the twisted girders hung grotesquely on the stripped trees, which looked like they had been licked by the flames. Entire housetops, formless sheets of iron, the remains of glass, bricks and plaster, pieces of trees crowded the streets and fields. The wonderful Pamplemousse Garden, the pride of the Mauritians, is closed to the public, and of its past splendor only ruin and desolation is left.

Two great structures, which had been standing at the shore of the ocean, had now been swallowed up without leaving any traces except a few mutilated bricks.

The beach, formerly so pleasantly shaded by filaos and palm trees, was now nothing but a burning desert where immense tree trunks like vanquished giants were lying in the midst of heaps of objects thrown back by the sea.

In a radio speech which I heard in Reunion the ravages worked by the cyclone on the churches of the island was mentioned. Of the sixty-five Catholic churches on the island only fifteen remained intact as compared with the fifty which had been completely or partly destroyed; and they were not poorly built either, but strong constructions of stone and concrete.

Three of our small chapels have literally been swept away, and only with difficulty is it possible to find the

site where they used to stand. Our beautiful church de l'Eau Coulée has lost the roof, and the walls have almost been demolished.

Eighty of our church members can be numbered among those who suffered losses. I saw one of our sisters weeping bitterly because the cyclone had left her nothing, not even the dress which she had made three months previously to wear at the coming camp meeting, and her sorrow over the loss of all the material possessions seemed less than the fact that she now was prevented from assisting in the annual meeting which means so much to our brothers and sisters on Mauritius. But thanks to the gifts from the General Conference, the Division and several other parts of the world, Brother Evard, the director of the Mauritius Mission, was able to bring material help to the unhappy victims of the dreadful catastrophe.

Eighty thousand houses were destroyed as the tragic result of the



*Destroyed Presbyterian Church. Opposite Phoenix School*

calamity which came so swiftly over this beautiful island, but because of the indomitable courage of the inhabitants it is now slowly rising out of the ruins again. If we reckon that three persons on an average live under one roof, it would mean that 240,000 of the 600,000 inhabitants of the island are homeless.

As by a miracle our school at Phoenix escaped disaster, although the Presbyterian church just opposite was completely destroyed. Not a lesser miracle is the fact that the number of students, which is 460, has not diminished although many of the parents were among the victims, and

thus have to make a special sacrifice to pay the school fees, although the children could attend the public school absolutely free of charge.

Like sailors on a ship in distress Brother and Sister Evard struggled a whole night against a gale, which blew more than 200 km an hour, to watch the smallest crack in the house by which the wind could enter and blow it over like a piece of straw wafted by merciless wings.

The instability and fragility of material things was again demonstrated in a striking way by the furor of the unleashed elements, and as a result the people seemed more dis-

posed to listen to the Word of God. Every evening more than one thousand persons were present at our meetings. The moment seemed appropriate to bring comfort and hope of a soon coming Saviour to the people of this island so recently crushed by disaster.

We feel sure that the loving care and understanding which our members showed towards the suffering of their fellow beings will help them in their efforts to spread the gospel on the island of Mauritius, and bring the people nearer the path which leads to salvation.

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## REMEMBER

### *Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow of June 25 For Our Division*

Our turn has come again to be benefited by the overflow of the 13th Sabbath offering, and we greatly appreciate this privilege. On previous occasions great blessings were received, and it was possible to carry out important projects, especially in Africa. We are hopeful that we may again receive substantial help through the coming 13th Sabbath offering, June 25, 1960. Very urgent projects were selected, which only can materialize through a generous offering from the world Sabbath school membership.

Let me state again the projects under consideration: An evangelistic center in the city of Novi Sad, Yugoslavia; an evangelistic center in Lourenço Marques, the capital of Mozambique; a new mission home and a water supply for the Munguluni Mission, Mozambique.

All three projects are sorely and urgently needed, and the present arrangements are entirely inadequate in all three cases. Take for instance Novi Sad in Yugoslavia: It is pitiful to see the conditions under which the children's Sabbath school is conducted week after week, and the same can be said of the adults for that matter. They have a hall, it is true, but are crowded beyond reason, and therefore a new church center must be erected with all the facilities to take care of the church membership and the children.

If we now turn to Lourenço Marques, the capital of Mozambique, it is not exaggerated to say that the situation there is still worse. They do not even have a hall in which to hold the meetings for a growing church membership, but must congregate in a room

of an apartment, and yet this is a capital city with favorable prospects for the development of the work. An evangelistic center, worthy of the Advent Movement, is absolutely indispensable.

The Munguluni Mission Station is the center of our work in an important section of the territory of Mozambique. There is a central school on the campus, and a number of out-stations are under the direction of the missionaries living here, but we have dwelling houses for only two missionary families, so another mission home is urgently needed.

