



QUARTERLY REVIEW

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

Vol. XXIX

December 1962

Numbers 3/4

13th Sabbath Overflow Offering to Southern European Division

By *L. Belloy*

We here in the Southern European Division rejoice that our field will benefit from the 13th Sabbath Overflow Offering this quarter. We have certain plans in mind, which can be realized only by the help of this offering. We would therefore like to ask all our readers to help us make it a large one, that these projects may be achieved and many souls won for the kingdom of God.

We would like to remind the readers of the *Quarterly Review* of the plans we have in mind:

1. The opening of a new mission station in the southern part of Angola, Portuguese West Africa.

We have more than 15 000 members in Angola. From 1958 to 1962 we have, by the help of God, been able to baptize 1300 to 1700 persons per year. It is the most promising field in our Division. Unfortunately, the message has not yet been preached in the vast territories of the southern part of Angola, and we long to see one or more mission stations established there before the doors are closed.

2. A new church and evangelistic center in Paris.

Paris, the capital of France, has about five million inhabitants. The light of the gospel was first made to shine in this City of Lights at the beginning of the century, but we wish to see it blaze with much greater force.

The two present churches are getting far too small. It is absolutely necessary to think of a third church, which we plan to build in the northern part of the city, where the message has not made an impact at all, and which will serve at the same time as an evangelistic center. Building sites are very expensive in Paris, and the Franco-Belgian Union will not be able to purchase one without substantial aid.

3. Enlargement of the Phoenix School on Mauritius, Indian Ocean.

I had the opportunity to see our school on Mauritius just after the terrible cyclone had laid waste a great part of the island. Many

families had lost all their belongings. We were surprised to learn that, in spite of their losses, the parents did not take away the children from our school, even though they have to pay a school fee here, while the government schools offer free tuition.

Our institution enjoys a good reputation. It is appreciated by the Moslems, who gladly send their children. The education they receive here is the most effective means by which we can reach the Moslems with the gospel of grace.

The place is now inadequate. It is necessary to modernize what we have, and to enlarge in order to be able to receive more students.

These are the needs of our field, expressed in a few words. We know that you will respond generously, and we thank you in advance for the sacrifices you will make, and which will permit us to realize our projects. The precious souls won for Christ as well as our deep gratitude will be your reward.

An Italian Church Established in Switzerland

By *Hugo Mösching*

January 7, 1962, was a day long to be remembered by God's people in Biel, Switzerland. On that day we had the pleasure of celebrating the inauguration of an Italian church. Elder G. Cupertino, secretary of the Ministerial Association of the Southern European Division, and Ch. Monnier, president of the Swiss Union Conference, were present at this solemn occasion.

The first seeds for this church were sown when Mrs. W. Morosoli one day in July, 1959, began a conversation with an Italian lady in one of the public parks in Biel, this talk leading to regular Bible studies. The Italian lady became very interested in the truth and was later baptized in Italy. During her absence from Switzerland, her son and his wife remained in Biel and received instructions as

regards our message from Brother Willi Morosoli, and the couple began attending our church services, which are conducted here both in German and French. Now and again other Italians working in Biel would come along and attend the services. Results were soon forthcoming, and on January 13, 1951, an Italian Sabbath school class was organized with six persons attending regularly, and a little later that same year a regular church service was conducted for them in the Italian language. On May 4, 1951, six Italians were baptized, and two more joined the small group later that year.

On September 27, 1952, Brother and Sister W. Morosoli left the Biel church to take up work in the Tessin, but by that time the small group of Italian believers was feeling thor-

oughly at home with their French- and German-speaking friends in the Biel church.

Brother Ettore Galli, the local elder, decided to take special care of the Italian members, and he knew that only by working was it possible to keep the small group alive and growing. He began to labour in earnest for the progress of the work of God among the Italians, and he was well supported in this by the other church members. During the day he worked in a watch factory, and in the evenings as a furrier, but in spite of all these activities he found time to practice what he had learned from a lay preachers' course. He organized public meetings, gave Bible studies, preached often on the Sabbaths, and the Lord blessed his efforts.

Last fall the other language groups of the Biel church suggested that it would be much better for the development of the Italian group, if its members were organized into their own little church. In this way many of the important church duties would be taken over by the Italian-speaking members.

