



# QUARTERLY REVIEW

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

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Number 3

## Oertlimatt in the Bernese Alps

By *E. Zurcher*

Kings, princes and millionaires are always seeking the famous health resorts in the Bernese Alps, but away from these crowded tourist centers are many other quieter spots. By the Lake of Thun, surrounded by green meadows, we find a lovely place called Oertlimatt. It is said about this spot that it was here the robber barons from Rotenbühl were lying in wait to fall upon the unsuspecting victims when they rode in the woods between Spiez and Interlaken. Later on a small inn here invited the weary travellers to take refreshments. Because of the beautiful view of the lake, and being near to bathing beaches and the Bernese Alps, this place was often thought of as an ideal spot for a hotel, but who would have imagined that one day it would serve the Advent youth. For some years the place belonged to a rifle club, and only reluctantly did the members give up their shooting place to make room for the exercise of spiritual weapons.

The German-Swiss Conference had for some time been looking for just such a place where a vacation home could be established for the youth, and in the fall of 1960 it was possible to take possession of Oertlimatt. Brother Heinrich Altorfer of Dübendorf had bought the property and

*The House Midst Beautiful Surroundings*



handed it over to the German-Swiss Conference to use and administer. Furthermore, he has extended the right of purchase to the legal society of Seventh-day Adventists in Zurich. To the house belongs a barn and 20 000 square meters (about 5 acres) of land. A friend of the youth has donated an outdoor table tennis and laid out a wonderful playground for the children with all the equipment they could wish.

After rearranging the house it now has room for one hundred beds, and there is a lovely modern kitchen.

Oertlimatt shall in the first place serve as a vacation home for the youth, but when it is not in use as such, institutes and conventions can be held here. We are very happy about that, because it is always difficult to find a quiet place with enough room for that purpose.

In May of this year the inauguration took place in the presence of many young people and representatives from the firms which had supplied the material, and also from the workmen who so faithfully labored here. After that an institute was held for church and Sabbath school leaders. In the months of July and August the place was taken over by the children, who spent happy days there in the beautiful, healthful nature, and at the end of the season the doors will be opened to the older members in our midst. By the end of 1961 we expect that Oertlimatt will indeed be a name well-known among Seventh-day Adventists in German Switzerland. Many spiritual blessings will be enjoyed here by God's people when their free moments are spent in the right atmosphere. To create such a climate conducive to spiritual growth is our task at Oertlimatt, as well as doing our utmost to prepare wholesome food.

The official opening of Oertlimatt attracted much attention from the people living in that locality. A favorable report was published in one of the main newspapers of the district, and it is our prayer that this youth center, situated in one of the most beautiful spots in Switzerland, may be a blessing not only to our own Advent youth, but also to the people surrounding Oertlimatt.

# Ingathering Experiences in Angola

By *B. J. Kobler*

Now that the Ingathering campaign is upon us, it is interesting and encouraging to know that in the mission fields themselves our workers labor faithfully to gather in funds to further the cause we love.

I think especially of the vast territories in Angola, which have been so much in the news of late. We have here a missionary couple, Brother and Sister E. V. Hermanson, who for ten years have done systematic Ingathering among the Europeans living in the interior of northern Angola. Last year they collected 130,000 Escudos (\$ 4,642), but this is less than half of what they would receive in normal times. Generally, solicitation is confined to Europeans, for the natives buy and sell, but al-

most never give. However, there are exceptions, and at one farm where they called, after receiving from the Europeans their usual generous offerings, the bookkeeper decided to take the Hermansons to the native nurse's house. She responded with a gift of 50 Escudos (28 Escudos = \$ 1.00), with the result that thirteen other natives gave 20 Escudos each within a few minutes, all in recognition of what we are doing to help the natives along welfare lines.

As these missionaries go from place to place they call on government officials, many of whom have been treated or operated on by Dr. R. B. Parsons at the Bongo Mission Hospital. Through the years they

## THE ADVENT MESSAGE ON THE ISLAND OF CRETE

By *W. A. Wild*

High and mountainous the island of Crete rises out of the blue waters of the Mediterranean. On this outpost of the Aegean Islands the apostle Paul stopped on his way to Malta with Luke and Aristarchus. It was on the island of Crete that Titus preached as a worker for the apostolic church, and where the Cretans questioned his authority because of his youth. It was therefore necessary for Paul to give him certain counsel that they should be "sound in the faith" (Titus 1:13).

