

WORLD

Mission Report

Go ye . . . into all the world.

Vol. 59

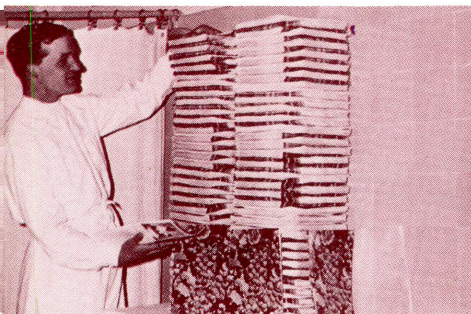
Second Quarter, 1970

No. 2

THE THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING OVERFLOW FOR THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN DIVISION WILL:

- Provide a modern evangelistic center for Berlin-Neukölln, near the Wall.
- Build an old people's residential home in Berlin-Charlottenburg.
- Add a new modern wing to Waldfriede Hospital in Berlin.

Paul Wiesenberg, a student in the Waldfriede Hospital School of Nursing, Berlin-Zehlendorf, is an ardent lay worker in his community who has visited 16,789 families in a little more than a year, distributing literature and praying with the people he meets. For a further account of his activities, read the article for April 25 by Helmut Mayer.



Mr. Wiesenberg, surveying some of the literature he uses in his work.



Active worker Paul Wiesenberg, presenting his literature at the doors of the people.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The WORLD MISSION REPORT, formerly the *Missions Quarterly*, now follows the practice of publishing some mission stories of a general nature and some especially relating to the field to receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow. This is in harmony with an action taken at the 1966 General Conference Presession Advisory Committee meeting of the Sabbath School Department, at which there was representation from all world divisions.

HELPFUL HINTS ON GIVING THE MISSION TALK

TELL THE STORY: Each article is divided into three sections: the introduction, the body, and the appeal. This is done to help you *tell* the story. Please do not read it. Prepare well in advance.

GATHER ADDITIONAL FACTS: Do some research on the area you will be talking about. Consult an atlas, maps, encyclopedias, *National Geographic*, et cetera. Weave these additional facts into the story at appropriate places.

MAKE THE STORY LIVE: Be enthusiastic and present the story in an appealing manner. From time to time during the quarter have each member look at the map on his lesson quarterly, or use may be made of the large Stewart Design wall map obtainable through your Book and Bible House. Draw attention to the statistics—the number of judgment-bound souls, the number of Sabbath Schools, churches, and church members, particularly the country featured in the reading for the day. Appeal for a good general missions offering each particular Sabbath, and remind all to make provision for a generous offering for the special projects on the thirteenth Sabbath.

SABBATH, APRIL 4

Berlin Needs Your Help

by Heinz Vogel

[The author was born in an Adventist home. His father was business manager of the Friedensau (Free' den sow) Missionary Seminary, the oldest Adventist school in Europe. Brother Heinz Vogel has been in the ministry in the area that belongs now to East Germany, and in Berlin. He was for six years president of the Berlin Conference, which was founded after the division of Berlin, until he was elected secretary of the Central European Division in 1969.]

INTRODUCTION "Berlin is worth the journey." This is a famous German saying, and has attracted many a visitor to this most interesting town in the heart of Germany. Today everybody is invited to pay a visit to Berlin, at least in thought. We have decided to fly from Hamburg, which takes only thirty minutes. By road we would have to pass through border controls, which often cause long delays. Arriving at Berlin we are somewhat surprised to find a very active town. Twenty-five years after World War II, when the town was almost completely destroyed, West Berlin has a population of some 2.5 million.

Seventh-day Adventists have been living in Berlin for some seventy years now. One Sunday morning in 1891 a faithful literature evangelist was going from door to door in this city. He met a lady who belonged to the Baptist Church and discussed with her various doctrinal questions, and finally asked her whether she thought that God's commandments could be changed.

As she was an honest Christian, she thought for a minute and finally realized that the only answer she could give was a negative one. She invited the literature evangelist in to discuss this question with her and her husband. These were the first people in Berlin to hear the Seventh-day Adventist message. Soon after this, Bible studies were conducted and the first believers were baptized. Since then thousands of life-seeking souls have been found and baptized in this world-famous city.

In the years that followed, up to 5,000 Adventists gathered together at conference sessions in this former German capital. Berlin had become the center of the Adventist work in Germany. Although it has suffered heavy losses and hindrances during the war, today about 2,000 church members, friends, and children gather each Sabbath in the 15 churches dispersed throughout the various sectors of West Berlin.

For some years it was necessary, as in other parts of the world, to hold services in rented buildings and rooms. Because of the increase in the cost of living, the rents payable on these places also increased, so much so that they became uneconomical. It was much better both for the reputation of the church and financially for new churches to be erected instead of paying such burdensome rents.

Today our special attention is drawn to one church in Berlin whose 200 members assemble each Sabbath in a private flat. After the war it was necessary for this church to conduct several services each Sab-

bath, to enable the participation of all the members and visitors. One Sabbath, about one year before the war ended, the church was gathered to celebrate Communion. During the service an air-raid alarm was heard, but the minister and the church members decided to continue with the service. While the minister shared the bread and wine in remembrance of the death of our Saviour, the walls trembled from the explosion of the heavy bombs that were falling on the city. Trusting the words of the psalmist who said, "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee," the church members stayed until the service was over. The neighborhood had been devastated, but none of the church members were injured, and not one of their homes had been destroyed.