With God's blessings and the good cooperation between Brethern Galli and Jacques Frei, the evangelist, five men and three women were baptized on November 4, 1961; so now there were twenty-seven grown baptized members and eleven children. It was also found possible to make room for a separate meeting hall, seating fifty persons, in the same church building in Biel where the German- and French-speaking members meet.

Then came the big day, January 7, 1962, on which an Italian church was organized here. Many friends were present to celebrate the happy occasion.

The Italian group in Biel



When the roll call was made, sixteen persons rose, thus testifying that they wanted to live after Bible rules and remain good and faithful members of the newly organized Italian church. The eleven absentees were for the greatest part Italian workers, who had gone to their homeland for the Christmas vacation.

After Elder Cupertino's encouraging words, Brethren Werner Ruf and Jacques Frei spoke, as they are now

in charge of this newly organized church. Brother Galli, ordained elder of the Italian church, depicted the history of its origin, and told of the many victories won, but also of tears and struggles. During it all the Lord's help and succor was felt, and He alone is worthy of praise.

In Biel there are now three different church groups meeting Sabbath after Sabbath under one roof, to hear the Word of God spoken in French,

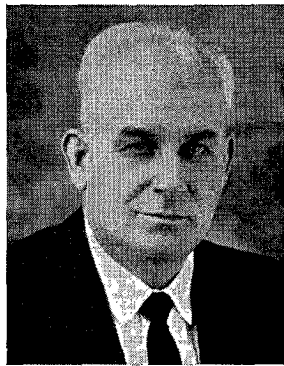
German and Italian. In spite of the three different languages, the love of God is prevalent, and the three groups are closely knit together in Christ.

To God we direct our thanks and praise, and from the bottom of our hearts we wish that the experience of Biel would be repeated in many other towns, and that yet many more Italian workers may find their Saviour and best friend, Jesus Christ, in Switzerland.

General Conference 1962 – Election Results



W. A. Wild
Re-elected Secretary



M. Fridlin
Re-elected President



B. J. Kohler
Re-elected Treasurer

SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION



B. E. Seton
Newly-elected
S. S. and Medical Secretary

Other departmental men re-elected



H. Stoeger
Newly-elected Y. P. M. V.
Secretary

News From Rome

By G. Cavalcante

Even though 1961 was not a particularly outstanding year for the Italian Union Mission, our work did, however, progress, and I think the readers of the *Quarterly Review* might be interested in news from this field, especially since it comes directly from Rome. It might be possible to forget the names of other cities without impairing our general knowledge, but with Rome it is different. If we would by-pass it, the old and modern history of the world would be very much curtailed. In the first century Rome was already the center of the world, and when we study the Bible, and the New Testament in particular, this prophetic name is repeated again and again, even though it often is used to describe Babylon, chaos, decay, ruin, corruption and apostasy.

Rome seems always to have possessed a very great power of attraction, and many people are drawn to this city by various motives, and with widely different results.

In 1961 it was 1900 years since the apostle Paul arrived in Rome, driven by Christ's commission and his own wish to go to this famous city: "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; ... So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also" (Rom. 1:9-15).

Today the pope is receiving courtesy visits from archbishops, bishops and representatives of the Protestant church, whose aims differ from that of the apostle Paul. These events are

clearly foretold in the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy.

The "Vita Nuova", a Catholic paper, writes as follows: "The representative of the Scottish Church has been received by the Holy Father. This event is very important, inasmuch as the Scottish Church has, by tradition, been the strong enemy of Catholicism for many years. The representative of the Scottish Church mentioned, moreover, that as this was his first visit to Rome, he had tried to see some of the Christian holy places, such as the catacombs and the tomb of St. Peter. He added at the end that he hoped this visit would be a good omen of the future.

"These events took place soon after the announcement of the Vatican

Council and the founding of the secretarial department for the union of all Christians. Until now three personalities from the Protestant Church have been received in the Vatican: On December 2, 1960, Dr. Fischer, who was then the head of the Anglican Church; on November 15, 1961, Dr. Lichtemberger, president of the Episcopalian Church in the United States, and on December 4, 1961, Dr. Jackson, president of the Baptist Church in the United States" (*Vita Nuova*).

"Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery; they have made compromises and concessions which papists themselves are surprised to see, and fail to understand. Men are closing their eyes to the real

The new church in Gravina



character of Romanism, and the dangers to be apprehended from her supremacy. The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty" (*Great Controversy*, p. 566).