A short time ago the Seventh-day Adventists established their

first church on the island of Crete, with the approval of the government. It is situated in the center of the city of Herakleion, and in August a young Greek preacher and his wife moved there. In this town there are already three Seventh-day Adventist families.

Thus a door has been opened on this ancient island, and the last message of salvation will be preached to the people of Crete once more. We are praying and hoping for a rich harvest of souls.

have made many friends who eagerly look forward to their return, even though it means they will be asked to part with some of their hard-earned money. Every person is solicited, except in cases where they are without work, or perhaps have entailed heavy expenses through illness. They take enrollments for the Bible Correspondence School, and distribute hundreds of our magazines in addition to the regular Ingathering publications.

As Elder and Mrs. Hermanson make their annual rounds of solicitation for Ingathering, they try to practice the Golden Rule, and many are the interesting experiences that result. For instance, one day as they finished a town and set out for another thirty miles away, they were hailed on the outskirts by a priest who wanted a ride to a village fifty miles down the road. Upon discovering that Sister Hermanson was in the car, he guessed that they were missionaries and was somewhat embarrassed. However, they insisted on giving him a lift and made him feel at ease. As they drove along they visited in a friendly way, telling him about our medical, evangelistic and educational work, and offering the services of our Bongo Hospital in case of need. En route to the native village the priest planned to visit they had to stop for an hour to do their Ingathering, so they told him they would be glad to take him the rest of the way later, or he was free to go on if he should be offered a ride in some other car. He chose to wait and occupied his time while waiting by going down the street ahead of the Hermansons, explaining to the people the good work they were doing, and requesting them to give a good donation. Of course, most of the people already knew our brother and sister from previous years, but they did not know they were back in town, so the advance notice by the priest prepared them, and when they called at the different business houses the people would hand over their donations and tell them there was no need to explain their work because the priest had done it for them!

The priest had noted that one merchant was absent from his place of business, so later when he saw



*Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Hermanson*

this man's truck approaching he asked Brother Hermanson to stop while he hailed the merchant. The brief roadside presentation resulted in the best donation of the afternoon.

Some of their experiences are unusual and even amusing, many times serving to break down barriers of prejudice. They tell of crossing a large river by barge at one time when they were en route to the northernmost part of their territory, and when they were making final arrangements at the shipping company the agent asked if they would mind carrying a box to one of the Catholic missions in the place to which they were going. Naturally they said Yes, and as they were ready to leave, a Dutch Catholic priest came in and the agent introduced our missionaries, telling him that they had consented to deliver the box. They then learned that the box contained an image of St. Francis, and the priest assured them that it was a beautiful piece of art. They were told that the saint was well packed and could travel in any position, but they were careful to let him ride right-side-up. Upon delivering it to the Catholic Mission they were given a receipt stating that it was received in good condition. Such

gestures indoubtedly serve to reduce prejudice.

While soliciting in an isolated section of northern Angola, several years ago our missionaries met a well-read, studious young fellow who was a farm manager. He had bought *Great Controversy* and a Bible from a colporteur and was eager to discuss them in the light of current events. He had given a generous offering, but the following year was away when they called. Then, the next year, he remembered that he had been unable to donate to the Ingathering because of absence, so decided to double his gift to missions. Two months later he was treacherously murdered, and our two missionaries had a feeling of relief over the good spiritual talk they had with him a short time before.

Certainly their visits, Bible studies and prayers with these people have given them an insight into God's plan for those who serve Him, and we trust our faithful missionaries may be able to remain at their posts, bringing courage and comfort in the midst of confusion and trouble. Without doubt, Ingathering has proved a great blessing in and for the mission fields.

# Review of the School Year 1960/61 at Collonges

The 39th school year of the French Adventist Seminary at Collonges is now in the past, and it is possible to appraise it with detachment. Figures alone cannot explain the importance of the work we carry out, but they do give a picture of our activities.

