

QUARTERLY REVIEW

ORGAN OF THE
SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION of the General Conference of S. D. A.



A Call to Evangelism

"Sensing the importance of the hour to which we have come, and recognizing the unique opportunities presented for the proclamation of the everlasting gospel, and the tremendous possibilities for evangelism,

Resolved, That we call upon our ministers and lay members in all the world to enter into such relationship to the Lord and 'the obedience of faith' as will prepare the church for the outpouring of the Spirit of God.

We also recommend, 1. That our conference and mission leaders plan a program of evangelism with the object of reaching every individual soul within their territories, using every means possible for bringing the light of this message to the multitudes.

"2. That our ministers and writers be urged to restudy the Bible and the counsels of the Spirit of prophecy concerning the presentation of the message in the clear setting of the great fundamentals of the Christian faith emphasizing our Lord's deity, His all-sufficient sacrifice, His resurrection, His heavenly ministry, and His return in glory. * And further,

3. That all conference laborers consider evangelistic work the activity of first importance.

4. That each ministerial worker, in addition to his pastoral work, conduct at least two evangelistic campaigns each year.

5. That the pastor recognize in his congregation a potentially rich field for soul-winning, laboring faithfully for children and youth, and leading them to baptism and church membership; working for unbelieving husbands, wives and relatives; and endeavoring to reclaim backsliders.

6. That each pastor strive to make divine services and prayer-meetings evangelistic in their nature, endeavoring in each meeting to bring souls to repentance and conversion."

*By the Autumn Council of the General Conference, Oct. 25, 1955.

We Attend a Leper Baptism

By Mabel Parsons

The brilliant blue sky overhead, the brightly-shining sun, the high, but fluffy white thunderheads belied the dreary afternoon that would fix forever in our minds this Sabbath when eight children, sons and daughters of lepers, and one leper patient, a young man, would be baptized.

The lepers were all in their places in their "church" under the tree where they had been called by a church bell made of an old hoe, suspended from a beam with a string and beaten on by a large spike. A crudely-made table served for a pulpit. There were folding chairs for the speaker, the interpreter and the native elder. The congregation sat on backless, low benches. This was a special service. They had already had their Sabbath school and church service in the morning.

After song and prayer, Dr. Parsons spoke to them simple words that they could understand: They had a sickness that gave them pain in their bodies and sleepless nights; that disfigured their faces, and took away their fingers and toes. They all agreed that they would be happy to be freed from that disease. They were taking the new miracle medicine, *Sulfona*, to become healthy again, although the marks would always remain.

We all have another disease, sin, and if we were not freed from sin, death would be sure. Their disease could be seen with the eyes, but sin can not be seen. Jesus came to free us from sin and offer pardon. When we confess, abandon, and repent, He gives us the Holy Spirit to live with us. Baptism is the outward sign of the inward change.

The fast-gathering thunderheads meeting overhead, and cutting off the rays of the western sun, warned us that a heavy storm was coming. The rushing wind bowing the tree-tops also told us that the storm was near. The first few drops sent the lepers, their families, their school-teacher, their nurse-caretaker, and Pastor Mario Abel to the shelter of the dispensary porch, taking their church furniture along with them.

We had taken time to go see the new school-house which was almost finished. The lock was already on the door and windows. Just the window-panes were missing, and the cement floor. The little building was white-washed, and the windows and doors painted green. Their church they themselves will build, making the adobe bricks with their fingerless hands, mixing the mud with their toeless feet.

The rain began to pour down. It sounded even louder on the sheet-iron roof. The water dripped in a constant thread off the roof, and formed small rivulets as it sought its way to the river far below. We asked whether there was a choir that could sing for us. There was. The choir, consisting of the students, now arose, and Moises led them, indicating the respective voices before beginning the hymn. They sang with gusto. They sang harmoniously. They would put almost any congregation to shame. They sang hymns from the church hymnal. They sang hymns borrowed from the Protestant missions. They sang songs composed from the heart, — their musical language lending itself to song. For almost two hours, while the rain poured down, they sang gospel hymns for us, this choir of boys and girls, sons and daughters of lepers, untainted themselves by the disease, but destined to spend their days inside the leper colony, denied the fellowship with believers unless inside their own intimate "touch-me-not" circle.

Our minds turned back to our previous visit to the leper colony, before going home for the first time in 1939. The lepers wanted to do something for us, so they gathered in front of the dispensary steps, and in their cracked, harsh, rasping voices they had sung: "*There is Sunshine in My Soul Today.*" The words, the voices, brought tears to our eyes. How wonderful it will be when all things are made new, and the leprosy of sin will be banished!

The storm which, fortunately, was not accompanied by the usual violent thunder and flashes of lightning, began to slacken. We looked at our watches. The afternoon was hastening on. Soon it would be dark, and we could do no baptizing that day. After consulting the native pastor, the school-teacher, and the ones to be baptized, we decided to walk to the river in the rain. As there was a slight let-up in the storm, we started out bravely. It seemed more than the half mile to the river. We followed an old ox-cart road, sometimes slipping on the ridge, then again sliding into the ruts made by years of travel and seasonal rains. Sometimes we could walk in pairs, sharing an umbrella; sometimes in single file. When we finally came to a slushy halt at the pole bridge, the water was running even with the poles, and the puddles on top of the bridge were a reminder that the river had passed over the dirt on top of the poles.

The baptismal "fount" was a wide spot in the muddy river. While we sang a hymn, Pastor Mario Abel walked out into the cold water. The rain kept pouring down. The son of one of our teachers graciously offered an umbrella to Dr. Parsons who was holding Carlitos (Dr. Moretti's little boy) in his arms under his raincoat to protect him from the rain. The choir leader, Moises, stood holding a basin up-side-down over his head to shed the rain. One of the women had on her husband's hat over her head kerchief. Joao with his nose bones eaten away by leprosy, was standing there, reviewing the time when he was baptized, singing in his cracked voice. Munjango, minus three fingers on his left hand, was singing in the rain. Susuana, without shoes to hide her toeless feet, let the wet, green grass graciously cover the outward sign of her disease. Poor, blind Nascimento was not there. The kind Lord had taken him after his baptism the year before. Sawanda, one of the original lepers, also was not there. Augusto, without fingers and toes, sang in spite of his physical handicap, his voice harsh and grating, but his sincerity must have been pleasing to the Lord. The six who had been baptized the year before were there to congratulate their new brethren in the church.