During the many bombing attacks on Berlin, the house where the church used to assemble was also hit. The church elder, Brother Gustav Guager, who also lived in the house, was a man of courage. Most of the city was burning, and this house also had caught fire, and the elder put all his energy into extinguishing the flames on the roof, without paying any heed to his own life. By this act of devotion not only the meeting room but the whole house was saved. When the owner of the house heard about that he promised the church that they could stay in his house as long as this brother lived. After some time Brother Guager, who was over eighty years old, died. The son of the owner wanted to relet the rooms

at a much increased cost, which made it necessary for the church to move. Normally there is not one square yard of building space available in this crowded part of Berlin, but God has answered the prayers of His people.

Because of financial problems one of the citizens of this district was forced to sell his estate, which enabled the Adventists to purchase the necessary land on which to build an evangelistic center, which will be erected soon. However, it is impossible for the members of the church in Berlin to provide the necessary funds alone. The proportion of old to young people in Berlin is two to one, therefore our churches consist mostly of elderly people whose sole income is from government pension. Nevertheless, they are very generous in bringing their offerings. They especially have a keen realization of the needs in the mission fields throughout the world. Very often church members give all the money they have saved in the past years, but what is that in view of the task we have in this large city of Berlin?

APPEAL It is therefore necessary to appeal to all the Sabbath Schools around the world to bring a special Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, the overflow of which will in part be used for a proper meeting place in Berlin. It is an absolute necessity to have modern evangelistic centers that attract the masses. According to Walter H. Nelson, in *The Berliners Their Saga and Their City*, page 251, "West Berlin . . . has always had the highest suicide rate in the world." The peo-

ple of this great city need the comfort and hope of the gospel of Christ. I am sure that you will agree that evangelistic campaigns cannot be conducted in an ordinary flat. The members of our church in Berlin, in the Neukolln (Noi'kûln') section of the city, are waiting eagerly for the day when they can rightly proclaim to the public the message of the returning Lord. Berlin would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and cordially invite you to come and see for yourselves how your offerings have been used to win precious souls to the kingdom of heaven.

SABBATH, APRIL 11

"Serve One Another"

by Daniel Schuettler

[The author was born in Romania. When he was five years old his mother became a Seventh-day Adventist. That was something very peculiar in the little village where they lived. One night their house was surrounded by men, and all the windows were broken and his mother was threatened because of her faith. Daniel Schuettler was baptized when he was twenty years old. He attended Marienhoehe (Marie' ên-hay) Missionary College from 1949-1953, and then Newbold College in England, and the French Adventist Seminary in Collonges. In 1966 he was appointed secretary of the Berlin Conference. He is now manager of the Old People's Home and treasurer of the Building Association in West Berlin.]

INTRODUCTION Since the end of the war in 1945, the troops of the four great powers have been stationed in Berlin. The town has been divided into four sectors. Because of this the town has a special character,

inasmuch as Berlin is not only an international but also a divided city. The church had to consider this fact, and some changes were necessary. The post-war period brought considerable burdens upon the church. In this report, Sabbath School members throughout the world will be informed about the welfare department in Berlin.

In the area that comprises the American, British, and French sectors, live almost 2.5 million people. A fifth of this population is over 65 years old. The authorities try to help the elderly people as much as possible, as they are often separated from their relatives because of the Wall. Many, because of this and their loneliness, need both financial assistance and spiritual comfort.

Our fifteen churches in Berlin seriously try to follow the Biblical admonition "Serve one another." Besides public evangelistic campaigns conducted by our pastors, efforts are being made to discover ways of reaching the people in their homes. One youth group, for example, has carefully planned visits to elderly people and families with many children, so that they can help them. At the end of their first visit they fix the date for their next call. Both sides are enthusiastic about this work. Elderly people are often unable to care for themselves alone. Our young people actively contribute to the improvement and comfort of the daily lives of these people. It may be by taking coal from the cellar up to a sixth floor flat, or by cleaning the windows or something else, and to those who have bad sight they read our literature,

which they are always distributing. The elderly people are not only very grateful, but the seed falls often upon good ground.

The fact that Berlin has twice as many elderly people as any other German city affects, of course, our churches. Fifty per cent of our church members are over sixty-five years old. Therefore, it is necessary for us to have an active welfare department which will meet the needs of our own people as well as others. Berlin is in the happy position of having a fully employed welfare worker. But although Berlin is very much like an island, it is still sometimes necessary to travel distances of up to thirty miles. For this reason a house in the district of Steglitz was bought and transformed into a retirement home for sixty elderly people. Of the few non-Adventists who were also accepted, six people were baptized into the church during one year. It was in this way that institutions of the welfare department were also a means of saving precious souls. At two other places in Berlin hot meals are being distributed at dinnertime to unfortunate people by five volunteer workers from our church.

The press too has recently been asking all the inhabitants of Berlin to care more for their neighbors. It has happened that people have died and were not found until some days later, because they were alone in the world. Nobody had felt responsible for his or her elderly neighbor. The government, the state churches, and the welfare societies have now started to build homes for these elderly citizens.

The Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Society also wants to build such an old people's retirement home on their property in the suburb of Charlottenburg, Berlin. A six-story building is planned, which will have sixteen single flats and six double flats. This would mean that the elderly people could be looked after much more easily. The church is also situated on the same premises, so the proximity of the two buildings would enable these elderly occupants to take a more active part in church work. Experience has shown that such elderly people are especially faithful in giving their tithes and offerings. Some of them have already donated all of their savings, and other organizations have also promised substantial financial backing.

APPEAL We are certain that our appeals will not be in vain. We ask all Sabbath School members around the world to bring a special sacrificial offering for Berlin on this thirteenth Sabbath. The city of Berlin has many friends in every part of the world, but we believe that among its best friends are the many Sabbath School members. Berlin with its plans for an old people's home needs the help of its best friends. Only in that way will it be possible to make the plans a reality and provide adequate physical and spiritual facilities for the elderly members, and also win souls for the kingdom of heaven.

"Our gold and silver, our most precious earthly possessions, . . . will be freely devoted to Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 65.

SABBATH, APRIL 18

Missionary Work in the Hospital

by H. Leue

[For more than twenty-five years, Brother Leue was responsible for the second largest hospital in Europe. Then he became administrative director of the Seventh-day Adventist Waldfriede Hospital in Bertin, in the suburb of Zehlendorf. In addition to his professional duties, he has been for many years the church elder of the hospital church.]

INTRODUCTION World War I, which started in 1914 and ended after hard and destructive fighting, not only caused the death of many people but left many deep wounds. In Germany a time of economic depression started, due to revolution and strikes. Every hour money lost more of its value. The prices of consumer goods went up several times a day. In the big cities the people suffered from hunger, and unemployment caused much depression and hopelessness.

It was during this difficult time that the leading brethren of the denomination in Germany decided to lay the foundation for medical missionary work in Europe through the erection or purchase of a hospital. A young missionary-minded doctor was chosen to make the necessary steps. After much prayer and effort he found a sanatorium with 39 beds for sale. It was situated in a wonderful forest area in the outskirts of Berlin. Therefore it was named Waldfriede, which means "the peace of the forest."

Obtaining the necessary capital

proved to be a problem, but the young doctor and his faithful helpers went ahead with zeal and faith. There were many things to do before the first patient could be accepted. It was a troublesome time with many strikes and other insecurities, and so it was decided to buy a watchdog for the night watchman. Inflation had reached its limit at that time, and the situation had become so terrible that the price of the watchdog was higher than the purchase price paid for the property itself. But although many difficulties had to be faced, the workers were hopeful. Soon the number of beds was increased to sixty, and after a short time the institution became the Waldfriede Hospital. When the number of beds had risen to one hundred and ten, the hospital obtained permission to conduct a state recognized nursing school. That was of great importance. In the following years more land was purchased and new buildings erected, which increased the number of beds to one hundred and forty.

Then came World War II and new suffering, trouble, and great disaster. But God held out His protecting hand over His work. Though the surroundings of the hospital were destroyed, the hospital itself was not damaged. When the difficult postwar years were overcome, the number of beds was increased to 186 by erecting another building. But after this enlargement, not only the accommodations for the staff and nurses proved to be inadequate, but old buildings had to be removed and others rebuilt. Some of the

houses were about seventy years old and did not meet up with the current requirements. Thanks to a gift, the heating facilities were renewed. But in order to do this, three huge underground oil tanks had to be installed, for which a special crane was necessary. The crane had to be brought to Berlin in single parts. It was said that the assembly of the crane would take four days and the brethren were a little doubtful whether the work would be finished before Sabbath. It was therefore decided to bring this matter before God in prayer. The work of the assembly was expected to begin on Monday morning, but everything seemed to go wrong. The mechanics only started on Wednesday, and although they worked overtime, everyone could see that they would not be finished by Friday night. The Sabbath rest, together with the national laws on Sunday observance, would have meant a high penalty for the hospital for non-fulfillment of a contract. Once again the brethren went down on their knees to pray. A discussion with the chief engineer did not bring much satisfaction. He said that he would ask the workers not to cause too much disturbance during the service on Sabbath morning. But when it was explained to him that not any work should be done from Friday sunset until Saturday sunset he said, "You must be Seventh-day Adventists." When asked whether he knew anything about Seventh-day Adventists, he answered, "Oh, yes, I have an aunt who is one and I like her very much." He then went to the police

and obtained a special license in order to finish the work on Sunday instead of Sabbath. This incident impressed not only the patients but also all the neighbors of the Wald-friede Hospital.

Because of the devoted service of all workers, the hospital is very well known. Unfortunately the patients who cannot leave their beds have never had the opportunity to attend church, and because there was no public-address system the sermons could not be relayed into the wards. This matter was brought before the Lord daily. When half the necessary sum had been raised, a considerable increase in price was announced. So the equipment was ordered immediately, hoping that the necessary funds would come in before the expected delivery. The assembly was soon delivered and erected and the bill came in. It was on a Sunday morning that the brethren felt that the only thing that they could do was to pray again. A short while afterward there was a knock at the door of the administrator's office. A faithful church member with an envelope in his hand entered and said, "I know that you are having problems and perhaps this little gift could be of help." When the envelope was opened and the money counted, it was found to be exactly the amount which was required to pay off the deficit. Since then the assembly has given many patients the possibility to listen to the morning and evening services as well as lectures about health education. There are about ten thousand patients every year who become acquainted with

our message through the faithful service of all the hospital staff. Everybody does his or her duty joyfully. The minister regularly visits all the patients in their rooms, some one hundred patients a week, in order to tell them about salvation and eternal life, which lasts beyond this earthly life. Last year he distributed almost eleven thousand magazines and leaflets during these visits. Just recently a couple has been baptized as a result of the faithful testimony of one of our workers. The spirit of Jesus, revealed in the story of the good Samaritan, must also be demonstrated in the service for sick people.