At the end of April 1961, 191 students had been enrolled with an average of 170 youth in attendance throughout the school year. To understand the extent of the influence we exert, it is necessary to remember that these students represent twenty-five countries and territories: from France there were 68 students; 30 came from Switzerland, 11 from Portugal, 10 from Belgium, 10 from Italy, 8 from Spain, 3 from Germany, 3 from Poland, 2 from England, and one each from Norway, Finland and Yugoslavia. America sent a good delegation, and we even had some students from the French West Indies and a young girl from Brazil. Africa sent representatives from Algeria, Morocco, the Ivory Coast and Cameroun. The island territories were represented by students from Madagascar, Réunion, Tahiti, New Caledonia and New Zealand, and from Asia two nationals from Iran joined our student group.

It is interesting to note that we had 110 students preparing for different state examinations. Seventeen candidates sat for the baccalaureate, and of that number ten passed. When one bears in mind that the annual and national average of those passing is 30 to 35%, the results of our students bear testimony to the seriousness with which the young people applied themselves to their studies. Similar efforts were made in the business courses, where 16 students prepared for the degree in Commercial Science, and three young men took the Technical Course.

The most encouraging fact is, however, that 48 students this year took the Theological Course, thus preparing themselves for the ministry. The class of 1960/61 consisted of 26 candidates, of whom 12 graduated from the Theological Course, 4 girls received the Bible Worker's diploma, and 3 received the diploma in Elementary Education, while 7 graduated from the Business Course. May this group of young people be the first of many more, because time is short, the harvest is greater than ever, and the reapers continue to be so few.

In describing the activities of the past school year it is necessary to mention other qualities equally important to the school life. There are many things not shown on the statistical reports, but which are just as essential, such as order, discipline, zealotness in study, spiritual experiences, in other words, the school spirit. We are aware of the fact that progress is essential, and we believe that with the help of God each school year will prove a step toward the realization of the grand and noble ideal for the education of our youth. One event must be mentioned in this

*Faculty and Staff at Collonges*



connection: During the Week of Prayer, toward the end of the school year, about 50 students followed regularly the three baptismal classes organized, and 12 have since been baptized. Does this not prove that a spiritual work is being fostered in the hearts of the young people thus entrusted to us?

The year 1961/62 will be the fortieth school year of the Seminary. A new decade opens up, and specific plans have been made for the institution to develop in every respect. Thus we plan that every department will be enlarged to offer new possibilities to the students. Henceforth it will be possible for the students, having their baccalaureate, to get a diploma in pedagogy or in secretarial science in one year. Upon the growing demand from foreign students, the teaching of French to foreigners will be intensified and enlarged, and a special department for these courses will be organized soon. Furthermore, beginning with the summer of 1961 a regular summer course in French for foreigners has been inaugurated in connection with Emmanuel Missionary College, which this summer sent a group of students to our Seminary under the direction of Dr. Daniel Augsburg. Over twenty American students studied here together with young people from England, Germany, Switzerland, and several other countries.

The most important changes, however, have been in connection with preparation for the ministry. While it is possible again for those of late calling to obtain a Bible Instructor's diploma, the way is now open to secure a Licensed Evangelist's diploma in case any young man has already passed his secondary studies at the level of the French baccalaureate, and rounds off his preparation with at least three years of theological stud-



*The School Family 1960/61*

ies. These provisions not only open the door of opportunity to all those who feel the call to the ministry, but will also secure for good students the best education possible. Arrangements have been made with Andrews University granting a degree equivalent to the diploma in Theology to all students who obtain a Licensed Evangelist's diploma from Collonges. This guarantee was given only after it had been verified that the instructors in our theological department are qualified to teach on university level. We certainly appreciate very much the confidence the leaders of our work have in us.

All these efforts will, however, be in vain unless the workers in our large Division realize how important it is to send young people to our

Seminary to prepare for the ministry – or simply to prepare for life: “Very much has been lost to the cause of truth by a lack of attention to the spiritual needs of the young... The youth need more than a casual notice, more than an occasional word of encouragement... When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord's work, and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ.” (*Gospel Workers*, pp. 207-210.)

**STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OF S. D. A. FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 1961**

Name of Conference or Mission	Number of Churches	Previous Membership	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total Gains	Apostasy	Death	Letter Missing Members	Total Losses	Net Gain	Present Membership	Ord. Minist. Active	* Honorary	Cred. Miss. Active	* Honorary	Licensed Ministers	Licensed Missionaries	Bible Instructors	Elementary School Teachers	Colporteurs	All other Regular Workers	Total Workers	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>AUSTRIAN U. C.</b> .....																								
Alpine Conference .....	19	1177	22	—	11	33	5	5	16	—	26	7	1184	4	—	5	—	1	10	—	—	—	2	22
Danube Conference .....	22	1529	26	1	1	28	10	10	11	—	31	— 3	1526	5	3	—	1	1	—	6	—	14	—	30
Total	<b>41</b>	<b>2706</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2710</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>CZECHOSLOVAKIAN U. C.*</b>																								
Total	<b>50</b>	<b>7505</b>											<b>7505</b>	<b>43</b>				<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>					<b>71</b>
<b>FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.</b> .....																								
Belgian Conference.....	16	1028	35	1	1	37	11	2	6	—	19	18	1046	7	4	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	6	14
French Conference.....	69	3674	123	10	44	177	10	7	47	—	64	113	3787	35	7	4	2	9	5	7	1	82	4	156
Total	<b>85</b>	<b>4702</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>4833</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>HUNGARIAN U. C.*</b>																								
Total	<b>163</b>	<b>6225</b>											<b>6225</b>	<b>39</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>				<b>67</b>
<b>RUMANIAN U. C.*</b>																								
Total	<b>646</b>	<b>35629</b>											<b>35629</b>	<b>108</b>					<b>127</b>					<b>235</b>
<b>SWISS U. C.</b> .....																								
French Swiss Conference .....	27	1487	15	—	7	22	—	6	6	—	12	10	1497	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
German Swiss Conference .....	31	1997	29	1	27	57	21	6	9	—	36	21	2018	12	2	1	2	1	11	3	2	14	—	48
Total	<b>58</b>	<b>3484</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3515</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>YUGOSLAVIAN U. C.*</b>																								
Total	<b>230</b>	<b>8573</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8588</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>ANGOLA U. M.</b> .....																								
Bongo Mission .....	23	5987	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5987	6	—	1	—	4	15	—	—	2	—	28
Cuale Mission .....	1	1448	—	—	4	4	9	10	—	—	19	—15	1433	4	—	—	—	18	1	—	40	—	—	63
Lucusse Mission .....	1	318	2	—	4	6	4	—	—	—	4	—	320	2	—	—	—	3	3	—	20	—	—	30
Luz Mission .....	5	1638	31	74	—	105	—	—	—	—	—	105	1743	5	—	—	—	4	2	—	29	—	—	40
Namba Mission .....	1	1518	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1518	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	13	—	—	16
Nova Lisboa Mission .....	22	2867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2867	2	—	—	—	14	—	—	18	—	—	34
Quilengues Mission .....	1	160	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	163	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	11	—	—	14
Saint Thomas Mission .....	1	266	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	270	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	7
European Churches .....	4	247	11	—	7	18	—	—	17	1	18	—	247	2	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	8
Total	<b>59</b>	<b>14449</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>14548</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>254</b>
<b>EQUATORIAL AFRICAN U. M.</b> .....																								
East Mission .....	8	1733	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1733	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	35
Kribi Mission .....	6	403	9	—	3	12	18	3	5	3	29	—17	386	2	—	—	—	1	7	21	34	—	3	70
Nanga-Eboko Mission .....	12	3070	190	4	—	194	75	51	1	—	127	67	3137	4	—	—	—	4	13	24	37	—	2	37
North Cameroun Mission .....	2	456	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	456	1	—	1	—	—	2	10	7	—	1	22
Sangmélima Mission .....	2	543	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	543	3	—	—	—	1	5	2	23	—	—	34
Yaoundé Mission .....	6	1106	16	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	16	1122	2	—	—	—	2	3	11	46	—	—	64
Bangui Mission Station .....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	<b>36</b>	<b>7313</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>7379</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>345</b>



# Franco-Belgian Union 1960

By F. Lavanchy

By January 1, 1960, the Franco-Belgian Union Conference had 4,698 members, with 1,016 in Belgium and 3,682 in France.