The five girl candidates went into the water, one after the other. They stood with bowed heads and closed eyes while the pastor prayed in Umbundo the same baptismal prayer that is prayed the world

around. The three boys followed, and last of all the young man, a leper, received the rites of baptism. They stood near by while a prayer was offered that the Lord would shield them from sin, and be a light to their paths from this time forward. The flimsy cotton cloths that their families had brought along for cover and protection from the cold were soon as wet as their baptismal clothes. We could not help thinking of the heated baptismal founts, the baptismal robes, the heated rooms in which the candidates could change their clothes. These would never know such luxuries, but they were just as happy, just as sincere, just as much in need of the Lord's blessing as those much more privileged.

As the rain still poured down, the service was dismissed. Now they would run to their huts, sit around the friendly little fire on the floor until they were either dried out, or, if they were fortunate, would change into dry clothes. At Christmas there will be a communion service for the lepers, and a visit from the white missionary once more. Then these new sons and daughters of the kingdom will be given the right hand of fellowship, and welcomed into the church.

May the Lord help us all to sense the awfulness of sin that has been likened to leprosy, and to look forward to the day when disease will be forever banished, and no one will bear its defacing marks.

Moslem Mission Work Moves Forward

By E. Pellicer

The Moslem mission station at Bel Acel, North Africa, is under construction. Soon, God willing, the doors of the classrooms will be opened to receive the children who, far removed from any center, have, until now, been deprived of all schooling, excepting that which is offered them by itinerant "talebs." (A "taleb" is a teacher of religion.)

Our immediate task, as well as our most eager desire, is to create here an atmosphere of confidence, and to provide Arab children with the blessings of a primary education which, gradually, will direct them towards that which is ennobling, uplifting and useful. Besides, we wish to bring the parents evidence of our concern for their well-being — such concern the world has shown them all too sparingly. True, this is only a very small part of our great commission, but it is a means to dispose hearts to listen to the Word of God and the gospel message without prejudice or passion.

We have already been "spotted," and many subtle questions — quite peculiar to the oriental soul — are being asked us by persons of influence who are "taking our measurements" and formulating their opinions. We do not wish to camouflage our purpose in founding this mission, but we can learn a precious lesson from a question we were asked by a Moslem at the close of a conversation — a question tinged with both irony and disappointment, not to say distress: "What have you to bring us?" In my innermost soul I had to confess we have not always brought them what we *might* have — what we *should* have. When a Moslem says he is your friend, he "shares his bread" with you. If he lodges you for the night, very often he will give you his only blanket. "What have you to *bring* us?" Not "What have you to *give* us?" is their question. Let us bring them a proof of our affection. Is it necessary to quote here certain texts of Scripture that condemn us for shirking our obligations?

Girls' school Mostaganem. Left, H. Pichot, president of the North African Union Mission. Right, C. Dudaone; treasurer of the same union.



We wish to bring the good news of salvation to these people plunged deeply in darkness, but what a terrible mistake it would be were we to approach them as "orators." We must bring relief to their distress and misery. What are we doing to remedy their condition? We need to learn to read Exodus 6:9 in its true meaning: "And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel; but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage." Notwithstanding it was words of hope that the servant of the Lord was bringing to those down-trodden slaves in Egypt!

Indeed, if we are ever to expect that the Moslems will listen to the gospel message, then we must give them a large place in our heart's affection, and a practical demonstration of our Christianity by bringing them some of our "abundance" if we are not yet prepared to share with them the "necessities" of life. All your donations — blankets, clothing, used shoes, medicine, etc. — will be received gratefully and distributed according to the interests and needs.

Would you not like to follow some precious but gratis counsel? For tired, tense, irritated nerves the doctor prescribes a rest cure: a very short cure — ten minutes — during which the patient must relax fully. The result is marvelous! The Great Doctor also has a remedy for our *hearts* that have grown weary with the bustle of daily living. The cure? A few moments during which ready hands will set apart something from our "abundance" for those in great need. As a child of God, would *you* not like to follow the prescription of the Divine Physician?

1956! A Year of Promise for the Voice of Hope

By A. Karl

The shining dawn of the New Year enlightens the blessed path which lies before the triumphant march of the Advent message. Tens of thousands of souls were taken into church fellowship during 1955. The Lord has rewarded the works of faith of His zealous witnesses.

It has been the will of God that the Voice of Hope should show to many the narrow way that leads to the eternal home. With gratefulness do we look up to God the Great Leader, and with confidence for the coming months view the whitened harvest-field. The evidences of God's providences, and the possibilities announcing a still richer harvest urge us on to greater achievements. The Lord is calling for many sowers to "break ground" in the unentered fields of earth, and for many willing reapers to gather in the already ripened sheaves. He is calling *you* that *you* with all other workers for God's kingdom may have the untold joy of wearing the crown of life jewelled with many brilliant stars.

Yes, it is true that many golden sheaves have been reaped with the sickle of the Bible correspondence course and the scythe of the radio work. The invisible ether waves are carrying with lightning speed the message of salvation to all the inhabited

areas of earth. It resounds from hill to hill, from vale to vale in a mighty reiterant echo as one willingly brings the news to his neighbor.

A Catholic bishop has said that if Paul were to return to our world he would become a journalist in order to reach the masses. We believe that he would become a radio-television-Bible correspondence evangelist, because through one discourse he could reach more souls than he did in the many decades of his zealous missionary endeavors. A leader in God's cause has said that the Bible correspondence course has the advantage of producing well-instructed church members. Each student is brought to a personal and thorough study of the Holy Scriptures. How this should encourage the faithful workers of the Voice of Hope!