Then there is the dramatic situation due to the lack of an adequate water supply system; and therefore a small part of the 13th Sabbath overflow will be applied to this project. Good and abundant water is urgently needed, and we sincerely hope that the 13th Sabbath overflow will also mean an overflow of good drinkable water at Munguluni.

Let us take a real interest in these vital projects, promote them enthusiastically in the churches and Sabbath schools everywhere in our territory and may the coming 13th Sabbath offering be the best ever. It is well worth the effort, as success in that will mean the salvation of many souls. Let us ask God to richly bless in the carrying out of these plans, and may we work faithfully to this end.

*Robert Gerbert  
Sabbath School Department  
Southern European Division*

# The Earthquake at Agadir

By C. Cornaz

*Scene from Agadir*



Another part of our Division suffered a terrible disaster during the month of March. Agadir, a town with 50,000 inhabitants, situated at the foot of the Atlas mountains, was laid in ruins in eleven seconds. It was a flourishing city and a famous tourist resort; the future seemed bright for this beautiful city which had an excellent port from which was exported fruits and vegetables growing in abundance there as the climate is temperate and balmy, but in the middle of that fateful night of March 1 all collapsed because the earth had trembled.

Big houses of several floors were reduced to heaps of rubbish; huge skyscrapers folded up and enclosed numerous victims; a large hotel full of happy tourists pushed itself far into the ground, and ten days after the earthquake survivors were still being dug out. Almost 12,000 dead are still in the debris. The wounded have been taken to the different hospitals in Morocco, but death still hovers over the ruins because the danger of pestilence is still there, and the odor of decomposed bodies is felt everywhere.

No insurance policy covers an accident of this kind, so before the town is rebuilt it will be necessary to examine which kind of constructions will be able to stand up to tremors. The Moroccan government, through His Majesty the King, has promised to build a "new Agadir" at the same place within a short time, and therefore advantage must be taken of the lessons learnt from the catastrophe, because some buildings stood firm while others cracked, and again others were completely destroyed.

Think how many persons there were who had placed all their money in one house or in some enterprise,

and in a few minutes all was lost. Furniture crumbled away, archives vanished, only the earth is there, and it is still trembling. During the first few days after the catastrophe more than one hundred concussions were registered in Agadir, and a deep discouragement was felt among all.

A remarkable feeling of fellowship, however, sprang up among the people during these terrible days. The French soldiers showed wonderful heroism as they under the most terrible circumstances, in the midst of decaying bodies, rescued and saved numerous survivors. A mother buried by the debris had jammed her baby underneath herself, and it was necessary to cut up her body before the child could be freed. A boy of five years was walled in with his sister of sixteen, and when he became hungry and thirsty he began to gnaw at the arm of his sister. They were both freed after having survived eight grueling days of agony. An architect, who had escaped the earthquake in Orléansville, Algiers, in 1954, went to Agadir and met his death in the house he had built there. A whole family, mother, father and two children, were placed in a white wooden cupboard and buried in a common grave, but most of the victims were just put into the graves in the clothes they were in when found, or shrouded in poor rags.

One of our members, a young man, stayed in the town of Agadir with his parents. We started to make inquiries, and after some days the radio announced that the family Kaladgew was safe and sound. But where were they? Were they in need of anything? We made more inquiries, and at last we received a telegram signed by the young man himself, and we were

happy to see him again some weeks later. He had told us some weeks before that he was filled with apprehension at staying in this corrupt city, and two days before the earthquake he had left the place and gone to another town some two hundred kilometers away. So of course he was overjoyed at his salvation and thanked the Lord for His faithfulness to him.

All our churches in Morocco began at once to collect funds and food. Our Mission appropriated 100,000 Moroccan francs from the reserves; the Southern European Division cabled an order of 200,000 and the North African Union Mission of 100,000 Moroccan francs to be put at the disposition of the victims. The exact total amount which was given is not yet certain, but we know that the million mark (about \$ 1,900.—) was passed, and we thank God that we were able to help our fellow beings in a material way.

The earth has trembled as a blast from a bugle awakening a sleeping world from indifference and materialism. Do we hear the trumpet? (Jer. 6:17). Let us seize the opportunity to awaken from our lethargy and look toward the spiritual values as a shelter from all earthquakes. Our Lord has mentioned earthquakes among the signs which will announce His coming in glory; the world and its inhabitants are moving toward their final destruction. That which seems to constitute the basis of all human things is shaken and may be utterly destroyed in a moment, so our hope is only in Jesus Christ whose coming is even at the door. Long ago He said about this time of our earth's history: "So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors" (Mark 13:29).