APPEAL We are now faced with a new task. In order to keep up with the modernization of hospitals in Germany, we have to enlarge the buildings of our hospital, otherwise it will lose its importance and attraction. We have already received a large gift for this project, but the funds are still not enough. The Lord advanced this work in a troublesome time. He is now calling on all of us to support it with our own means, so that it can continue to be a blessing to others. Thank you for your generous contribution in supporting the work and the Waldfriede Hospital this thirteenth Sabbath.

Who does God's work will get God's pay.
However long may seem the day.
However weary be the way.
He does not pay as others pay,
In gold or land or raiment gay,
In goods that perish and decay.
But God's high wisdom knows the way:
And that is sure, let come what may,
Who does God's work will get God's pay.
—Dennis McCarthy

SABBATH, APRIL 25

16,789 Families Visited

by Helmut Mayer

[Having obtained his professional qualification in business in 1951, the author decided to attend one of our German missionary colleges in preparation for the ministry. His first call came in 1955 from West Berlin where he was ordained in 1961. Since 1966 he has been secretary for the lay activities department of the West Berlin Conference, and since last year he has been responsible also for the Sabbath School as well as other departments.]

(NOTE.—Have two members take part in a question and answer interview—one representing Brother Wiesenberg, the young man in this story.)

INTRODUCTION It is a very hot day in August in Berlin. The thermometer is nearly 90°F. in the shade and is still rising. The people are tired and exhausted. All who can go to one of the numerous beaches in order to get a little refreshment and relaxation. Those who are working look forward to finishing work and make plans to spend their spare time in a manner as agreeable as possible. They continually glance at their watches. Such a workday is long. At last the signal comes. Also in the Waldfriede Hospital the working day is almost over. Isn't it good to rest after a long day's work? Many people think so, and they think only of themselves, but there are others who think about greater things. In Berlin, too, there are young Seventh-day Adventists who demonstrate the confidence which they have received through the love of the Lord Jesus. Today you shall hear about just one of them.

His name is Paul Wiesenberg. He is

twenty-one years old and attends the School of Nursing in the Seventh-day Adventist Waldfriede Hospital in the suburb of Zehlendorf, Berlin. That is, he is working in the hospital that will receive part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter. He has just finished a tiring day's work, but although the temperature has been and is still very high, he is getting ready for his missionary work. We would like you to become acquainted with him through the following interview:

Q. Brother Wiesenberg, can you tell us what has inspired you to do this missionary work?

A. It was mainly the speeches and experiences that were told during the Vienna Youth Congress, 1967.

Q. Did you become a lay worker before or after you had come to Waldfriede Hospital?

A. I have always enjoyed making people acquainted with God's message. I used to go from village to village near my home in the Black Forest and sell literature. In winter I used my skis in order to reach the isolated farmers on the snow-covered hillsides, and I have had many wonderful experiences.

Q. What special meaning had the Youth Congress in Vienna for you, then?

A. At the Youth Congress in Vienna I dedicated my life, until Christ's second coming, to guiding lost souls to a knowledge of Him.

Q. Could you tell us how you prepare yourself for this task?

A. I get up every morning an hour early in order to have time for Bible study and prayer.

Q. Are you not very tired in the evening and don't you find it difficult to get up so early in the morning?

A. I must admit that at first it was not so easy, but since I have experienced how much strength I obtain from this extra hour, I would not miss it.

Q. How is it possible that after a full day's work you are going for another two or three hours from door to door to visit people and to pray with them?

A. After I have finished my duties, I strengthen myself again through the study of God's Word and prayer. Joy in the Lord is my strength. And each service that I can render for Christ gives me new joy.

Q. Is there anything that would hinder you from doing this missionary work? Would you not prefer to go swimming on such a hot day?

A. I like swimming very much, but only after I have done something for the Lord Jesus. With His help I can visit many people even in rain and storm and bring them our literature.

Q. How many families have you visited since the Youth Congress in Vienna?

A. From August 1, 1967, until May 11, 1969, I visited 16,789 families.

Q. Which experience did you enjoy most?

A. I am always very pleased if I can pray with people and if they express the desire to study the Bible lessons. Mrs. White wrote that holy angels are at our side when we go

from house to house revealing God's Word to the world, encouraging them to get to know Jesus and the power of prayer. To know that heavenly messengers are at my side when going from door to door gives me new courage to do this work.

Q. Have you already experienced the joy of winning a soul for Christ?

A. While visiting the families in Berlin, I found a woman who had been a patient in the Waldfriede Hospital. As an evangelistic campaign was being conducted at that time, I invited her to attend. She accepted my invitation. You can imagine how pleased I was to introduce her to the minister. She received Bible studies and also regularly attended the meetings. At the end of the evangelistic campaign she was baptized. Unfortunately, however, she was a member of the church for only a few months before she was laid to rest. I am so happy that Jesus led me to this woman in time. I have also found a former Seventh-day Adventist who is willing to come to church again. I am certain that she will soon rejoin.