Here in this land where orange blossoms perfume the air, we have had many hot battles to fight during the past year. Aside from the Catholic Counter Action, there are in Italy four other Bible correspondence courses, and besides our own weekly radio broadcast there are other broadcasts by Protestant denominations. With the help of God and the recruiting work of our members, there were an additional number of baptisms and more enrollments for the Bible correspondence course than the previous year. A Catholic church paper has sent out a warning against the Protestant "offensive" on this peninsula. This warning was directed especially against our publishing house and Bible correspondence course. Up to this time more than 6,000 from every walk of life have followed the course, and nearly 1,300 have completed it and received their diplomas. The number of baptisms is over 230. The busiest workers are often participants in the course.

In a town in the hills of southern Italy on the shores of the Tyrrhenian Sea, six persons — members of a Sabbath school organized as a result of the Bible correspondence course — were baptized. The interest spread to other sections. It was as if a spiritual lighthouse had been erected on these heights to show the way of salvation to many wandering in darkness and superstition. When the archbishop of P- saw this bright light he came along hurriedly to put it out. He held five sermons condemning us, excommunicated the newly-baptized members publicly, and led his hearers to the graveyard where he had them take a solemn oath on the graves of their ancestors that they would ever be true to the Catholic faith. But the harder the archbishop blew upon the light, the more brightly it blazed. Other persons who were present at this "theatrical" became interested in the message, and the members were strengthened in their faith. We see in this experience the truth of what the apostle Paul wrote long ago: "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth" (2 Cor. 13:8).

Everywhere in the world the Lord has Spirit-filled men and women whom He enables to contribute to the successful finishing of His work. Personally I have been very much encouraged by two instructive experiences: one from the Near East, the other from far-away Mexico. Brother Y. Fargo who was born near Ninevah, was taking enrollments for the Bible correspondence course. He with some others set a goal of 2,000 enrollments. This was no small undertaking amongst the hostile Moslems. On a certain day in Zehla, Lebanon, he was able to enroll 220 persons. During his zealous activity he was arrested three times by the police. On another occasion with a brother in Damascus, he was arrested and taken to the police station. The names of all the enrollees were confiscated. Brother Fargo and his companion were thrown into a little cell with thirteen other prisoners. These thirteen smoked so much that our brethren almost suffocated. After four days they were conducted by armed soldiers to the military station. There their heads were shaved and they were beaten. Again they were thrown into the dark cell. Eight days later they were brought to the military station once more. The officer who had beaten them begged their pardon, and said, "You are not dangerous. You are good men. I would like to have a Bible." Our brethren were set free, and Brother Fargo sent the officer a Bible.

The other experience is that of four active young church members in Mexico. They spent much time recruiting 200 students in the Bible correspondence course. To do this they covered at their own expense 1,100 kilometers (685 miles). One evening on a mountain-top from where they could look over the whole province of Guanajuato bathed in the purple light of the setting sun, they made a solemn vow before the Lord of the universe never to rest until the forty-six localities of this province had had occasion to learn of the wonderful Advent message.

Dear reader, whatever you may think of these fellow-workers and their experiences, one thing is certain: their spirit of sacrifice and perseverance should bring us to reflect seriously. The things that are possible often under very difficult circumstances in other countries are all the more possible under more favorable conditions. How will God look upon us, and what will the angel write in the heavenly record if we show less love for our neighbors and work less for their salvation? It is time for us to arouse from our listlessness and to slumber no more until the work is finished. Wonderful experiences await every willing sower and reaper. Our eternal joy will be unspeakable when at the soon return of Jesus we shall sing the triumphant song of the harvest and of the Lamb.

The Hundredfold Rewards

By **A. L. Ham**

Vice President, General Conference

[Sabbath morning sermon given by A. L. Ham at Division annual committee meeting, Gland, Switzerland. — Editorial note.]

I want to turn to Matthew 19:27. "Then answered Peter and said unto Him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore?" Notice the setting of this question. If you look back to the previous verses you will see that a rich young man had come to the Master with the question, "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" and Jesus said, "Keep the commandments." "The young man saith unto Him, all these things have I kept from my youth up; what lack I yet?" Jesus said, "Go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." The record continues, "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions."

I suppose that the disciples, coming from poor homes and humble circumstances, thought this rich man could help their cause greatly. He could bring to the church riches, prestige and influence. But he went away sorrowful. This no doubt brought a feeling of discouragement into the hearts of the disciples. They had left all to follow Jesus — left all to follow the One Who said, "Foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath nowhere to lay His head." And so Peter said, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee." What were they to expect?

Now Jesus did not say they should not ask about the rewards, for He went right on to tell them they would receive rewards. Let us read these words: "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Matt. 19: 28, 29). Jesus knew the disciples, at least some of them, had left their homes down by the lakeshore. They had left their families — father, mother, brothers and sisters and children — all to follow Jesus. Now He said, "You are going to have a hundredfold reward. You are going to have everlasting life, and sit upon twelve thrones." But over in Luke there is an expression that I do not want us

to forget. In Luke 18:30 we read these words: "Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." I think the Master wanted the disciples to discover their hundredfold rewards even in this life.

My mind was especially called to the attention of these verses by an experience in China some years ago. A friend of mine had contracted a disease that causes people to look on the dark side of things. He said to me one day, "I am going back to my homeland." I expressed surprise. Then he said, "It isn't worth the candle." I had never heard that expression before, and I wondered what he meant. I knew what he had left when he came to the mission: his home, father and mother, brothers and sisters. I had had the same experience, and some of you before me have had this experience. I shall never forget when we started for the mission field back in 1913 and we said good-bye to my father and mother, brothers and sisters. After that we went to say good-bye to my wife's relatives. I shall not dwell long on those scenes, but they are just as vivid in my mind as the day when they happened, and I knew what my friend was thinking about. He was wondering whether the results were worth all the sacrifices that had to be made. I knew he was beginning to look for the hundredfold reward. . . . I thought of the disciples back there. They wanted to sit on His right hand, but they were unaware of the fact that they were to find those hundredfold rewards in sacrifices in following the Master. They were to find them in persecution, privation, suffering. They found them.

