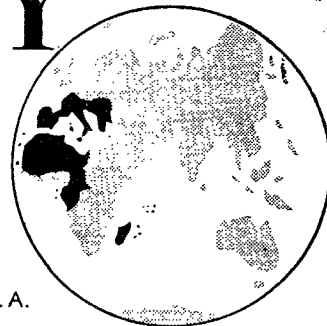


QUARTERLY REVIEW



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Sardinia

By M. Fridlin

Secretary, Southern European Division

Little or nothing has been written up to this time about Sardinia and the progress of the third angel's message which has gained a foothold there. This interesting island, separated by the Strait of Bonifacio from the French island of Corsica, has almost one million inhabitants in its 25,000 square kilometers. It is not without reason that the Italian Union calls Sardinia its little mission field.

It was my privilege a short time ago, accompanied by L. Beer, president of the Italian Union Mission, to visit the island. This was the first time a representative of the Southern European Division had had the opportunity of a closer acquaintance with the work there.

Until very recently, Sardinia was considered by the continent as an inhospitable land. The large areas of swampy coastland contribute largely to the spread of malaria, and most of the inhabitants have been attacked by this disease. Now, however, helicopters fly over the island regularly, spraying DDT to combat the gnats which are responsible for the notorious swamp fevers. Towns and villages have been cleaned and modernized. The existing transportation facilities have been improved and new lines have been added, so that

today's traveler finds at his disposal modern and swift connections with the continent daily by ship and plane.

Sardinia's historical background is particularly interesting. The history of the island goes back to the seventh century before Christ. At that time

the Carthaginians had reached the zenith of their power and invaded the coastal region of Sardinia, which had formerly been occupied by the Phoenicians. The Greek seafarers also left traces of their presence on the island in the form of ruins which surround the harbor city of Olbia. In 238 B. C. Sardinia passed under the Roman yoke.

In the field of archaeology, the island offers much of interest. The efforts of archaeologists have made possible rich collections of weapons, utensils, and other articles dating from antiquity. Graves found in grottoes show clearly that the worship of the dead must have played an important role among the early inhabitants of Sardinia. Among the prehistoric remains found on the island are the so-called «Nuraghi,» great coneshaped buildings constructed of stones placed one on top of another, no mortar whatever being used. It was at

OUR WISH FOR 1950

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW

wishes for all its readers
during the New Year :

Abundant health
Happiness in service
God's blessing and protection

(Please turn to page 3)

Our Schools

By O. Schubert

Educational Secretary, Southern European Division

Another school year has begun, and we are happy to be able to report that all is well.

Our Division school, the Séminaire Adventiste at Collonges-sous-Salève, opened September 28. About one hundred students registered the first two days. Others have come in later, so that the present enrollment is about 130. We were present at the opening exercises and were favorably impressed with the good spirit that seemed to be everywhere.

The school has been reorganized into a lower and an upper section. The lower section comprises the « cours complémentaire » which follows the elementary courses of the church school. In connection with this, the « Home, » for children of missionaries and others who are anxious to give their children a Christian education, has been moved to new quarters in the newly acquired main building of the former Hotel Beau-Site. Here the children live in nicely furnished rooms, with running water in each room.

From the beautiful dining-room, one has a magnificent view into the valley, the city of Geneva with its lake, and the mountains on the other side. Several classrooms serve for the church school and the « cours complémentaire. »

This « cours complémentaire » is on the level of our American academies and thus gives the necessary preparation for the seminary proper, or the college. R. Bermeilly, the academic dean of the seminary, is also the director of the « cours complémentaire. »

Several new teachers have been added to the faculty. C. H. Comiot teaches Latin and Greek. Alfred Buser is in charge of the music department. Marthe Hessloehl teaches household arts, and R. Magni directs the wood-work department. Georges Stéveny, former teacher of ancient languages, has accepted a call to evangelistic work in Grenoble.

Our school in Italy, the Istituto Avventista di Cultura Biblica, near Florence, opened with an enrollment of about fifty students. A recent visit to the school gave us great pleasure. It is always refreshing to observe the spirit of work and discipline for which our little school in the beautiful Tuscan hills is so famous.

The Seminário Adventista at Portalegre, Portugal, reports 31 students. J. Nunes Branco is acting principal this year, while E. Ferreira attends the Theological Seminary in Washington.

From the schools in Rumania, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, we have no reports at the time of this writing.

F. Pieringer, the principal of our new school in Austria, announces that they are planning to open their first school year on November 30, 1949, and that they

expect about thirty students. Last spring we bought a small property, « Schloss Bogenhofen, » a historic castle near Braunau. During the summer months the necessary repairs and changes have been made, and it is now a little school with room for about forty students. The dining room, the kitchen, and a small apartment for a teacher will occupy the ground floor of the main building. The chapel, with several classrooms and offices, and the principal's apartment are on the second floor. The girls will occupy the rooms on the third floor. The boys' dormitory, a separate building, will house about twenty young men. The buildings are surrounded by beautiful meadows and good farming land. We believe that the little school will become a great blessing for our young people in Austria.

Good reports have also come in from the schools in the mission fields.

There is our large school, Ankadifotsy, at Tananarive, Madagascar. Because of the climate, the school opens early in January and closes toward the end of November. The enrollment was 650 this year. The faculty consists of twenty teachers, of which, however, only three are Adventists. The age of the students varies from six to twenty years.

Besides this large school, there are five other small elementary schools at present on the island of Madagascar, with an enrollment of from 45 to 110 pupils.

Our Indian Ocean Union training school is located at Soamanandrarinny, near Tananarive. Jean Zurcher is the principal, and he reports that they have had a very good school year. The teaching staff consists of ten regular teachers and three assistants. The total



J. Zurcher, principal of Soamanandrarinny seminary,
with a group of students baptized during W. R. Beach's visit to Madagascar.

enrollment is 375 students between the ages of six to twenty-five. Two hundred and forty are day students, and 135 are in the dormitories, of whom 71 are boys and 64 girls.