Q. How many hours of your spare time have you spent, and how many miles have you ridden your bicycle in Berlin doing this missionary work?

A. God has given me health and strength to go for 442 hours from door to door. In order to visit the different people in the many districts and streets of Berlin I have ridden more than nine hundred miles on my bicycle.

Q. What is the number of magazines and leaflets you have distributed?

A. I have distributed 2,011 magazines and 5,237 leaflets. Sometimes I sold only two or three magazines during one period, but God gave me strength and joy to start again the next day.

Q. What personal experience could you tell us from your missionary work?

A. Every day I am personally experiencing God's help. I have had many experiences. The Lord made me willing to work for Him and to find people in Berlin who are seeking Him. I am especially thankful for those who through His grace I have brought to a knowledge of the Saviour.

Q. What is your future aim?

A. I pray to God that He will give me joy and health, both of which I need for the continuation of this service, but above all I ask Him to help me to find many more souls who accept the truth and follow Christ in baptism.

APPEAL Today we are asking all Sabbath School members to pray for this young man and to ask God to fulfill his wish and give him much success. Berlin, the divided city between East and West, needs many more helpers to spread the Advent message, and it needs the overflow of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to realize its plans. The Central European Division wishes to thank all of you who are remembering them on the thirteenth Sabbath. May God bless these offerings for the furthering of His work in Berlin.

SABBATH, MAY 2

What if Our Sabbath Schools Should Withdraw Their Support?

by G. R. Nash

[Elder G. R. Nash, secretary of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for eleven years, from 1958 to 1970, began his ministry as a worker at Malamulo Mission, Malawi, Africa, in the year 1927. Subsequently, he was principal of Malamulo Training Institute, president of the Southern Rhodesia Mission Field and of the Zambezi Union. He served as Sabbath School secretary of the Southern New England Conference and of the Atlantic Union Conference, and as president of Georgia-Cumberland and Carolina conferences.]

INTRODUCTION The gospel commission is from God. The ultimate triumph of the gospel is assured. In one sense, God is not dependent upon money for carrying out this commission. He could write his message in great fiery letters in the sky. He could commission the angels to give the gospel to mankind. However, in order to cultivate a spirit of benevolence and remove selfishness from the human heart, God has chosen to have you and me and others give of our means. We cannot afford to withdraw our support.

Jesus made it clear that some things are far more important than earthly comforts and wealth. "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven," He says, "for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:20, 21). Surely this is most timely counsel for us

today. Around many of us are the comforts of a materialistic culture. How easy it is for us to focus our attention on the things of the world! How much better if we catch the heavenly vision of a finished task and eternal rewards!

God has given us a pattern for both tithe and offerings. No matter what our personal desires may be or how pressing our needs, we are commanded, by the Giver of all, to return 10 per cent of our earnings to the Lord as the tithe. The same scripture that mentions tithe also mentions offerings. The Biblical rule for offerings is "*As God hath prospered*" you (1 Cor. 16:2).

We should budget our offerings, even more than we budget our income to care for our family needs. A Christian's budget that leaves out either the tithes or offerings is an unbalanced budget, even if all other items are taken care of in a businesslike manner. Yet it is a fact that some Sabbath School members, because of having no definite system of offerings, are actually robbing God.

"The Lord made a special covenant with men, that if they would regularly set apart the portion designated for the advancement of Christ's kingdom, the Lord would bless them abundantly, so that there would not be room to receive his gifts. But if men withhold that which belongs to God, the Lord plainly declares, 'Ye are cursed with a curse.'"—*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 77.

What percentage of the income shall be allocated for Sabbath School offerings? This is a matter

of personal conscience, one that each individual must decide between himself and God. Many are systematically returning 3 per cent of their income to the Lord as Sabbath School offerings. This plan, we believe, will bring a blessing to the giver and also to the cause of missions. Is this too much for us to give for Sabbath School offerings? In our over-all giving we are not nearly reaching the record of Israel, who gave from one fourth to one third of their income to religious and benevolent causes. "It is not returning to the Lord His own that makes men poor; withholding tends to poverty."—*Ibid.*, p. 36.

It is inconceivable that our Sabbath Schools should ever withdraw their loyal support in providing means for the advancement of the three angels' messages in the mission fields. To those of us who have labored in the mission field, the loyalty of our Sabbath Schools has always been an inspiration and strength, and may it ever be in the future.

To answer the question of what would happen should the Sabbath Schools withdraw their support, I would say without hesitation that, unless God intervened to save the situation, it would cripple the work already begun in foreign lands, cause untold hardships to those whom the church has sent out as its representatives to preach the warning message in mission lands, and would make necessary the dismissal of hundreds of loyal national workers, many of whom to the hazard of their lives suffered much for

preaching the message that binds us together as a people.

I do not know of any Sabbath Schools that are withdrawing their financial support. However, some are failing to keep abreast of the times. Inflation has eroded the value of the dollar.

How long has it been since we carefully examined our weekly Sabbath School offerings in relation to our income? What per cent of our income are we actually giving to the Lord through the Sabbath School offerings?