I want you to think of the experience of Peter and John. They were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer. At the gate Beautiful they saw a man begging to receive alms of the people going into the temple. That poor man was born lame. He had never walked. I suppose he thought he was going to receive something from Peter and John who were going into the temple. Perhaps Peter put his hand into the long, flowing robe that they wore in those countries (as though he were in search of a coin), and pulling it out and lifting it, said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." And reaching his hand down

he took that poor man by the hand and helped him to his feet; and he went away leaping and praising God. Now Peter had something to give to the man. He had Jesus in his heart and could say, "Such as I have give I thee." In that experience Peter found the hundredfold reward.

My dear friends, today the world and all its need lies at your feet and mine. Can we say, "Such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus rise up to walk in the newness of life?" If so, you and I in such an experience can find the hundredfold reward. Ministering brethren, if you and I could have that Pentecostal experience in the upper room, it would give to you and me a Pentecostal power that would bring conversion to the hearts of men. It gave to Peter a sermon that converted 3,000 souls. And again in that experience he saw the hundredfold reward.

I want to pass on to the experience that Paul had. He had been born of a good family, and belonged to a good society. He had been taught by the greatest teachers of his time, and occupied a position on the council. He was evidently greatly respected by the leaders of his day. But on the Damascus road he had a vision. He heard a voice, and Saul of Tarsus became Paul the great missionary. He was sent to the representatives of the church for them to tell him what to do, and later on he entered his ministry for Christ. And what a ministry it was! I think of the apostle Paul and of all he gave up, and he said he counted all those things that might seem of value as refuse that he might win Christ. Paul suffered much. He did a great work for God. I think of the apostle Paul as he stood with those chains dangling from his wrists before King Agrippa, reciting experiences of his public ministry; and the king said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." What is Paul's reply? "I would to God that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds." In his bonds and in his chains he saw the hundredfold reward.

We follow him a little further: walking over the Appian Way on the journey toward Rome, going along chained to the soldier, sorely tempted to become discouraged. Feelings of being forsaken came over him. Suddenly from alongside the road voices were heard, and there were a group of Christians. They rushed in unmindful of his bonds, unmindful of their own danger. They put their arms around Paul. And what effect did it have upon that great warrior of the cross?

"Few realize the significance of those words of Luke, that when Paul saw his brethren, 'he thanked God, and took courage.' In the midst of the weeping, sympathizing company of believers, who were not ashamed of his bonds, the apostle praised

God aloud. The cloud of sadness that had rested upon his spirit was swept away. His Christian life had been a succession of trials, sufferings, and disappointments, but in that hour he felt abundantly repaid. With firmer step and joyful heart he continued on his way. He would not complain of the past, nor fear for the future. Bonds and afflictions awaited him, he knew; but he knew also that it had been his to deliver souls from a bondage infinitely more terrible, and he rejoiced in his sufferings for Christ's sake." — *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 449. The apostle, discouraged, in that experience discovered the promise of the hundredfold reward...

Probably you will understand better why this experience of Paul impresses my mind so forcefully when I tell you my own. It was the last year of World War II and I was a prisoner. I well remember how all the prisoners of war were being marched down Queen's Road, the largest street in the city of Hong Kong. There were soldiers with guns and fixed bayonets leading the way, on the sides, and behind. Some of us became weary because of the privations suffered during the siege. It was difficult for us to carry the little baggage we were permitted to have. As we stumbled along not knowing what the future would be, we felt a little like the apostle Paul. Suddenly from the side of the street two young men rushed in to us. They were Christian brethren, ordained ministers. One was my secretary, and he is now the president of the union in China behind the Bamboo Curtain. The other was the assistant treasurer. A few days before he had had to take the books of account, put them on his bicycle and ride away. Well, they rushed in, took our baggage and marched with us to our internment. So like Paul, I thanked God and took courage. Yes, there *are* the hundredfold rewards!

Think of the pioneers of this movement. They did a mighty work. They didn't have regular salaries, good offices, or means of transportation such as we enjoy today. They travelled slowly over dusty roads, or went from place to place on foot. They had no certain hours, but worked often around the clock. They went out to cut grass with their own hands to get a little money to publish the truth but my brethren and sisters, today we see the hundredfold rewards of their sacrifices.

You who were present at the General Conference session in San Francisco will remember that in the front part of the auditorium, looking toward the right of the platform, was a map of the world. Perhaps at the moment you entered, most of the lights on that map were dark, but presently you saw one light in the northeastern part of

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OF S. D. A. FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1955