This year nine young men will be graduated from the six-year course of study, obtaining a ministerial diploma. There are a number of students who will receive various others diplomas, two young men and one young girl obtaining the Certificat d'Aptitude à l'Enseignement.

This school makes a special effort to provide manual training. Sewing and household arts are given for the girls, while a professional gardener teaches gardening and farming to the boys.

Brother Zurcher also emphasizes the spiritual influences at the school. Twelve students were baptized this past year. The ministerial students have carried on a special evangelistic effort, as a result of which a baptismal class has been organized.

H. Evard, the principal of our school at Phoenix, Mauritius, also gives an interesting report. When Doctor Evard arrived in the field in August, 1948, a small property had already been bought, located in a beautiful region with a healthful climate. The building had been repaired, and school work could begin immediately.

A two-year Bible course was organized, with about ten pupils. The subjects for the first year are: Old Testament History, New Testament History, Bible Doctrines, Bible Readings, French, English, Ancient History, Arithmetic, and Canvassing. For the second year they are: Daniel and the Revelation, Denominational History, Spirit of Prophecy, Church History,

Organization, Public Speaking, General History, English, French, and Bookkeeping.

Another course was organized to prepare for the Overseas Junior School Certificate. A good number of non-Adventists are taking this course. The enrollment in this department is 65 students. Four teachers are employed to teach the various subjects of this course.

After some hesitancy, a church school was also organized in connection with this school, and the brethren were surprised when 65 pupils registered. They had not expected more than ten. Thus, the school building is much too small, and the union committee voted to erect four more classrooms. We are certainly happy about this good report from Doctor Evard.

In our Portuguese missions, we have a fine school with 140 pupils on St. Thomas Island. There are forty pupils in the school in Praia, Cape Verde, and fifty in the one in Funchal, Madeira.

Our church school work in Europe is being strengthened. In Switzerland, the schools at La Chaux-de-Fonds, Lausanne, and Gland are continuing successfully. A fine schoolroom has been provided in connection with our new chapel in Berne, and we plan to open a church school in this city in the spring. The school authorities have already granted permission.

In the Franco-Belgian Union, church schools are being carried on in Strasbourg and in Brussels.

In Portugal we have a fine church school in Lisbon with about 25 pupils.

The education of our children and young people is important. The future of the work depends on it. We are therefore happy that our small efforts in this direction are blessed and that the work of Christian education is also growing in this Division.

Sardinia

(Continued from page 1)

first believed that they were graves or heathen temples. Today, however, scholars agree that they were used as strongholds in case of attack.

The Sardinians are a square-built, sturdy people, simple in their way of living, and very industrious. In their magnificent costumes, which have been preserved for centuries and are today worn only on great occasions such as festivals, weddings, and processions, they offer the visitor to the island a picturesque and attractive sight.

Catholicism, combined with superstitious customs, is the religion of the island. People passing a church cross themselves; and I saw some doing the same thing upon entering the business section of the city. It was explained to me that they do this to ward off the danger of being robbed or cheated in the stores, or some other unpleasant experience.

Only the everlasting gospel as given us by Jesus Christ can liberate these people from their gross superstition. The proclamation of the advent message on Sardinia began more than ten years ago, shortly before the outbreak of the second World War. G. Catalano, the present colporteur leader of the South Italian field, was the first worker on the island. He

worked principally in Cagliari, the capital and main seaport, devoting half his time to colporteur work and spending the other half in giving Bible studies among the interested persons he had found. The work was not easy, especially during the war when the island underwent intensive bombing. In addition, the Italian Union leaders were unable to visit the field regularly.

The hard work and perseverance of our courageous brother was nevertheless crowned with success. When he left the island last year to take up other work, he left behind in the capital a church of about twenty faithful members.

Upon our arrival in Cagliari we were greeted cordially by E. Melani, Brother Catalano's successor. The Sabbath was about to begin, and at 7:00 that evening we held our first meeting in the simple quarters which the church has been able to rent on one of the main streets of the city. For the little church in Cagliari, our visit was an event: it was the first time they had ever had an Adventist visitor who was not Italian! Brother Melani had arranged a kind of annual gathering, and during the next two days the rich blessing of God rested upon our meetings,

which were attended by an average of thirty to thirty-five people. A baptism took place on Sunday morning at the beach.

You may be surprised to learn that « The Voice of Hope » is heard on the island of Sardinia. For almost two years our worker has been speaking every Sabbath morning from 8:45 to 9:00 over the local radio station. We had the opportunity of hearing Brother Melani that Sabbath, and we found that he had put together a really interesting program.

The director of Radio Sardinia is favorably disposed toward Adventists. A short time ago he said to Brother Melani, with a smile, « But you are really dangerous people.

« How is that ? » asked Brother Melani in astonishment. »

« Because you present your message in such a way that people can't help being convinced ! »

In addition to the members of the Cagliari church, there are scattered believers in the central and northern parts of the island. We even have a sister on the tiny islet northeast of Sardinia, Caprera, where the national hero Garibaldi was born and where he is buried.

Leaving Cagliari, we traversed the island by train from south to north, remaining a few hours in Sardinia's second largest city, Sassari, in the northwest. Sassari is a university city, with a population of almost eighty thousand. We came away with the conviction that work must soon be begun in that city also. Above all else, Sardinia needs a second worker to be stationed in the northern part.

The Italian Union has already laid plans to send a colporteur who will devote half his time to direct evangelism. Only in this way will it be possible for us to reach the million inhabitants of Sardinia with the advent message.