While these courtesy visits have been taking place, our people have been preaching the message to prepare a people to receive the Lord when He comes again. In our churches the message of a soon coming Saviour is preached every week, but even though we enjoy some liberty in our country, we experience, here and there, the old spirit of medieval Catholicism.

Hear what Brother V. Stragapede has to say about his evangelistic efforts, held in two different places in eastern Sicily:

"In Lentini the hall was quite full the first evening, and the audience remained at about eighty the whole time. In Carlentini the influx of listeners was also very encouraging, and the hall was well filled with interested members and visitors. We were, however, not long left in peace, and this is what happened: From the Catholic main church a procession came, carrying the statue of the madonna and stopping in front of our meeting hall in Via Duilio. Here the priest excommunicated the house in which we lodged as well as the owner of the building. This was not enough. A small delegation of nuns came several times to see the owner of the house, telling her to throw us out. The priest went to the police, who asked us questions about the number of our members and other things, in order to pacify the priest. The owner of the house assured us that the priest would not gain the victory, and that nobody was thinking of taking the hall from us. This time he did not win, but maybe he has in mind to try something else. The main thing is, however, that we are becoming well-known, and that the Word of God is being preached."

"The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. . . . The papacy is just what prophecy declared that she



Interior of the church in Bari

would be, the apostasy of the latter times. It is part of her policy to assume the character which will best accomplish her purpose" (*Great Controversy*, p. 571).

1961 has been eventful to us, because during this year the banner of truth was raised in a town, which was long the aim of many book evangelists and lay preachers. Caltagirone (Catania) is a town with about 60,000 inhabitants. It is situated on a high hill, from which it governs the plain, not only because of its situation, but especially because of its cultural tradition, its ceramic schools, its churches and schools for priests. It has a bishop's see, and is famous because of the religious and political leaders it has produced.

For many years this little town was the long desired goal of our brethren working near it. Our book evangelists have sold thousands of books and tracts here, and our lay preachers have tried to get an interest started by missionary campaigns and distribution of enrollment blanks for our Bible correspondence course, but

without any remarkable results. On the contrary, two young people working in the evangelistic campaign here were denounced by the priests and taken to the police station. Here they were submitted to legal proceedings, which, fortunately, came out all right. Caltagirone seemed to be an unconquerable fortress, as the priests obstinately worked against the spreading of the gospel here.

However, the perseverance of our workers have been rewarded, and the promise in Revelation 3:7, 8 has been fulfilled: "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strenght, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

During the year a sincere person accepted the gospel. She got other people interested in the truth, and

in the end eight souls were baptized, a Sabbath school was organized, and a small hall was opened in which twenty persons assemble every week. While I have been writing this article, I received a message from Brother P. Tramuto, the district evangelist, in which he tells me that six more persons were baptized on April 28.

We see how the glorious vision of lay preaching has been proved in this part of our field: "Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. . . . The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. . . . Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side" (*Great Controversy*, p. 612).

Several other events made the year 1961 a happy one. Three beautiful halls were acquired and consecrated, and three others were rented. On the same day the members of Apulien could rejoice over the consecration of two meeting places, one in Bari and the other in Gravina. Brother W. A. Wild from the Division was present at the inauguration. The members in Bari who for forty years have only had a rented hall, and the old historical church in Gravina, from which place several pioneers and young workers have come, have now their own chapels, to which each week dozens of interested people come to study the truth. We are very grateful to the Lord for this, and also to the Division and our members for their help and faithful cooperation.

The year 1962 had a good beginning. Baptisms were conducted everywhere, and in these days when the greatest part of humanity is looking toward Rome, six young people were baptized in this city. Six young people – the symbol of the Advent and Christian youth – have joined us in order to help bring the pure gospel to the people in Rome and Italy.

Dedication of new Church in Innsbruck, Austria

By *Karl Fischbacher*

"What is long in coming is always good", says the proverb. These words fit the new church in Innsbruck, Austria, which was two years in building, but could then be dedicated free of debt in the month of September. The members in Innsbruck are very thankful that they have at last a church building of their own, after having spent about fifty years wandering around through seventeen different rented halls. The building is beautifully situated a little above the city, and commands a marvelous view of the Tyrolean Alps.