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	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	
SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIV.																								
AUSTRIAN UNION CONF.																								
Alpine Conference	19	1184	13	—	25	38	6	1	31	38	—	1184	4	3	4	12	—	—	—	20	19	1259	838	
Danube »	21	1499	16	—	28	44	12	6	26	44	—	1499	5	3	3	2	1	—	12	26	21	1671	1008	
Total :	40	2683	29	—	53	82	18	7	57	82	—	2683	17	6	9	17	2	—	18	69	40	2930	1846	
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN U. C.																								
Total :	114	6524	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6524	33	3	2	3	19	—	8	68	160	6000	5400	
FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.																								
Belgian Conference	14	956	11	—	14	25	13	3	26	42	-17	939	5	1	—	4	—	—	—	10	15	1006	657	
French »	65	3035	25	1	67	93	15	4	66	85	8	3043	24	16	2	21	5	2	44	114	73	3143	2342	
Total :	79	3991	36	1	81	118	28	7	92	127	-9	3982	36	19	3	30	5	3	49	145	88	4149	2999	
HUNGARIAN U. C.																								
Total :	257	6827	240	43	—	283	259	103	—	362	-79	6748	27	25	—	21	—	—	—	73	175	7000	6500	
RUMANIAN U. C.																								
Total :	551	31045	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31045	78	11	—	47	—	—	—	136	500	35000	32000	
SWISS U. C.																								
French Swiss Conference	26	1384	15	1	18	34	19	11	8	38	-4	1380	9	3	1	5	2	3	15	38	24	1335	1042	
German Swiss »	33	1970	19	2	20	41	6	13	23	42	-1	1969	10	4	1	10	2	5	22	54	33	1829	1251	
Total :	59	3354	34	3	38	75	25	24	31	80	-5	3349	19	7	3	18	4	8	37	96	57	3164	2293	
JUGOSLAVIAN U. C.																								
Total :	230	8056	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8056	47	11	2	8	23	—	—	91	300	9000	8500	
FRENCH EQ. AFR. U. M.																								
Batouri Mission	1	647	79	—	—	79	36	—	—	36	43	690	2	2	1	12	—	—	—	17	33	22	2054	1459
Bertoua »	3	361	27	4	—	31	5	—	—	5	26	387	2	1	—	4	12	9	—	28	18	1495	869	
Kribi »	3	336	28	3	—	31	7	—	—	7	24	360	3	2	—	5	6	15	—	31	15	1070	797	
Nanga-Eboko »	5	1404	408	—	—	408	363	10	—	373	35	1439	1	6	—	6	22	28	—	63	45	4038	3531	
North Cameroun Mission	2	302	50	—	—	50	8	13	—	21	29	331	1	1	—	4	12	3	—	21	26	1087	995	
Sangmelima »	3	479	13	2	—	15	36	—	—	36	-21	458	3	1	—	4	6	18	—	32	10	724	593	
Yaoundé »	5	493	61	1	10	72	12	4	8	24	48	541	1	3	—	2	8	17	2	33	18	1208	1095	
Total :	22	4022	666	10	10	686	467	27	8	502	184	4206	14	17	1	43	79	101	3	258	154	11676	9339	
INDIAN OCEAN UN. MISSION ..																								
Diego-Suarez Mission	1	16	8	—	—	8	—	—	5	5	3	19	4	2	2	9	—	2	—	19	4	3	196	133
Fianarantsoa »	10	316	23	—	2	25	6	—	—	6	19	335	3	—	—	6	—	1	1	11	18	390	280	
Majunga »	9	192	8	—	2	10	—	2	2	4	6	198	3	1	—	8	—	5	2	19	15	600	405	
Maurice »	13	967	26	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	26	993	6	2	—	11	—	15	4	38	21	1030	835	
Réunion »	8	329	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	331	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	5	8	353	290	
Seychelles »	1	77	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	77	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	77	53	
Tamatave »	1	93	17	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	17	110	2	—	—	4	—	1	2	9	6	300	254	
Tananarive »	25	1034	12	—	—	12	—	3	10	13	-1	1033	6	—	—	4	—	7	5	22	30	2107	1750	
Total :	68	3024	96	—	4	100	6	5	17	28	72	3096	26	6	2	48	—	32	16	130	103	5053	4000	
ITALIAN UNION MISSION																								
Italian Mission	50	2125	41	6	38	85	10	6	40	56	29	2154	11	8	3	18	4	—	55	95	84	2400	1979	
Sardinia Mission Station	1	38	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	40	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	3	2	51	35	
Total :	51	2163	43	6	38	87	10	6	40	56	31	2194	19	11	3	32	4	—	56	125	86	2451	2014	

The Hundredfold Rewards

(continued from page 7)

America. This was the first Adventist church. Then other lights began to come on, in the central part of North America, then the western part; and you saw a light at the place where we are today, and lights down there in Africa. Yes, you saw lights all around the world.

But you may not remember these facts: *The Review and Herald* was started in 1850, and our first Sabbath school in 1853. The first church school was opened in the same year. The first tent effort was held in 1854. The tithing principle was adopted in 1859. The name of our church was chosen in 1860. The first General Conference session was held in 1863. Twenty delegates from six conferences represented only 3,500 baptized members. The last General Conference in San Francisco had an attendance of more than 1,100 delegates. In some of our camp-meetings this year there were upwards of 20,000 people. Quite a difference! There were representatives at the last General Conference from 109 countries of the world. We sent our first missionary to Europe 81 years ago in 1874. He came to Switzerland. Today in Europe there are three divisions of the General Conference with a baptized membership of more than 200,000. See what God has done! Do you see the hundredfold rewards of the sacrifices and service in the various parts of your countries? I see them today. And you will find them in the churches of this and all other countries of Europe. Do you know that in all the world we have more than 40,000 regularly employed workers? We sent the first missionary overseas in 1874, and the first missionary to a non-Christian land 61 years ago — to Africa. Now in the Southern African Division alone at the end of last year there were 126,000 baptized believers. I have been out in the Barotseland Mission and have stood by the stone marker of the first camp. At a short distance is a little cemetery that marks the graves of some of the pioneers who rest from their labors. They saw the hundredfold rewards in their day, but those rewards have been greatly multiplied.

Today this church to which you and I belong maintains 2,000 missionaries and has a world membership of more than a million. More than 1,000 Voice of Prophecy radio and television stations send our programs over the air. Our sales in literature today reach more than \$17,000,000 per year, published in 200 different languages and dialects and circulated in 187 countries in the world. The work of God is established in countries

representing 98.5 per cent of the world's population, leaving only 1.5 per cent where we have not yet established this cause. So you see how the work of God is going. Brethren and sisters, the hundredfold rewards are to be seen everywhere. . . .

I was down in South America on the shores of Lake Titicaca. If you have read of F. A. Stahl, this story will be interesting to you. They were having a meeting. I had an interpreter sitting with me, and I saw the people rise up as one person and stand with bowed heads. Then someone began to talk, and someone else talked, and I saw them vote with their hands. I said to my interpreter, "What is happening?" "Well," he said, "news travels very slowly among the Indian people, and the president has just announced to them the death of Elder Stahl." And so they voted a vote of sympathy to Sister Stahl; and the next vote was the expression of their gratitude for having sent to them such a great apostle as Elder Stahl. Someone said Elder and Mrs. Stahl established eighteen mission stations, and everyone of them had been a success. We went out to the lakeside and saw their old home. Brethren, you wouldn't live in that kind of a house. But they were content to live in it because just across the highway was a beautiful church, and around the edge of the lake were little villages where Seventh-day Adventists lived and on Sabbath filled that church. There were evidences of the sacrifices, but, oh, what multiplied evidences of the hundredfold rewards!