My short visit to Sardinia was a source of courage to me. Once more I realized that God is at the head of this work and that His Spirit is everywhere active. What a glorious privilege for us to belong to such a wonderful movement and to be partakers of the love of Jesus, which constrains us each day to do more effective work for Him !

Sardinia, the little Italian mission field, needs our prayers. I feel sure that our members will from day to day remember this tiny field before the Throne of Grace.

In the Franco-Belgian Union

By J. C. Guenin

President, Franco-Belgian Union

Progress has undeniably been realized in the Franco-Belgian Union during the last few months. First, there has been a change in its internal organization: instead of four conferences, there are now five. The South France Conference has been divided, and the new Southwest France Conference will have its headquarters in Bordeaux.

Then the name « conférence » has been replaced by the more French expression « fédération. » Thus we have « fédérations » of Adventist churches in the north, the east, the southeast, and the southwest of France, to which must be added the « fédération » of Adventist churches in Belgium. This change applies only in the French language, naturally.

A property has been purchased in the very center of Bordeaux and has been equipped as a policlinic. By the time this article appears, the clinic will be in operation under the direction of Dr. E. Süßmann. In the same building, the Bordeaux church, which has hitherto met under the most unfavorable conditions, will have at its disposition an attractive meeting hall and also a place for the young people.

In a former article, I mentioned the chapels we had been able to buy or build. In the course of the year 1949 the Liège, Mulhouse, and Bruges chapels have been dedicated, as well as the Valence building, which contains a fine chapel, a young people's hall, and two apartments. At Nice a small hotel, with outbuildings, has been bought and is now being remodeled to provide a large meeting hall, several smaller halls, and two or three apartments for evangelists.

At Saint-Etienne, the church has finally arranged for a fine building in the center of the city, an excellent headquarters from which to spread the advent message.

At Paris-Neuilly we have purchased a former Anglican chapel. Since the temple on the Boulevard de l'Hôpital had become too small, the more than five hundred members in Paris have been divided into two churches. A. Herbet, coming from Roanne, will serve as pastor of the original church, while the new group will have as its pastor André Lecoultré who has returned to France from Canada.

André Henriot, former pastor of the Paris church, was elected president of the East France Conference after J. A. de Caenel had been called to serve as president of the French West and Equatorial African Union Mission.

The Braine l'Alleud church in Belgium, finding its quarters much too small, has, due to the liberality of its members, purchased a piece of land on which it has begun the construction of a more spacious chapel. At Verviers the generosity of a lady friendly to our church has made it possible to procure a larger and more convenient hall than the one it has occupied up to this time.

The housing of our workers, especially those newly employed, is another very complicated problem for us.

It is regrettable that the president must spend such a large part of his time on material questions, while there is so much to be done everywhere from the spiritual viewpoint. Is not this one of the enemy's tactics ?

The «Voix de l'Espérance» broadcasts continue regularly each Friday at 2:30 over Radio Luxembourg and each Saturday at 6:45 p. m. over Monte Carlo. Tens of thousands listen regularly, and more than seven thousand have enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Course. As a result of these two activities, many persons have been baptized who would probably never have come in contact with the advent message in any other way. There have been 288 baptisms in 1949.

The work of distributing our literature has met with constantly increasing success. While in 1947 the sale of literature amounted to twenty million French francs, in 1948 it was 35,566,714 francs, making an increase of more than fifteen million francs. The number of colporteurs has increased to 144. God alone can judge of the wonderful work they are doing.

Here again a number of persons have been baptized as a result of their work.

The amount of tithe paid in the Franco-Belgian Union during 1948 was 36,475,701 francs. Ingathering for Missions brought in 6,247,516 francs, and other gifts amounted to 5,077,628 francs.

Evangelistic campaigns were undertaken and carried through during the winter of 1948-49 in nearly fifty cities. This of course represents a great deal of effort as well as expense, but it will come to very little if the Spirit of God does not work in the hearts and minds of those who preach and those who listen; for our evangelists, like all our members, must never weary of praying that the seed sown may bear fruit for the salvation of many souls. Is not this our only ambition and the unique aim of all our activities?

Tunisia, 1949

By R. Meyer

President, Tunis Mission

Tunisia, at the extreme east of North Africa, lies on none of the main roads of travel. The time of the Arab conquests is past, and the invasion routes have been abandoned. In order to make a stop in Tunisia, one must set out with that intention.

It was therefore with joy that, in response to the invitation of the Division, we made preparations for a regional assembly at Ferryville at the beginning of October. We are grateful to the Division for having sent F. Charpiot and A. Meyer for this occasion. Their admonitions and counsel were particularly appreciated. The charming chapel at Ferryville, 65 kilometers from Tunis, served once again as the place of meeting.

On Sabbath, October 8, most of the members of the Tunis Mission were gathered for the Sabbath school and church service. A. Meyer stressed the importance of a full consecration to God's service, which each one present joyfully renewed. In the afternoon, after a stirring sermon by P. Girard, president of the North African Union Mission, three brethren testified through baptism to their desire to walk in the footsteps of the Saviour. We thank God particularly that one of them was a former Mohammedan. It was another brother of Moslem origin who had spoken to him of the gospel for the first time. Has not the prophecy foretold that the descendants of Ishmael are also to accept Jesus as their Saviour? The day ended with a musical program in the evening, given by the young people of the Mission. A pleasant memory was carried away by all, in spite of the storm which threatened to spoil the evening.

Sunday and Monday found the church members and workers in the chapel again, happy to receive more counsel and encouragement.

The instruction given must be put to immediate use, for the Ingathering awaited us. Courageously, each one set to work. Even now, before the end of

the campaign, the results are clearly superior to those of last year. We thank God for this.