APPEAL Dear brethren and sisters, members of the Sabbath School, if there was ever a time when the mission fields needed loyal support, it is now. We are now in the harvest-time, and tomorrow will be too late. Remember the words of the apostle Paul, "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost" (2 Cor. 4:3). Mission lands are looking to you; what are you going to do to help?

SABBATH, MAY 9

Multiplying Missionaries' Usefulness

by L. H. Barnard

[After graduating in 1938 from the New Zealand Missionary College, L. H. Barnard served in the government medical service in New Guinea. This led to his appointment as the first superintendent of the Tagoba Hansende Colony in New Guinea, a government institution, staffed by Adventists, caring for up to 350 lepers at a time. After six years, Pastor Barnard was appointed as director of several

mission districts, where he did a great deal of pioneering. Eventually, in 1964, when the first mission plane arrived, Pastor Barnard became one of the appointed missionary pilots, flying the *Andrew Stewart* in the rugged interior of New Guinea, where he now carries on as district director of the Western Highlands Mission.]

(NOTE.—Though our attention is focused on the needs of the Central European Division this quarter, we wish to bring you a little report from time to time to keep you in touch with the progress of the work of God in other parts of the world field. Today we shall touch on the island of New Guinea.)

INTRODUCTION **Concealed until recently in the hinterland of New Guinea was Lake Kopyago (Kō-pē-āgo'). The *Andrew Stewart*, our mission plane, now flies effortlessly into the area where we have a rapidly expanding church. Leading this work is Evangelist Samuel Nala, whom God is using in an outstanding manner.**

Recently an angel appeared to an elderly man and a young woman on the same Friday night in separate villages and told both to go to the Adventist mission where they would find the way to eternal life. The following morning Samuel, without any knowledge of this, conducted a Branch Sabbath School near the hut where the elderly man lived. The man was so amazed that he followed Samuel to the mission station and is now preparing for baptism, with his family. A faithful church member conducted a similar service in the village of the woman who also had the angelic visitation, and she likewise went to the mission station to learn of God's truth. These two separate yet identical experiences remind one of the conversion of Cornelius, and also of Saul of Tarsus.

On a recent Sabbath, diligent Samuel conducted a Branch Sabbath School at the nearby government medical-aid post. He was approached by a man who told him his wife was a patient and had been unable to speak since a spirit molested and nearly drowned her three weeks previously. Would he pray for her recovery?

Gathering the deacon and deaconess into the church with this man and his wife, Samuel implored God to magnify His name by healing this woman. There was no response, so he prayed again, and again, and again, till after the fifth time he asked her to speak the name of Jesus. Slowly her lips and tongue framed the precious word till the name tumbled out. From that moment onward she was able to speak normally. And now she and her husband are preparing for baptism.

For decades Adventist missionaries have been laboriously trudging the mountain trails with the blessed gospel while other resolute ones have been chugging along the treacherous shores of New Guinea. But now the two mission aircraft have dramatically helped to burst the bounds of mountain barriers and link up with the crocodile-infested lowlands of Papua.

While it would take the mission vessel eight days plugging six hundred miles up the Fly River to Kionga, the mission aircraft flies in there in only seventy-five minutes. Recently Pastor Barnard took in four national evangelists from the highlands to pioneer this new work in the lowlands. Already two hundred people are worshipping with them.

Flying thirty minutes eastward is Nomad River airstrip in the center of the dreaded Biamie (Bē-ä'-mē) tribe, which is the last known stronghold of practicing cannibals. These people strike terror to their neighbors as they raid their villages for victims. They still use stone axes and fight with human bone-tipped arrows. Only recently a government pacification patrol was ambushed and showered with arrows. Into this newly opened area three valiant workers have been left to build a mission station near the airstrip as a base from which forays will be made to uplift these degraded head-hunters.

More recently Pastor Barnard flew missionary David Lundstrom from Ambunti (Äm-boon' tee) in the north coast lowlands to drop urgently needed food and tools in the May River area. The depraved people of this area are living in constant fear of one another, and not without cause, as seven people have just been murdered there. Flying over the newly marked airstrip site right in the center of these dangerous people, supplies were dropped to the courageous national workers pioneering in this remote outpost.

APPEAL So, dear Sabbath School members, may the challenge of the untamed jungles of New Guinea stir you again. In this benighted land, mission budgets are seriously strained because the work is expanding more rapidly than budgets. No funds are available to pioneer new centers in these primitive areas. The mission aircraft enables missionaries to multiply

their usefulness, but there is no budget even for these special flights. Those upturned faces are dependent upon their newly found missionaries who in turn are depending upon you. Can we, dare we, let them wait any longer? Your generous gifts to missions week by week through the Sabbath School can help answer this call.

SABBATH, MAY 16

Many Sabbath Schools Are Waiting for Their Temple

by W. Raecker

[In writing down these lines the author remembers the many happy years he has spent in working for the Sabbath School department, as he has been Sabbath School secretary of local conferences, a union conference, and of the Central European Division. Twenty-two years might seem to be a long time, but in looking back Elder Raecker says, "It is only a short period which ran by like a mountain stream, quick and very lively."]