# “Seeing the Multitude”

By G. Cupertino

There are many ways of looking at a crowd of people. The politician might look at it as a group to dominate; the tradesman as a mass to exploit; the man of the world looks upon such a crowd as fellow humans with whom he can enjoy life in the best possible way. But Jesus “when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd” (Matt. 9:36).

This feeling of compassion is also prevalent in our hearts when we take part in an evangelistic campaign. Every day we walk and work beside people without knowing what is hidden in the depth of their souls; but when we start to preach the gospel, to knock at house doors, to talk and pray with the listeners in their homes, then we see indeed the true inner condition of this multitude we walk beside day by day, and which apparently pretend to be busy and indifferent. What misery and anguish we see! How many sheep without a

shepherd; how many souls without hope are aimlessly dragging along in an existence without God or even without a knowledge of Him. And among those indifferent ones, how many there are who are suspicious, ignorant, victims of prejudice and error, but also how many who with open hearts are ready to receive the gospel of salvation offered to them.

These thoughts, so familiar to every minister of the gospel, presented themselves in a particular way during the recent campaign which we held in Milan and Turin, Italy, during the winter of 1959/60. This effort was conducted by Elder Walter Schubert of the Ministerial Association of the General Conference, assisted by the writer and about a dozen workers from the Italian Union Mission. The meetings were held in our own halls, as it had been impossible to rent others; but in spite of this disadvantage the number in the audiences for the two towns rose to about five hundred on an average, and this is very remarkable when one bears in mind

that the people came regularly three times a week; Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday in Milan; Wednesday, Friday and Saturday in Turin.

As every evangelist knows, the sorrows and joys are mingled when such a campaign is conducted. Let me first speak about the sorrows and difficulties which confronted us: Lack of proper halls, which made it a little harder as both our own halls were quite small; the constant nightmare of limited time as we knew Elder Schubert would leave us on December 19, and we only started September 26. Then the mentality of the people: their ignorance concerning the Bible which they considered as a Protestant book and therefore of the devil; the money, always so difficult to obtain; the anxiety of the workers who helped us, because their regular work was not to be neglected. The weather was bad much of the time, the fog and snow hindering people in coming; and lastly, the lack of printed material which made it necessary for us to explain many delicate subjects very carefully and in detail, which otherwise would have been taken care of by the brochures. For instance, we had to instruct the listeners who had become convinced of the truth how to approach their employers to get the Sabbath free; and we had to help the people overcome lifelong habits of drinking, smoking and the eating of impure foods.

But the many joys far outweighed the tears. In enumerating these let me first of all mention the wonderful day of December 19, 1959, when we conducted the first baptism in the Milan Church. Thirty-five precious souls were baptized, thirty-one being won as a direct result of the effort; and four hundred faithful members and friends poured in to rejoice with us all. This was the largest baptism that had ever been conducted on one day in the Italian Union Mission.

However, the baptism was not the only result of the effort; one must add the wonderful experience enjoyed by

*Baptism Service in Milan Church*



## The Midsummer Offering

July 9 is your

Midsummer Opportunity

the workers who participated in the campaign, and the spirit of awakening clearly felt in the two churches of Milan and Turin. The many special offerings given by our dear, humble brothers and sisters must also be remembered. Time and again one of them would come to us thrusting an envelope into our hands with the words: "God be with you; this is my small contribution." Others would say that they had never before seen the beauty and depth of our Message as clearly as now. Thus, those who were weak in the faith became stronger; the apostates returned; the reformists even began to see their errors, and are now walking along with us on the path leading to heaven. How our hearts were moved when one came to us clutching our hands and saying "If you had only come twenty years earlier," or "It is the Lord who has sent you."

After Elder Schubert's return to the States, the writer stayed behind to continue the work with a small force of workers, and at the end of February we had another baptism of fourteen precious souls. The Lord has richly blessed our humble endeavors, and on April 9 ten more new members were added to the two churches.

At the beginning of the campaign we set with fear and trembling the goal of seventy-five souls to be won. The number of fifty-five has now been reached, and our gratitude is abound-

ing, because we still expect baptisms at the end of May and June and hope to reach our goal by then. This wonderful achievement is first and foremost due to the grace of God, and afterwards to the untiring work of all those who participated in this great effort as well as the willing support from the Italian Union Mis-

sion and from the Division headquarters in Berne. Only eternity will show the final results of this great campaign, which also has confirmed the fact that evangelism is and should remain the first and foremost work of our church. May this flame of enthusiasm for evangelism never die in the Advent Movement.