Southern Tunisia, where many customs exist which have elsewhere disappeared, attracts a great many tourists. But it was not for the purpose of sightseeing that we went to Sfax and Gabès with Brother Galdéano, our Tunis evangelist. This year again our Ingathering trip was splendidly successful. Everywhere we received a cordial welcome, even from those who could not help us financially. In six days, by the grace of God, we collected more than 63,000 francs in these two communities.

At Sfax there is an interest in several homes. Our colporteurs have worked there, and our work is fairly well known. We plan to develop this interest further by means of public lectures which will enable us to do direct evangelism, in the homes as well as in public. Through the Ingathering campaign we have made a number of interesting contacts. Many people listen to the «Voix de L'Espérance» and appreciate the broadcast. They are eager to know more about our movement. Everywhere souls are seeking the light from the cross; we must carry it to them.

We must also relieve the sick. Our modest dispensary in Tunis gives us the means of doing this. The Tunis authorities recognize its worth, for they have authorized an appeal to the generosity of the public in behalf of our welfare work. Miss Aline Burri, a graduate nurse of La Lignière, cares for the suffering; and there are many in Tunisia who need care and encouragement. For it is not enough to give them the needed material aid; we want to lead them to the Lord Jesus.

The task is great, the means limited. But we are certain that God will grant us success proportionate to our faith. We thank Him for what He has given us and ask for your prayers to aid us in carrying on the work until it is finished.

RECAPITULATION

Name of Conference or Mission	Number of Churches	Previous Membership	Baptism	Vote	Letter	Total Gains	Apostasy	Death	Letter	Total Losses	Net Gain	Present Membership	Ord. Ministers	Lic. Ministers	Credentialed Missionaries	Licensed Missionaries	Missionaries Bible Instr.	Elem. School Teachers	Canvassers	Total Laborers	Number of Sab. Schools	Sab. School Membership	Average Attendance	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
1. SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV. . .																								
2. Austrian Union Conference	36	2469	60	2	135	197	2	11	140	153	44	25	13	18	1	3	5	3	—	19	49	35	2661	2000
3. Czechoslovakian » »	114	5021	—									50	21	33	3	2	3	19	—	8	68	160	5445	5200
4. Franco-Belgian » »	75	3367	26	2	3	36	6	4	15	25	11	33	78	31	24	6	25	7	3	134	230	68	2662	1952
5. Hungarian » »	155	5964	153	6	156	315	44	17	157	213	97	60	61	26	10	4	15	35	—	82	172	155	5970	4310
6. Yugoslavian » »	157	5729	350			350	40	39		79	271	60	00	12	5	—	13	—	—	30	177	6000	4000	
7. Rumanian » »	551	25000	—									250	00	78	11	—	47	—	—	136	560	27720	25000	
8. Swiss » »	57	3052	35	1	6	42	13	13	19	45	-3	30	49	24	6	3	9	7	3	46	98	57	2509	1789
9. French West and Eq. Afr. U. M.	8	1463	260			260	50	60	150	260	—	14	63	5	6	—	19	72	30	—	132	111	6113	4969
10. Indian Ocean Union Mission . . .	51	1682	155	4	4	163	54	29	99	182	-19	16	63	21	8	12	18	—	14	5	78	56	2894	2106
11. Italian » »	45	1623	78	3	28	109	16	2	33	51	58	16	81	18	3	1	22	3	—	102	149	59	1974	1668
12. North African » »	16	591	8		3	11	8	2	4	14	-3	5	88	9	3	—	11	—	1	25	49	22	477	393
13. Portuguese » »	26	1368	32	2	9	43	1	4	3	8	35	14	03	12	5	2	16	2	4	20	61	26	1358	1061
14. Bulgarian Conference	39	1751	—									17	51	9	4	—	10	—	—	23	29	901	713	
15. Grecian Mission	5	162	2			2					2	1	64	2	1	1	1	1	—	1	7	5	153	170
16. Spanish Mission	10	635	18		2	20	1		8	9	11	6	46	4	1	2	8	1	1	21	38	12	689	593
TOTALS FOR 3rd QUARTER, 1949 :	1345	59877	1177	20	351	1548	235	181	628	1044	504	60381	317	93	40	245	150	56	463	1364	1532	67526	55929	
TOTALS FOR 3rd QUARTER, 1948 :	1301	55907	601	34	132	767	119	66	130	315	452	56359	290	98	29	197	81	18	471	1184	1383	59966	49869	

Youth Evangelism and Missionary Volunteer Camps

By J. J. Aitken

Y. P. M. V. Secretary, Southern European Division

As the church of God advances ever upward in its march toward the Holy City, the hopes of God's children should grow brighter and brighter. There is always a great anticipation of joy as one nears home, even though the way may be steep and treacherous.

The church has a message of hope and cheer for all who find themselves wandering in darkness in these last days. The church has the assurance that Jesus will come in all His glory as soon as its task of spreading the message to every corner of earth has been accomplished.

Through the Spirit of prophecy, we find that the boys and girls, young men and young women, of the church form a great army which, if rightly trained, will speedily bring the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour to the whole world.

More than 25,000 young people in the Southern European Division are uniting their efforts today to bring a message of hope to the millions of Europe who still sit in the darkness of despair and superstition.

Youth evangelism is a subject dear to the hearts of our young people. It is a soul-winning work which our youth and no other group, including pastors, evangelists, or older members of the church, can do. God has chosen His young servants to accomplish this special task.

During the past summer it was my privilege to be in nine Missionary Volunteer camps, in Switzerland, France, Belgium, North Africa, and Italy. There were smaller regional camps in Spain and in Austria which I could not visit. In these M. V. camps throughout

our Division, I was able to see at first hand our young people as they made this experience a great occasion for soul winning.