One of the main problems facing us in the development of our work in this union is the necessity of getting more and larger churches in towns like Lyon, Annemasse, Toulon, Clermont-Ferrand, Lille, Verviers, and above all in Paris. Due to the generosity of our members and the help received from the Southern European Division, we were able to open a church in Braine l'Alleud, Belgium, in April, 1960. This church is situated in the center of the city and is thus very well suited for public lectures. A little later, in the month of June, the church in Grenoble took possession of a modern and very nice hall situated on the mezzanine of an important building, and also in the center of town. We were successful in renting this hall due to the good connections made by a member of our church who is professor in drawing at the school of Ancient Arts and Crafts in Grenoble. In December the newly established church in Orleans was also happy to have at last its own meeting hall.

## *Tithes and Offerings*

The 4,698 members in the Franco-Belgian Union Conference (this is an increase of 181 members since 1959) gave NF 1,576,537 in tithes in 1960, this being a gain of NF 237,597. The offerings rose to NF 474,229, thus showing an increase of NF 39,696 since 1959.

## *Home Missionary Activities*

The Big Week and Ingathering campaigns, in which many of our church members take part, have produced NF 43,159 for Big Week, and 258,928 for the Ingathering. This last figure is the largest ever collected in this union. The Dorcas work is

also progressing. In the French-speaking part of Belgium a center has been opened, from which clothes are distributed to the needy.

## *Voice of Hope*

The magnificent work done by Maurice Tièche in the field of education is still bearing fruit and has now been taken up by P. Lanarès. He is endeavoring to make each church member a friend of our broadcasts, and a recruiter for the Bible Correspondence Course.

## *Book Evangelistic Work*

During the year 1960 our 110 book evangelists (part-time and regular) have sold NF 807,578 worth of publications: 16% were Bibles and religious books, 29% medical and educational books, and 55% «Vie et Santé», the health magazine. They have given 1,629 Bible studies, and as a result of their efforts 10 persons were baptized.

## *The Youth*

We have a precious gift in our youth. It is a privilege and a great advantage to have the division college in France. It is the means by which we can educate our youth, and our union tries to send as many young people as possible to that institution.

Jean Surel is the MV and Sabbath school leader of our union, and as such he spends most of his time working with the youth. In 1960 he organized seven rallies and four camps, of which the camp in Greece should be especially mentioned, as it was an unforgettable experience for the seventy-five participants. This year we have a new project to promote: a Bible camp in Ardèche in Southern France. The youth magazine «Jeunesse» is prepared in Paris, but has many readers outside our union. It started with 400 copies, but has now a mailing list of 900.

Last year 256 persons were baptized as the result of the efforts of 70 workers. We thank the Lord for these precious souls, but we are not yet satisfied with the number, and pray that God may grant us greater victories. We realize that the most effective tool God has given us is the faithful members of our churches. In Antwerp 25% of the church members recently carried on a door-to-door campaign to make known our Message. The result: 50% of the baptisms in the Belgian Conference, that is 24, were a direct gain through the activities of this church. It is also worth mentioning that in France two efforts have been conducted by a lay brother in St. Dié and Epinal. Many people already interested through our book evangelists came to these efforts, and as a result two new churches will soon be added to the 85 which until now have comprised our union.

We are filled with gratitude to God for success and progress enjoyed, and for the very great faithfulness displayed in tithes and offerings. But in view of the seriousness of the hour in which we live, we are praying for more power in order that we may obtain greater victories.

Eight district meetings, a lay preachers' convention held at Colonges, and five retreats attended by workers and members, have all contributed to the feeling of unity prevalent in our field. The whole union benefited from the revival of the missionary spirit which manifested itself in several of our churches during 1960 - to the Lord is all the praise!

## SOUTHERN EUROPEAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

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