INTRODUCTION Stop and think a minute of how varied the Sabbath Schools are which gather each Sabbath morning around the world. There may be only a few people sitting around a table discussing the lesson, or there could also be a group of young people at a camp meeting who are using a tent or a barn as their place of worship. Certainly some members are meeting in the open, for lack of any church. Then one could imagine great conferences or youth congresses such as the ones at Paris, San Francisco, Vienna, and last but not

least at Zurich, with more than 12,000 people in attendance.

The Sabbath School has very meaningfully been called the heart of the Adventist Church. Just how much life has it really pumped into our worldwide work? Its influence is so great that it could be said that it is a mirror reflecting the attitude of the church in general. It is by means of continuous careful study of the Word, under God's guidance, in the Sabbath School that spiritual progress is made. In order that God's people can gather together they need His temple. "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple" (Ps. 27:4). Unfortunately, Germany still suffers a lack in this direction. World War II destroyed a large portion of what our members held holy. Of course, much has been done since then, and the number of Adventist churches that can be seen only demonstrates the willingness of the Adventist body to sacrifice for the benefit of others. For this we are most grateful, but there are still many Sabbath Schools waiting for their own temple.

In the South German Union alone, 70 churches do not have an adequate place of worship. In one world-famous city the church meets in a backyard. Those who attend the meetings there have to bend down when entering the place in order to avoid knocking their heads against some iron stairs. Another group has had to content itself with a wooden hut, which lies far outside the town

and is very difficult to reach, as its place of worship. Very often private living rooms and kitchens replace the necessary room for the Sabbath School. Another problem arises too in such situations, namely that the children suffer through lack of adequate facilities. Where can they go when a private room is the main meeting place? There is another town where our members meet in the clubroom of a bowling alley, where across the courtyard butchers can be seen preparing the animals for slaughter. Even such places as a washhouse and a garage have been transformed into meeting rooms. Anyone who wants to visit the church in one place has to cross two unfriendly backyards and climb two narrow, steep staircases.

In one town the church is meeting in the cellar of a hotel, where there is neither daylight nor proper heat. When a church like the one in Berlin must vacate its meeting place and does not know where to go, the need becomes acute. This church will benefit this quarter from your offering overflow. It is also painful to see visitors coming by bus to a conference assembly, only to be turned away because there is no more room. Tears of disappointment and sorrow can be seen in the eyes of our church members.

One church in the Badish Conference experienced just how difficult it is to find an adequate room to serve as a meeting place when the funds for a church are not available. This church has met for twenty years in kitchens, clubrooms, and private apartments, but recently God has answered the prayer of

these faithful members. They found a small temple and started immediately to transform it. They received many gifts, together with the volunteer help of experts. They even received as a gift the essentials needed for holy communion. The joy and gratitude of these church members was fully expressed at the dedication service.

APPEAL There are, however, still many churches throughout Germany waiting for the necessary funds to be provided so that they can also enjoy the benefits of a house of worship. Many Sabbath Schools like that of our special project this quarter are still waiting for their temple. If this call comes to you while sitting comfortably on a real pew in a beautiful church, you should not wait for any further calls, but remember your brethren and sisters who are asking the Lord each Sabbath to provide a better place of worship for them. Your special offering also receives a special blessing. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give . . . for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

GREAT MEN

The personalities of the Old Testament were not great because of great things they did, certainly not because they did not make mistakes. . . . They were great because they . . . did the work that He had for them to do.

God does not only work through a nation collectively; He does not only work through a big church or a big Sabbath School; He works through individual men and women who are faithful in their work.—William S. LaSor.

SABBATH, MAY 23

"The . . . Fervent Prayer . . . Availeth Much"

by Dorothy May Powrie

[Dorothy May Powrie, missionary wife, and her husband Leon N. Powrie are both graduate nurses of the Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital, Australia. Mrs. Powrie also graduated from the midwifery course at the Hornsby District Hospital, and Mr. Powrie from the psychiatric course at the Ryde Psychiatric Center. In 1961 they accepted a call to mission service on the Sepik River, New Guinea. It was while serving here that they received the call to serve in East Pakistan.]

(NOTE.—I am quite sure you are all aware that our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow is designated to benefit the work of God in the Central European Division, but inasmuch as our twelve Sabbath's offerings assist our general mission program, we wish to bring you a picture today that depicts the winning of souls in East Pakistan of the Southern Asia Division.)

INTRODUCTION This morning I would like to tell you a story about a mother who lives in East Pakistan. East Pakistan is mainly a delta region. There are many rivers, canals, and swamp lands. In the wet season there is more water than land to be seen. Approximately 57 million people are crowded into this very small area. Mrs. Haldar (Häll'där), the mother whom I would like to tell you about lives in an area known as the Bhilla area, so called because it is very low land. Each rainy season this area is flooded.

Mrs. Powrie first met Mrs. Haldar when Pastor N. D. Roy, the leader of the Bhilla area and evangelist for this territory, brought her to our outpatient clinic at our hos-

pital at Gopalganj (Gō' pāl-gunj).

"I have a very interesting story to tell you about this young mother," said Pastor Roy. "I will tell you when you have finished your work today."

Pastor Roy loves to tell others about Jesus. He started to conduct meetings in a village called Ramshil (Rām'shīl) in the Bhil area. There were no Seventh-day Adventists in this village. About half the people who live here are Moslems and the other half Christians. Mrs. Haldar's husband was the secretary of one of the Christian churches here. When the Haldar family heard about the meetings, Mr. Haldar said, "I think I will go and see what this man has to say." But Mrs. Haldar said, "I am content with our church. I am not going to the meetings."