Walking up the broad steps one enters the main auditorium through a bright hall. This beautiful room slopes a little towards the front, and seats 165. The platform is slightly rounded and the wall behind, which can be used for the projection of slides, is covered by a light-green curtain. The pulpit is movable, and is decorated in front with a maple cross. At the side of the hall is the room for mothers with small children, and they are able to follow the proceedings in the main hall through a large window.

In the basement is a smaller hall seating eighty, and besides smaller rooms for baptismal candidates, there are two committee rooms and a two-room apartment. The church building is surrounded by a well-kept garden.

Because of the General Conference session the inauguration of the chapel was postponed until September 22, even though the members had been meeting here since May. On the big day visitors came from nearby towns in Austria and Germany, and from

Salzburg came thirty singers and musicians.

The guest speakers were M. Fridlin, president of the Division, M. Schwab and H. Schnoetzinger from the Austrian Union, F. Pfingstl from the Alpine Conference, as well as several missionaries home on furlough. On the Friday evening a baptism was conducted, a good omen of the future of the church life here.

The Sabbath services started with a beautiful rendering of Mozart's "Ave verum" by the Salzburg choir, accompanied by the orchestra. The text for the inauguration sermon was chosen from Psa. 26:8: "Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth."

In the afternoon the official dedication started with the reading of Psa. 96 by J. Lackner, secretary-treasurer of the Austrian Union. The Salzburg choir sang Mozart's "Laudate", and H. Schnoetzinger welcomed all visitors. The mayor of the town expressed his joy that the Seventh-day Adventists of Innsbruck had been able to build such a beautiful church.

M. Fridlin, president of the Division, told how the workers in the mission fields have to start their efforts in simple huts, and only when the church has been strengthened and has grown within, are they able to erect proper buildings. The church in Innsbruck has now passed the provisional stage, and thus a beautiful church building has been erected. Brother Fridlin expressed the wish that soon another church might be

built to the honor of the Lord here in Innsbruck.

M. Schwab, president of the Austrian Union, mentioned the example of Hezekiah, who opened the doors of the temple; and added that he wished we as Adventists would open the doors wide and let others in, in order that God's house might be called "an house of prayer for all people" (Isa. 56:7). After another musical item, this time by the string quartette, the conference president of the Alpine Conference, F. Pfingstl, formally handed over the church to the members in Innsbruck for them to use, and M. Fridlin closed with the dedication prayer.

Time was now allowed for the members to express their memories of the last fifty years, and with gratefulness they could sing: "Great God, we praise Thee," followed by another item by the choir from Tyrol.

Brother Karl Fischbacher began his talk by saying: "We have experienced it." So often it had been necessary for the church members to give up the hope of acquiring their own place of worship, and time and again they had been forced to change from one rented place to another; but today they experienced the great joy of being in their own house of prayer.

Many people had sent flowers and telegrams to join in the happiness of the members, and make the occasion as festive as possible.

After the rendering of different hymns and poems, one of the members read the story of the Innsbruck church, which was founded in 1911. During the first world war the members had to split up in groups, but afterwards they could again assemble as one body in a rented hall, and today the membership stands at one hundred and twenty. These few people have shown great generosity and willingness to give, and this is the reason that the beautiful church building is here today.

The evening of the big day was given over to the showing of color slides from Cameroun by Brother E. Ludescher, a missionary from this interesting part of our division.

Sunday was spent in different activities. The work of the book evangelists in Austria was described,

as they have assisted much in bringing new members to the church by the distribution of Bible correspondence lessons; and the great work done for the youth in our Bogenhofen Seminary was also mentioned. M. Fridlin and M. Schwab enriched the knowledge of the members by their inspiring Bible studies, and the choir gladdened the congregation by singing many of the hymns we love so much.

In the evening a farewell meeting was held. Until now it had been the church members who had expressed their great thankfulness for the new church, but now the leaders of the

conference thanked the members for the sacrifices they had made in order that the plans might materialize.

After a short testimony meeting, in which both the leading brethren and the members expressed their gratitude for these blessed days, the meetings were closed by the singing of the hymn "God be with you till we meet again."

This week-end had been a high light in the experience of the members of the Innsbruck church, and they are looking with confidence to the future, knowing that the Lord will lead them onward, as He has done hitherto.