We might go on multiplying these evidences. I want to give you one more and then I must close. A missionary in India went out to see a native preacher, and as he came nearer he saw him down in the crags quarrying stone for his church. Over on the hillside were a herd of buffalo cows. Every man in India would covet a herd of buffalo cows. As the missionary drew near he said to the brother, "Is that your herd of cows?" The brother looked at that herd of cattle almost with longing. Then he turned to his little church with its slowly-rising walls, and said, "*This is my herd of cows!*" He was putting his all into it, and the missionary knew he was putting money from his own pocket into it. Oh how many times we see these evidences!

I ask you, my brother, my sister, has any father, any mother been called upon to make too great a sacrifice to send a son or a daughter to the mission field? Did the pioneers of this cause make too great a sacrifice? Are you getting weary

of the calls for funds? I ask you, deep down in your heart do you think you have made yet too great a sacrifice?

The wife of one of our workers in China was murdered while her husband was away visiting churches in the field. I was acquainted with her father and mother and I wrote a letter of sympathy to them, and in that letter I told them of the sympathy of the Chinese people. What did this father write back? "If I had another daughter I would give her to China." He didn't feel that the sacrifices were too great.

Brethren and sisters, the work is not yet finished. I have tried to show you the evidences of the hundredfold rewards; but we are told that the work must be finished in a spirit of greater sacrifice than when it was begun. Sometimes I wonder — I wonder if we are manifesting today the same spirit of sacrifice that the pioneers manifested. Recently a friend of mine gave me a quotation from Gibbons, speaking of the city of Constantinople in the tenth century. It had reached the pinnacle of its culture and influence in the world and was on the downward way. Gibbons says of the people of that time that "they held in their lifeless hands the precious riches of their fathers without inheriting their spirit." The thought came to me, could it be said of God's people today — the people of the church, the leaders of the church — that they hold in their lifeless hands the precious riches of their pioneers without inheriting their spirit? When I think of these things, my brethren and sisters, I feel like rededicating my life

to the unfinished task. My heart cries out for that power, for that promised blessing that brings all other blessings in its train, and I know it comes through prayer. Do you, my brethren of the ministry feel as I do today? Do you long for that power? Do you desire to have Christ living within so that you can say to those in need, "Such as I have, give I thee"? If you feel as I do today, I invite you to stand with me — the leaders of the church. I wonder whether the church members here would like to join their leaders — members and leaders standing together in rededication to the great unfinished task. May God bless you and give you courage for the future, and many times the hundredfold rewards of sacrifice and service.

I would like to close with these words: I have talked about the rewards of sacrifice and service, and the promised rewards *are* very great. But I would show you a better way:

It is not for reward that we labor;
It is not for success we toil;
Nor for joy, renown, or pleasure,
Or to win the victor's spoil.
It is the love of Christ that constrains us;
This motive leads us on;
Love to Him alone sustains us;
Let us labor and be strong.

If we labor by this constraining love we shall always share the joy in service, and the rewards will not be lacking.

Report of the Home Missionary Department of the Southern European Division
For the Year 1955

	Austrian U. C.	* Franco-Belgian U. C.	Swiss U. C.	F. R. Eq. Afr. U. M.	Indian Ocean U. M.	Italian U. M.	North African U. M.	Portuguese U. M.	Portuguese Afr. U. M.	Spanish Church	Division
Number added to union membership since last report as a result of lay members' missionary work	91	45	49		86	303	55	79	—	127	835
Number of churches and companies reporting	40	49	50		27	47	16	23	57	12	321
Churches holding first Sabbath missionary service	40	35	50		22	46	16	23	57	12	301
Churches holding weekly missionary service	38	36	47		25	46	15	21	57	12	297
Churches conducting training classes	5	8	7		25	11	—	—	57	15	128
Churches with one or more service companies in operation	38	44	55		25	34	12	20	57	16	301
Institutes, rallies, and conventions held	8	—	11		1	—	1	—	—	—	21
Persons reporting missionary work	975	353	637		1310	1605	827	1702	5815	1095	14319
Bible readings and gospel meetings conducted	7561	3431	4232		8312	40393	8002	21735	41835	5083	140584
Missionary contacts	18519	8765	11348		27905	33106	8032	38737	64174	12852	223438
Pieces missionary literature distributed	82614	153637	130553		22349	132765	29324	58462	22648	3575	635927
Persons helped	14192	2498	7500		2517	9089	2835	20645	23698	5160	88134