*Workers Who Participated in the Campaign. In the Center Brethren W. Schubert, G. Cavalcante, G. Cupertino.*

*Part of Congregation; W. Schubert Speaking, G. Cupertino Translating*







# Get Acquainted with your Division

When visiting Greece one is struck with two things: The beauty of the country and the spirit of reverence for antiquity, which still seems to hover over the cities and countryside. It was my privilege to attend workers' meetings in Athens in January of this year, and I was encouraged to see how zealously our small force of laborers is endeavoring to bring in souls for Christ.

Our work began in Greece in 1907, and today the number of members is only a little over 200. This seems a very small figure, indeed, but it is encouraging to notice that 64 of these were baptized during the last five years, and in 1959 thirteen souls were added to our church. Of these thirteen converts seven were men, which is another encouraging factor, as it has been extremely difficult for men to accept the Message because of the problems in obtaining the Sabbath free.

We now have six churches in Greece, and the church in Athens, where we held our workers' meetings, deserves special mention. It is a beautiful edifice, built mostly of marble. When the summer is very hot the services are held on the roof of the church, where a pulpit and a small platform have been erected, also in marble. From this church roof there is a marvelous view of Athens and its surroundings including the hill of Acropolis at the edge of the city with the ancient Parthenon, the celebrated temple built in honor of the goddess Athena, but which is now only a ruin testifying to the splendor of the Greek past.

Just thirty km from Athens is located the youth campsite, which was used last year for the first time. It is a beautiful piece of land situated in lovely hilly country looking across the bay toward the island of Euboea. A very good well with an abundance of crystal-clear water is on the property, and slabs of cement have been poured on which the tents can be erected. This year the Greek Mission is planning to build washing and toilet facilities as well as a dining

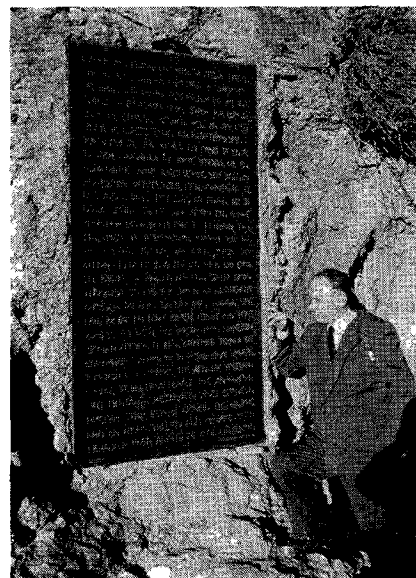
## Beautiful Greece

By B. J. Kobler

area. Last summer the camp lasted for 8-10 weeks, and was attended by 65 boys and girls. This year it is hoped that more will attend, as often through the children parents become acquainted with the Message.

From Athens we flew to Thessalonica, and it was a thrill to visit this third largest city of Greece, which is also the capital of Greek Macedonia. It was here the apostle Paul established the first Christian community, and to this group the Epistles to the Thessalonians were addressed. At one time the city was rivaling the great city of Constantinople for wealth and luxurious living, and even today it is a bustling city with a busy and pleasant water front. Our work here is also going quite well. We have a nice church, and plans are afoot to erect an evangelistic center right in the middle of the city. The land has already been donated to the Mission by a Greek Bible worker, who right now is laboring in Alexandria. The building will have a hall large enough to seat 150-200 people, and on the second floor there will be three apartments. The district leader there is Brother C. A. Christoforides, and we are happy that a vigorous evangelistic work is planned for this city where Paul once preached. Not far from Thessalonica is Berea, and also here we have a small church with nine members, all women.

It is very difficult to propagate the Message in Greece, but through the Voice of Prophecy lessons many people are reached who otherwise would not hear the Third Angel's message. By advertizing the lessons in the newspapers many people of various walks of life are reached, and last year 476 new people handed in their names indicating their desire to receive the lessons and further information about our teachings. They are being regularly visited by the workers and laymembers.



*Plaque Containing Paul's Speech on Mars' Hill (Acts 17: 22-31).*

The working force in Greece is small, only six are actually paid workers. Our Mission president, Brother Nick Germanis, is a man young in years but full of enthusiasm for the spreading of the Advent Message to the Greeks. Our mission office is located in Athens, which is still a very busy and interesting city with a cosmopolitan population of two millions.

Until recent years not much colporteur work was done, but also for this branch of our work the future looks brighter. Three book evangelists are now working with our literature, and another one is expected to join forces with them soon. For the first time in the history of our work in Greece, a book with the full message will be printed in the Greek language, namely "God Speaks to Modern Man." Let us pray for Greece and for the small band of workers who so courageously go out preaching the Soon Coming of our Saviour.

### SOUTHERN EUROPEAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

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