For the postwar period, the year 1949 was really the beginning of large-scale Missionary Volunteer camp planning throughout our Division. In all, we had well over one thousand Missionary Volunteers under the tents for the most part, and in some countries, such as Switzerland and Italy, in barracks.

From this group of one thousand M. V. campers, there came forward a group of more than two hundred who had decided to follow Christ all the way and to join a baptismal class definitely preparing for church membership. Where did these two hundred young people come from? They came, for the most part, from the great cities of Europe and North Africa. Who were they? They were young men and young women who had been wandering the streets in search of happiness in the so-called pleasure houses of the world: The majority had had no connection with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They were invited by young men and young women who called themselves Missionary Volunteers, to join in the efforts of a society called the Missionary Volunteer society.

These young people were at first not in search of religion. They, however, found among the youth of the church of God a warmth of comradeship, a sense of joy and happiness in accomplishing that which is worth while for humanity; and they have stayed with us. Some of them have told me that among Adventist youth they have found Jesus Christ and the wells of

living water, and they did not choose to return into the world after this refreshing experience. The faith and courage of these wandering youth grew as they associated with young people who had a real vision of a life of joyful service for the Master. Their final step, in making a decision for Christ in camp, seemed to be a natural one, as they found that the happiest young people in all the world are Missionary Volunteers.

I think of the testimony of one of these boys in our senior M. V. camp in Belgium. He gave his testimony at a public campfire service under a star-studded sky. The entire neighborhood of farmers, townspeople, and professional people had been invited to this campfire. The young man was asked if he could tell why he was a Missionary Volunteer and some of the joys which he had in his heart. He told us that he did not have the gift of speech, and that his legs had a habit of trembling whenever he tried to speak in public. However, he accepted the invitation. He began by saying that he was alone in the world and felt that the only important thing was finding a well-paying job so that he could entertain himself as much as possible. He told how his salary was spent on cigarettes, drink, and houses of pleasure. He said frankly that he found no lasting pleasure in these pursuits. Then one day a Missionary Volunteer who had been an old comrade met him on the street and invited him to M. V. meeting. At first, he said, he felt silly going into a church, but after a few visits he found here a response to his heart's desire. He said he found Adventist youth to have the highest and most noble aspirations of any youth group he had ever met. His hearers were impressed by his simple testimony, sharing his newfound faith. This young man is now a baptized member of the Adventist Church.

Now let us turn our eyes southward to the Riviera coast of southern France, a great tourist area. Here 140 Missionary Volunteers gathered for ten days along the blue waters of the Mediterranean. After one of our meetings under the pines, I asked all those to step forward who were at camp only because some Missionary Volunteer had invited them. I was surprised to see a group of over thirty moving forward. Upon arriving at camp, some of these had never before heard anyone read from the Bible. The Morning Watch and spiritual program was all new to them. One young lady did not even know that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. It was a joy to explain to her the great plan of salvation.

Some of these young people in personal conversations told me they had no idea of how to judge between right and wrong. The spiritual, educational, and practical program of the camp was a marvelous blessing to them. They went back home with a clearer vision to fight for that which is right, to help strengthen the Missionary Volunteer program of the church. When the gospel takes full possession of a young heart, this young person immediately seeks to win his old associates whom he sees left behind in the mire of sin. In this way the chain of happiness keeps gaining new links.

Looking across the Mediterranean, we see the large expanses of territory in North Africa, from Tunis to Casablanca. From this area the Missionary Volun-

teers were gathered for camp near the village of Têlagh, just at the door of the great Sahara Desert. They carried on missionary endeavor in the village by sending out singing bands. After each song, with a loud voice, they invited all the people to the campfire service in the public market place the next evening. Hundreds of people came to see what sort of message the Missionary Volunteers had to give. They were thrilled by the good music. In two nights there were more than 1,100 people in attendance. At least half the attendance was Arab, the other half European. The Arabs listened attentively to the unique way our young people graphically presented our message. The first part of the program was of a wholesome recreational nature, and the second half was definitely spiritual.

One well-educated, veiled Arab lady became so interested in a Friday evening testimony hour that her husband had great difficulty in getting her away. She kept telling him to let her stay just five minutes more. This Arab mother had two young daughters who participated in the progressive class program of the camp. It was indeed interesting to see these Arab girls in their costumes repeating after the group leader, «The love of Christ constraineth us,» «The advent message to all the world in this generation.»

We already have some requests from Arab boys who would like to attend camp next year, and we hope that some of them will be able to do so. For years the great problem of our work in North Africa has been how to win the Arabs. Today we see reasons for new hope. Two Arabs have just recently been baptized, and we believe that, through the efforts of our workers and also Missionary-Volunteer-minded young people, many more hearts can be reached.

The French mayor of Têlagh and his secretary-general told us after camp that the Missionary Volunteers had done their village much good morally and especially spiritually, and a cordial invitation was extended to come back next year. I have just received word that a number of adults in the city are now studying with our evangelist as a result of the interest aroused during the M. V. camp.

Two camps were held in Italy this year — one in the historical Waldensian region of northern Italy, where God's people preserved the light of truth during the Dark Ages. Here in the Piedmont hills of the Alps, one can still find traces of the fidelity of the Waldenses to the word of God. One afternoon our Missionary Volunteers assembled in what is called the «Ghieisa dla Tana,» a great natural cave which protected the members of the early church from the Roman soldiers who had been sent to destroy them. It was here in these hills that «the earth helped the woman,» as we read in Revelation 12. Our Missionary Volunteers here rededicated their lives, to be true to death if necessary in order to defend that which is right, as long as time shall last. They sang together in this cave the great hymn of Martin Luther, «A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,» and then the hymn which Italians love to sing, «We Will Be True Unto Death.»