The new church in Innsbruck, Austria



News From Seychelles

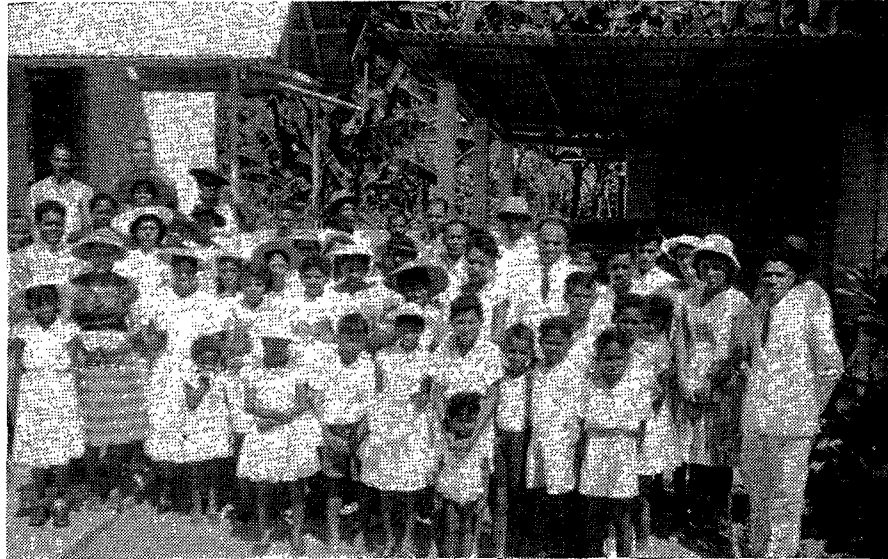
By H. Evard

The Seychelles islands rise like big blocks of granite out of the blue waves of the Indian Ocean. Here under a tropical sun, where the coconut palm is king, lives a cosmopolitan population. Most of them are poor because they are isolated from other parts of the world, and have only few material resources, such as vanilla, cinnamon and copra. Communications with the rest of the world are limited to a service between Mombasa and Bombay. Now and again a boat en route to Mauritius may stop at Seychelles, but in this day and age of the plane, there is not yet a regular, direct service to these islands. To get there from Mauritius the easiest is to take the plane to Nairobi, from there to Mombasa, and after two days and three nights one arrives at Seychelles.

It is about thirty years ago since our message was first brought to these islands, and we have now a church with about fifty members. Several European missionaries have worked here, and during the last years the Mauritius Mission has sent over several evangelists. Right now Brother Marc Supramayen is in charge of the work here.

The capital, Victoria, is situated on the island of Mahé, and here we have a beautiful church building, where services are held regularly on the Sabbath in the French language, because even though the islands are under the jurisdiction of Britain, French is spoken. Whereas most of our members live in Victoria, we also have some who live in the countryside of this island, and on the islands of Cerf and Praslin, the latter being about thirty kilometers from Mahé.

Recently Brother Supramayen and I tried to visit all the members, and everywhere we were received with joy and kindness. We clearly proved that Christian fellowship is not an empty word. At the time of this itinerary we had a baptism, when two young girls joined the church. Then



Church in Victoria

we spent several evenings conducting public meetings, every time before very attentive audiences. A simple, but beautiful wedding was also celebrated while we were there.

We have a primary school on a hill, where Mrs. H. Calais is in charge, assisted by two other teachers. About thirty pupils attend the school regularly, but life is not so easy for some of these students, who often have to walk long distances, and do not have the most favorable circumstances under which to study.

A visit to a leper colony for healed lepers impressed me very much, because these people, who have suffered from this terrible disease, gave us a very friendly reception. Some have been there over twenty years, and although their bodies show signs of their sufferings, their souls were very much alive and receptive to the Word of God.

We also made a visit to the island of Praslin, situated about three hours' journey by boat from Mahé, as we have here a few members and

some interested persons. Two evenings we conducted meetings under the starlit canopy of heaven before an audience of about fifty attentive listeners. Here on this island there are not many distractions, and the visitors are well received, but on others there is often more resistance because of religious prejudice.

The blessed days were soon over, and the time came for us to leave by boat for Mombasa. Friends came to say goodbye at the pier, while Pastor and Mrs. Supramayen and the treasurer, Brother J. Stravens, accompanied me on board for a last handshake. Goodbye dear friends on the Seychelles, when shall we meet again?

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): Höhweg 17, Berne, Switzerland.

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