* 3 quarters

Report of the Publishing Department of the Southern European Division

For the Year 1955

	Average Number of Colporteurs	Number of Hours	Value of Books in Dollars	Value of Periodicals in Dollars		Grand Total Value of Sales Local Currency	Grand Totals in Dollars
AUSTRIAN U.C.							
Alpine Conf.	13	17,903			Sch.	681,705.—	
Danube Conf.	26	35,503				1,342,611.—	
	39	53,406	\$ 75,414.20	\$ —	Sch.	2,024,316.—	\$ 80,971.04
FRANCO-BELGIAN U.C.							
Belgian Conf.	5	9,858			FrF.	6,411,524.—	
French Conference	44	78,470				65,757,513.—	
	49	88,328	\$ 52,433.61	\$ 152,247.64	FrF.	72,169,037.—	\$ 205,681.25
SWISS U.C.							
German Swiss Conf.	23	31,042				244,920.—	
Leman Conf.	17	20,276				169,615.30	
	40	51,318	\$ 52,715.45	\$ 46,784.72	SFr.	414,535.30	\$ 97,415.70
ANGOLA UNION MISSION							
	—	—	\$ 2,641.13	\$ —	Ang.	73,370.50	\$ 2,641.13
FR. EQ. AFR. U.M.							
	4	—	\$ 2,113.27	\$ —	CFr.	370,750.—	\$ 2,113.27
INDIAN OCEAN U.M.							
	40	7,735	\$ 17,218.64	\$ —	CFr.	3,020,817.—	\$ 17,218.64
ITALIAN U.M.							
	59	63,642	\$ 32,749.41	\$ 49,858.38	Lire	50,065,455.—	\$ 82,607.79
NORTH AFRICAN U.M.							
Algerian Miss.	7	6,790	\$ —	\$ —	FrF.	4,811,104.—	
Moroccan Miss.	5	5,273	\$ —	\$ —		4,807,544.—	
	12	12,063	\$ 12,909.34	\$ 14,503.58	FrF.	9,618,648.—	\$ 27,412.92
PORTUGUESE U.M.							
	13	16,705	\$ 7,077.76	\$ 4,403.70	Esc.	318,930.50	\$ 11,481.46
PORTUGUESE AFR. U.M.							
	1	159	\$ 1,401.80	\$ —	Esc.	39,209.—	\$ 1,401.80
SPANISH CHURCH							
	24	22,024	\$ 27,635.91	\$ —	Pes.	1,024,153.—	\$ 25,603.80
RECAPITULATION							
Austrian U.C.	39	53,406	\$ 75,414.20	\$ —	Sch.	2,024,316.—	\$ 80,971.04
Franco-Belgian U.C.	49	88,328	\$ 52,433.61	\$ 152,247.64	FrF.	72,169,037.—	\$ 205,681.25
Swiss U.C.	40	51,318	\$ 52,715.45	\$ 46,784.72	SFr.	414,535.30	\$ 97,415.70
Angola Union Mission	—	—	\$ 2,641.13	\$ —	Ang.	73,370.50	\$ 2,641.13
Fr. Eq. Afr. U.M.	4	—	\$ 2,113.27	\$ —	CFr.	370,750.—	\$ 2,113.27
Indian Ocean U.M.	40	7,735	\$ 17,218.64	\$ —	CFr.	3,020,817.—	\$ 17,218.64
Italian U.M.	59	63,642	\$ 32,749.41	\$ 49,858.38	Lire	50,065,455.—	\$ 82,607.79
North African U.M.	12	12,063	\$ 12,909.34	\$ 14,503.58	FrF.	9,618,648.—	\$ 27,412.92
Portuguese U.M.	13	16,705	\$ 7,077.76	\$ 4,403.70	Esc.	318,930.50	\$ 11,481.46
Portuguese Afr. U.M.	1	159	\$ 1,401.80	\$ —	Esc.	39,209.—	\$ 1,401.80
Spanish Church	24	22,024	\$ 27,635.91	\$ —	Pes.	1,024,153.—	\$ 25,603.80
TOTALS	281	315,380	\$ 285,310.52	\$ 267,798.02			\$ 554,548.80

Report of the Missionary Volunteer Department of the Southern European Division

For the Year 1955

	Austrian U. Conf.	Czecho- slovakian U. C.	Franco-Belgian U. C.	Hungarian U. C.	Rumanian U. C.	Swiss U. C.	Jugoslavian U. C.	French Eq. African U. M.	Indian Ocean U. M.	Italian U. M.	North African U. M.	Portuguese U. M.	Portuguese Afr. U. M.	Bulgarian M.	Greek M.	Spanish Church	S.E.D. Yearly Totals 1955
Number of Senior societies	15	75*	30	77*	300*	25	110	3	32	45	7	20	202	25	4	15	985
Number of Junior societies	10	—	17	—	—	14	—	4	8	—	—	9	121	—	—	—	183
Number of societies reporting	22	—	31	—	—	26	—	4	—	16	7	29	323	—	—	12	482
Total membership (Seniors)	221	2000*	579	2000*	14000*	356	1408	163	527	795	140	707	4340	1000	53	282	28571
Total membership (Juniors)	126	—	268	—	—	197	825	355	—	—	—	382	2915	—	—	81	5149
Total of Senior and Junior young people baptized, regardless of who labored for them	20	—	31	—	—	23	—	53	118	46	27	76	—	—	—	—	394
Number baptized whom young people had a part in winning	1	—	12	—	—	3	—	—	51	—	11	27	676	—	—	9	790
Number belonging to missionary bands	64	—	144	—	—	78	—	—	110	145	62	174	3555	—	—	175	4507
REPORT OF MISSIONARY WORK :																	
Number of Bible readings or gospel meetings held	866	—	120	—	—	256	—	390	2923	3828	681	18639	26708	—	—	263	54674
Number of missionary contacts	2500	—	289	—	—	2038	—	366	9537	2951	496	15626	50102	—	—	567	84472
Number of persons helped	2104	—	142	—	—	103	—	204	2097	1265	470	4367	18838	—	—	185	29775
Literature distributed	7377	—	32310	—	—	17653	—	—	5720	13044	10044	38431	12157	—	—	40	136776
DEVOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL:																	
Number observing the Morning Watch	158	—	347	—	—	80	—	518	189	156	56	391	3894	—	—	156	5945
Number completing Bible Year and Character Classics	57	—	41	—	—	21	—	31	137	50	14	168	228	—	—	58	805
Number taking Reading Course ..	80	—	14	—	—	22	—	—	4	53	2	125	244	—	—	30	574
FINANCIAL :																	
Offerings local society work ... \$	242.72	—	176.95	—	—	26.50	—	—	285.65	48.75	25.80	—	1.78	—	—	48.35	856.50
Ingathering for Missions	147.95	—	2023.10	—	—	1372.50	—	—	133.30	116.60	2367.95	1387.50	378.20	—	—	147.90	8999.—
Offerings special projects	404.05	—	280.45	—	—	648.50	—	175.15	200.50	9.60	394.20	412.15	359.25	—	—	70.—	2811.85

* = estimated figures

In Remembrance



On January 9 of this year it was our sad task to accompany one of our Division office secretaries, Erna Ihlenburg, to her place of burial. Unexpectedly she was torn from our midst. On Thursday evening, December 29th, our sister was apparently in the best of health. At the close of the day's work she left the office with the words, "Goodbye until Sabbath when we shall meet again." The following morning, the Friday before New Year's Day, as she was about to give the last touches to the manuscript of the February number of *Adventecho* (work she had taken home to do over the holidays) she was stricken with a brain haemorrhage. She immediately became unconscious, and remained in this condition until her death on January 6.