In southern Italy our Missionary Volunteers and their young friends experienced a new thrill and inspiration as they visited Puteoli, where the apostle Paul landed from his prison ship. Paul was in chains as he started the long, hard journey by foot to Rome.

But it was here in Puteoli that he met brethren of the faith. How happy Paul would be to know that young brethren and sisters are today carrying forward the torch of truth which he so nobly presented to the then known world.

On a high cliff overlooking the bay of Naples, the final investiture service and closing meeting for our camp season was held. It was here, in the light of a glowing campfire, that our Italian boys and girls, young men and young women, pledged themselves wholeheartedly to the service of the Master. During this camp alone, over 25 took their stand for baptism. Some adults who had been lingering in their decision saw the courageous example of the youth who were stepping forward, and they too decided to unite their efforts with the church of God.

Missionary Volunteers have a definite message for the world today. I shall never forget the experience we had in the Metzeral M. V. camp near Strasbourg. Near our camp site was another camp of boys from a professional school from Thionville, France. The director of their school was with them, and so far as camp technique and equipment is concerned, this is one of the best camps I have ever seen.

The director of this camp was invited to bring all his boys to our campfire service on Sunday evening. After our youth had assembled around the campfire, and as the first flames were crackling out of the logs, we saw them coming — the director and his eighty boys in well-organized file. They came over and took their place among our campers. There were also many other Boy Scouts around the neighborhood and in the mountains nearby who had come to visit us that evening.

After the service, although it was late, this educator from the boys' school took time to come over and talk with the leaders of our camp. His reflections are well worth noting. He told us that as yet Adventists are very little known in northern France, and especially

in Thionville. But, he said, it was certainly a pleasant experience for him to become better acquainted with the Missionary Volunteers, which he now found to be the youth organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He told us he only wished that he was able to give to his young men the same moral and spiritual values which he saw being given to our young people. «It is true,» he said, «that as far as camp technique and equipment are concerned, we perhaps are more fortunate than you; but you have the spirit of service which we so much need in our educational system.»

All of his boys took with them that night a copy of our youth journal *Jeunesse!* as a gift, and we learned later that many were grateful for this, their first contact with a truly Christian organization. A news item about this experience, I understand, appeared in the Thionville *Journal*. Only in the kingdom of heaven will we know how many youth have, as a result of such simple contacts, joined the army of Christ.

In the Southern European Division, our hopes are bright for a continuing and increasing wave of youth evangelism, which is a program for the entire year. Our fall and winter campaign of public youth meetings in halls is now progressing with good success. Next year we can easily have at least two thousand campers in God's great out-of-doors. We hope that 25 per cent of the total attendance will be non-Adventist youth who have been invited to come along with our Missionary Volunteers. From this source, and also from the youth of the church who are maturing, we hope to have at least five hundred decisions for Christ and baptism in two and one half months' time.

God will surely lead this youthful army forward to greater accomplishment. The work will soon be finished, and we know that then Jesus will surely come in all His glory.

With the Lepers in the Seychelles

By H. Salzmann

President, Seychelles Islands Mission

This was my third visit to the leper colony on Curieuse Island. Leaving Mahé by government motor launch, we sailed to Praslin, the second largest island of the archipelago, about 40 kilometers away. On the evening of our arrival, we gave a magic lantern lecture to an attentive audience.

The next day the island must be crossed on foot — an hour's walk under a blazing sun. Then the canoe from the Leprosarium arrived to take us to Curieuse. This time it was threatening to rain, and the wind was stirring up so many waves that we were happy to set foot on the fine sand of a solid shore, after a half-hour crossing.

The leper camp has for several months been directed by Captain H. Bromley of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. This experienced officer has already improved conditions in the camp to a remarkable extent. He and his charming wife welcomed me cordially. Under the veranda where we found a

seat, a chubby eight-month-old baby was playing — their child.

The week before, a new treatment had been begun in the camp, and I accompanied the captain on his rounds to distribute the «bonbons.» At about 500 meters' distance, the camp began — first the women's camp, consisting of small two-room houses — and these outcasts of society presented a sad spectacle.

There are two kinds of leprosy, one attacking the nervous system and the other the skin. It is this latter type which little by little gives its victims a horrifying aspect. And it is this very type of leprosy that the new drug is intended to combat.

The daily dose for the time being was three lozenges. To prevent fraud, the captain questioned his patients to see whether they had really swallowed the «affaire terrible,» for it is quite an ordeal for some of them. One of the women had almost no fingers left and showed other signs of corrosive

leprosy; she was eager to take this pill which holds out a promise of recovery and possible return to her family.

Following the coast, we arrived at the men's camp by the new path which the more robust of the patients had made since my last visit in March. Several of the men were waiting for the captain. A vibrant summons from the latter brought the other lepers, and again it was comical to see the strenuous efforts made to swallow the huge pill. And yet no one hesitated; recovery seems so near. A leper from Praslin Island, who had been living in isolation, had just arrived to take the new treatment, for a message of hope such as this is indeed good news.

Among the thirty men who make up the camp, there is also a lad of some fourteen years. He was a pitiful sight, all alone and already attacked by the dread disease. But the new treatment may bring a change. May God direct the scientists who are seeking an effective remedy for this scourge of the tropics.

We announced a meeting for that evening with pictures, and the patients joyfully promised to come. It was a change from their solitary life, as well as something of a novelty. They were all there in the evening, all who could move well enough to reach the hall, and waiting impatiently for the images to

appear. It was Easter, and we showed pictures on the life of Christ, a neutral but nevertheless captivating subject, since «in Him we live, and move, and have our being.»

And what were they thinking, those lepers? On the screen we saw several times how Jesus healed the sick, even the lepers. What of them? How one longs at such a moment for that power spoken of in the gospels! «Jesus is coming again!» — this is our message and our earnest desire, for human suffering has reached its climax.

«Thank you, thank you very much,» they said at the close, with their faint, mournful voices issuing from lips only too often almost eaten away by sores. «Please come back,» they appealed, and this we promised to do.

The next day brought us back to a world apparently normal — but a world corroded by the insidious leprosy of sin which gradually attacks one member after another. If the memory of Curieuse Island is sad, the reality of the world is even more so, since there is no isolation whatever. Contact with evil is constant, and that is why so many persons are suffering from this «leprosy.» The hope of the world is Jesus. Let us accept His invitation and find in Him the effectual remedy.

Seeking the Lost

By K. Fischbacher

District Leader, Alpine Conference

There is one commission which has remained the same for God's children throughout the generations: to seek the lost, to call home the straying, to lead those who are scattered in the darkness of ignorance into God's marvelous light. As mankind constantly increases, our task is the more urgent, and as the tares overgrow the good seed, the search becomes the more arduous. It is comforting to remember that «the Lord knoweth them that are His.» As He helped the apostles, so He is helping us today.

My field of labor is very different from a large city territory. There the net can be let down among the multitudes, whereas I must explore the mountainous regions of my district like a fisher and hunter. It often takes a whole day when a Bible study is to be given to one person high up in the mountains. Traveling and climbing consume a great deal of time, as do visits to outlying communities.

How far would one get if one tried to accomplish such a task alone? Many helpers are needed, and in order for them to be of real assistance, they must first be trained. This I did very early. In the two churches of my district, I enrolled the capable brethren in a course in which they were taught to speak, to explain, and to deal with people. They learned eagerly and are now ready to take over the small services for me.

During this time, a missionary group has each week distributed to those who have shown an interest, one of a series of leaflets presenting our message, and the people have been invited to lectures. This quarter a branch Sabbath school, with only nonbaptized members,

has been organized among the interested persons. To visit them each Sabbath afternoon is my task or that of my helpers. Although there are only six members for the time being, it is gratifying to hear their answers, showing that they have studied the lesson.

At the close of this year an effort will be held in a mountain community where a number of people are already taking the Bible Correspondence Course. These people were found by a sister who lives there, and one woman, the most enthusiastic among them, enrolled still others. In this place without a church, she could become a real help, for she is acquainted with everyone in the community. One of the members of the Sabbath school mentioned above is a midwife who knows almost all the residents of the village. Her zeal in spite of adverse circumstances is heartening.

In the other churches, this search has likewise begun, and the participants are carrying literature to the farthest valleys. Recently we have also been privileged to have the help of an enthusiastic young *colporteur* in seeking out the lost ones.

The interest of the church, united in this campaign, is stirring to watch. Good reports from this field of activity are greeted with joy and are remembered in prayer. It is regarded as a church enterprise, even though only part of the members are directly engaged in it. Thus the spiritual life of the church can receive fresh vitality from the front lines at home as well as from reports of the faraway mission fields. I firmly believe that the day is coming when all our members will arise and finish the work.

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« Die Stimme der Hoffnung »
and the Bible Correspondence Course
in German Switzerland

The first enrollment blanks for the German Bible Correspondence Course were sent out in Switzerland in June, 1948. Colporteurs and lay members eagerly distributed them in all parts of the German-Swiss Conference, and soon the enrollments began to come in.

In October of last year we had the joy of hearing « Die Stimme der Hoffnung » (The Voice of Hope) broadcast for the first time over Radio Luxembourg, and even though reception of this station is poor in some parts of our field, the program has met with warm approval. Many listeners deplore the fact that the quarter of an hour contains only fifteen minutes, for they would gladly listen longer. The beautiful gospel songs have touched many a heart and have brought a blessing to countless homes.

And now, after more than a year, we can look back on a record of progress. Of the 1,600 who have enrolled, about 1,000 are taking the course regularly. Some send in a lesson every week, others every two or three weeks. Thus the advent message is slowly making its way into their hearts and bringing them to a decision. Thirteen persons who have taken the course have already sealed their covenant with God in baptism and are happy in the truth.

Below are a few excerpts from letters which show how « Die Stimme der Hoffnung » is appreciated :

« I have now heard your broadcast twice, and I should appreciate your sending me the lessons. I am deeply stirred each time I hear the beautiful songs, but unfortunately it is always so short ! »

« With inner sympathy and joy I have listened occasionally to your German broadcast over Radio Luxembourg. Now at last I should like to take advantage of your offer and enroll in the Bible course. »

« I am enjoying the course more and more, as through it I am learning to understand the Bible better and to love and treasure God's word. »

« It is only through a thorough knowledge of the Holy Scriptures that one can understand God's great love, and to do this is my most earnest desire. I present myself as did the Ethiopian eunuch, and in place of Philip comes your wonderful lesson sheet, bringing me new thoughts each time and leading me to contemplate God's glory and majesty. »

« I am delighted with this Bible Correspondence Course. I can hardly wait for the next lesson. »

« I am extraordinarily pleased with this course, and I am firmly resolved to continue clear to the end. »

« Thank you so much for answering my questions. The answers are so clear and unmistakable that I am beginning to accept as fact much which has always before seemed incomprehensible. »

« I thank you for having awakened in me and my relatives a new reverence for God as Creator and Saviour. The program is over only too soon. »

« You have no idea what blessing and happiness is brought to us by 'Die Stimme der Hoffnung.' »

« Your Bible course, in connection with the radio lectures, has added greatly to our knowledge of God's word. Best of all, we are seeing the love of God as ever greater and mightier. We are greatly indebted to you. »

* * *

Our Bible Correspondence School and the radio work need our prayers. Let us not grow weary in this effort.