Erna Ihlenburg was born in Ogerberg i Mark, Germany, on September 24, 1896. She was baptized on the 26th of October 1918, and became a member of the Steglitz church near Berlin. On the 15th of June, 1925, she entered the work of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination as an office secretary of the European Division of the General Conference with headquarters in Berne, Switzerland. When in 1928 the European Division was divided into four divisions, Erna Ihlenburg remained in Berne and took up work in the Southern European Division where she continued to serve until one week before her death.

Since the publication of *Adventecho*, Erna Ihlenburg became known especially through her work as associate editor of this church paper. With great faithfulness and painstaking she devoted her strength and talent to this editorial work up to the last moment of her consciousness. When the manuscript left her hands it was perfect in style and grammatically. A great vacancy which will neither easily nor quickly be filled, has been created in our Division office through her departure.

As her fellow-workers we shall always think of Erna Ihlenburg as a Christian who carried out her religion in her daily life. Therefore do we hope to meet her again on the great resurrection morning, if we are as faithful as she was. To her bereaved, aged mother and only brother, whose loss we share, we express our affectionate Christian sympathy.

Otto Schuberth.

Intervening Hand

By C. M. FRENCH

There is an Intervening Hand
That beckons toward the better land
With urgent pleadings, long and kind.
It pleads with men to seek and find.

That Hand gives light when light is low,
Assures us when we see its glow,
Makes plain the path we walk apace
To view the beauties of the place.

That better land where is no night
Will be the home of saints in light,
Where is no sickness, death, or pain,
And there with Christ we'll ever reign.

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M. Fridlin Editor
..... Editorial Secretary

Here and There

The **Call to Evangelism** which appears on the front page of this issue, was voted unanimously by the Division Committee at its autumn meeting held at Gland, Switzerland.



The Division committee recently placed a call with the General Conference and the South American Division for **Miss Alberta Hodde**, a missionary nurse, at present on furlough in her homeland the United States. Miss Hodde will serve as head nurse in the Bongo hospital at Lepi, Angola, and will replace **Miss A. Larsen** who returned to the United States for health reasons. Miss Hodde was formerly connected with the Rio de Janeiro hospital in Brazil. She will arrive in her new field of labor at the end of her furlough during September 1956. We are sure that Miss Hodde, with her missionary experience, will contribute greatly to the further successful work at the Bongo Mission hospital.



A very encouraging report comes to us from a field in which we are not at liberty to work. A broadcast beamed from outside the borders of this country, has been introduced recently, and reaches many people who have enrolled in the Bible correspondence course and receive the lessons from a foreign country. A worker visits these students regularly. He finds them well prepared in Bible truths, and many of them are already keeping all of God's commandments. He could even baptize two souls. The president of the field writes that in the first ten months of 1955, 126 persons were baptized, which is a record number.



The **Italian Publishing house in Florence** will be able to purchase its first linotype as the result of a special allowance granted by the Publishing Rehabilitation and Expansion Committee of the General Conference. As a Division we are very thankful for this financial help, as are also our Italian brethren.



Kurt Scheidegger, secretary-treasurer of the French Equatorial African Union Mission, left Paris with his family by plane on January 17 to return to Yaoundé, French Cameroun, after having spent some months' furlough mostly in his homeland, Switzerland. On the same plane was **Miss Verena Tobler**, a Swiss nurse, who is to take up medical missionary work in the northern part of the French Cameroun.

R. Lienard who is to join the teaching staff at the Nanga-Eboko union training school, left with his family by boat on February 3 for this field. They were accompanied by **Miss Jacqueline Vuillecard**, an R. N. from France, who will also engage in medical missionary work in North French Cameroun.



Elder Charles Cornaz, president of the **French Moroccan Mission**, tells us that in spite of many difficulties this field has reached the one and a half million French francs mark in **Harvest Ingathering**. Thirty-seven people were baptized in Morocco during the first ten months of 1955. A new church and evangelistic center should be secured in Casablanca, the capital. The present hall is too small and damp. This new building would cost 16,000,000 French francs. (1,000,000 French francs are equivalent to \$2,700.)



The work on the building of the mission hospital at **Koza** in the northern part of the French Cameroun, is progressing under good conditions. The walls of the new dispensary are completed. Dr. F. W. Brennwald, who is in charge of the hospital, reports that 340 patients were treated one morning at the Koza dispensary.

The construction of the **Relizane institution** which was launched for work among the Arabs of North Africa, is also progressing. The dispensary is not yet ready, but sick people are being treated in the kitchen of the missionary family's house, or just outside. The authorities look on this construction work with much interest, showing their approv-

al, and encouraging the North African leadership in the work they intend to do.



Dr. Roy Parsons who is in charge of the Bongo hospital in Angola writes: "On November 26, 1955, nine people were baptized from the **Bongo leper colony**. A small school building is being contemplated for leper children on the same spot. There are already temporary quarters with 27 students." A report of the above-mentioned baptismal ceremony appears in this number in an article written by the able pen of Mrs. Mabel Parsons.



Baptisms: Elder Eli Fayard, president of the **Diego-Suarez Mission** in the northern corner of Madagascar, reports that eight persons were baptized last December in the city of Diego. There have been thirteen baptisms in all for 1955. Inasmuch as the membership of the Diego group was only six at the beginning of last year, its membership has more than doubled in one year.



During the year 1955, 408 baptisms took place in the **Nanga-Eboko Mission**. This is another evidence that the Lord is abundantly blessing the European missionaries and African workers. Plans are on foot to erect a **girls' dormitory** at the **Nanga-Eboko** station. A call has already been placed for a competent lady worker to serve as head of this girls' dormitory.



Elder J. O. Wilson who for two years has been in charge of the Israel Mission in the Holy Land, has accepted a call to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of the Southern Union in the North American Division for district activities. We wish to take this occasion to thank Brother Wilson for his faithful service in Palestine, which we appreciate very much, and to wish him much of God's blessing in his future work. Elder Wilson reports that a baptismal service when nine persons were baptized took place on December 5, in Jerusalem.