J. FEHR,
Home Missionary Secretary,
German-Swiss Conference.

« Solomon was never so rich or so wise or so truly great as when he confessed, 'I am but a little child; I know not how to go out or come in.' »

« Those who today occupy positions of trust should seek to learn the lesson taught by Solomon's prayer. The higher the position a man occupies, the greater the responsibility that he has to bear, the wider will be the influence that he exerts, and the greater his need of dependence on God. Ever should he remember that with the call to work, comes the call to walk circumspectly before his fellow men. He is to stand before God in the attitude of a learner. Position does not give holiness of character. It is by honoring God and obeying His commands that a man is made truly great.

« The God whom we serve is no respecter of persons. He who gave to Solomon the spirit of wise discernment, is willing to impart the same blessing to His children today. 'If any of you lack wisdom,' His word declares, 'let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.' When a burden-bearer desires wisdom more than he desires wealth, power, or fame, he will not be disappointed. Such a one will learn from the great Teacher not only what to do, but how to do it in a way that will meet with the divine approval. »

— *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 30, 31.

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HERE AND THERE
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W. R. Beach, Division president, after attending the Portuguese Union session, left Europe the latter part of September for America in order to attend the Autumn Council of the General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Annual Council of the Southern European Division will be held December 7 to 14 in Berne, Switzerland, in the new chapel building at 69 Thunstrasse. A publishing council as well as a Y. P. M. V. leaders' convention, December 2 to 7, will precede the session. During the Council, a day will be set apart for a radio workshop.

The General Conference is to be well represented at the Division Council and other meetings in connection with it. Those to attend are: W. H. Williams, undertreasurer; E. E. Franklin, associate Publishing Department secretary; P. Wickman, Radio Department secretary; and L. A. Skinner, associate Y. P. M. V. Department secretary. M. V. Campbell, president of the Central Union of the North American Division, will also be with us.

P. Wickman, secretary of the General Conference Radio Department, was in our field during the first part of November and spent several days in Paris helping to improve the quality of our radio programs. He also suggested further equipment for the Paris radio studio. During his visit to Florence, Italy, accompanied by M. Fridlin, valuable contacts were made in the interest of the radio work. Elder Wickman also gave good help in planning for the Italian program to be broadcast over Radio Monte Carlo. After a two-week trip to Germany, Elder Wickman returned to Paris the last of November to help in recording the second part of the Danish program and the new Dutch program prepared by the Northern European Division.

D. Walther, professor of church history at the Theological Seminary in Washington, D. C., accepted an invitation to come to Southern Europe

during the interim between two terms of the Seminary, to prepare recordings for the French radio program, « La Voix de l'Espérance, » for another year. Doctor Walther spent more than two months in preparing the fifty-two scripts and also served as speaker for this new series of programs. Elder Walther is well known in our field, since he was a teacher and later principal of our Callanges seminary before going to the United States.

During the recent annual session of the Portuguese Union Mission, a number of changes were made, especially in the leadership of the various Portuguese island missions. M. Laurinha, former director of the Azores Islands Mission, has accepted a call to serve as director of the Madeira Islands Mission, replacing P. Ribeiro, who has been appointed secretary-treasurer of the Portuguese Union Mission. J. Esteves, who has served for a number of years as director of the Cape Verde Islands Mission, replaces M. Laurinha in the leadership of the Azores Islands Mission, while F. Cardas will serve as the new leader of the Cape Verde Islands Mission. A. F. Rapasa, former secretary-treasurer of the union, was appointed manager of the Portuguese publishing house.

M. Kaapmans of Belgium, who attended our Callanges seminary a number of years ago and has since served as elder of the Braine l'Alleud church as well as a member of the Belgian Conference committee, has been invited by the Southern African Division to serve as secretary-treasurer of the Congo Union Mission in Elisabethville. Brother Kaapmans has willingly and enthusiastically accepted the call and is now under definite appointment to this mission field.

Miss Gilberte Mahieux, one of our Belgian students at the Callanges seminary, has also accepted a call to the same field for secretarial work in the Congo Union office in Elisabethville. The Belgian Conference is glad to make this sacrifice and to give these two missionaries for the needy field of the Belgian Congo. We are sure that they will be an asset to the Southern African Division.

We are happy to announce the sailing of two new missionary families during the month of November. R. Villeneuve, formerly in charge of the press work of the French Publishing House, accompanied by Mrs. Villeneuve, left Marseille on the S. S. **Compiègne** November 3 for Tamatave, Madagascar. Brother Villeneuve will serve as factory superintendent of the new Malagasy press at Soamanandrariny, near Tananarive.

P. Bernard, formerly in educational and young people's work in the North African Union Mission, accepted a call to serve as department secretary of the French West and Equatorial African Union Mission. On November 25 Brother and Sister Bernard sailed from Marseille on the S. S. **Canada** for Douala, French Cameroun.

It is always an inspiration to us when new families so willingly accept the call of the Lord to go to distant lands, to give their talents and their strength to the development of the cause of God in the mission fields. We wish these two families the help of the Lord as well as good health in their new responsibilities.

P. Bénézech, after a fourteen-year period of service in the Cameroun mission field, has expressed his desire to stay in the homeland for at least a few years because of the education of his three children. He has therefore been placed in charge of the French Bible Correspondence school in Paris.

Good reports have reached our office recently with respect to baptisms in our mission fields. H. Pichot, president of the Indian Ocean Union Mission, reports 110 baptisms during the first ten months of this year in Madagascar. Of these, 46 were in the Tananarive district, 36 in the Antsirabé district, 17 in the Majunga district, 7 in the Lac Alaotra district, and 3 in the Tamatave district.

J. A. de Coenel, president of the French West and Equatorial African Union Mission, reports 260 baptisms in the French Cameroun during the first three quarters of 1949. Certainly God is blessing the efforts of our missionaries and native workers in the faraway fields.