Mr. Haldar attended the meeting each evening. He enjoyed listening to the truths of God's Word, so he wanted Mrs. Haldar to go to the meetings with him. That evening when he went home he said to Mrs. Haldar, "You must come to the meeting tomorrow night."

Mrs. Haldar said, "No, I am a busy mother with little children to care for. I cannot go, and besides I am not interested."

Again next evening Mr. Haldar asked his wife to go to the meeting. He said, "Just come once and see for yourself." However, Mrs. Haldar said she would not go.

Each evening Mr. Haldar asked his wife to go till finally she said, "All right, because you are so insistent I will go."

That evening Pastor Roy

preached about the love of God. Mrs. Haldar sat in the meeting listening. Joy filled her heart as she listened to the wonderful message. She had missed out on the other meetings, but she attended every meeting after this and was always the first lady there each evening. Mr. Haldar did not have to plead with her anymore.

The meetings continued for another six weeks. Mrs. Haldar had given up chewing betel nut and eating unclean meat and fish. She was eager to learn more from God's Word.

However people were criticizing the Haldars for attending the meetings. They told Mr. Haldar that he was setting a very bad example to the other members of his church.

When Pastor Roy presented the subject, "God's Seal," he made a call asking people to stand if they wanted to be numbered among God's people. Mrs. Haldar stood and gave a wonderful testimony. After she had finished speaking there was an uproar from the back of the tent. Some of the people were threatening Mr. Haldar with physical harm.

The next evening the Sabbath truth was presented. Mrs. Haldar stood with eleven others, signifying that she would keep the Sabbath.

Mr. Haldar's attitude had changed, however, and he told his wife that she was to have nothing to do with the Adventists. She told him that she must follow God's Word. He became angry and told her he would beat her and turn her out of the house if she continued to go to church on Sabbath.

During the next few months Mrs. Haldar was beaten, she went without food many days, and she was told that she could not go to her own house. Kind friends helped her, and she herself prayed and fasted for her family. She also went about encouraging and helping the other eleven who had stood with her that evening, signifying that they too would follow and keep the Sabbath.

Six months after she had given her heart to Jesus she was baptized with eight of the eleven. Tears filled her eyes as she asked Pastor Roy to continue to pray for her husband.

Mr. Haldar had not been feeling well for some time. He was feverish and had a troublesome cough, and he had pain in his chest. Pastor Roy brought him to our dispensary. A chest X-ray was taken, and some blood tests were made, which disclosed that he was suffering from tuberculosis. He was advised to go to Dacca to be admitted in a hospital for tuberculosis sufferers. He did this, and was there for a year.

Mrs. Haldar went back to her home and cared for her children. She had no financial support from any of her family. She harvested some rice, made clothes and sold them and paid a faithful tithe on all she was able to earn. The Lord richly blessed her and she was never without food during this time. People still criticized her and told her that it was her fault that her husband was sick. She kept praying for her husband. The story ends happily. Mrs. Haldar's prayers on behalf of her husband were answered. His heart was changed.

When he returned home he began to take Bible studies, and finally, with gladness and joy, Mrs. Haldar witnessed the baptism of her husband.

APPEAL Today Mr. and Mrs. Haldar are both working for their Lord and Saviour in their village. You may not be able to go to Southern Asia and preach to the people like Pastor Roy, but your weekly offerings will help other mothers, fathers, and children to learn about Jesus and His love. May God bless you as you give each week, and may you be especially blessed as you plan for a large offering on the coming thirteenth Sabbath when the overflow benefits the Central European Division.

SABBATH, MAY 30

God Finds a Lost Truck

by Gastón Clouzet

[Elder Gastón Clouzet (Cloo-zay) accepted the Advent message about thirty years ago in Chile, the land of his birth. After his conversion he studied in the Chile College and was graduated in 1942. As a worker for God he has been a teacher and a dean of men; editor in the Buenos Aires Publishing House; Radio-TV and MV secretary in the Austral Union; president of the Uruguay Mission; and now he is Sabbath School and religious liberty and public affairs secretary in the South American Division.]

(NOTE.—While keeping in mind that the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow this quarter will benefit three projects in the Central European Division, today we wish to relate a story of answered prayer that comes to us from another corner of the world field.)

INTRODUCTION All of us have many reasons to thank the Lord. He gives us life, health, and many wonderful blessings. Thankfulness is one of the most beautiful Christian virtues. It reveals spiritual depth and maturity. A thankful Christian lives near his God. He acknowledges that everything in his life comes from the Hand that created him and sustains the worlds. He knows also that this Hand was once nailed to the cross for his salvation. Let us see in our story for today how wonderfully Jesus guided a Latin American lad to conversion and thankfulness. May the Lord inspire us through this story to deeper love and consecration.

José (Ho-say) had a very good Seventh-day Adventist mother. He agreed that his mother's religion was indeed very good, but he was not at all interested in any religion.

José was a truck driver. He was the owner of his own truck. It was a very good one, and he was earning a lot of money with it. But José was ambitious. He wanted to improve, to go ahead in life. So he decided to sell his truck. Then with the money that he would receive by selling the truck, plus some money he had in the bank, he would buy a new truck, a bigger, better one.

One day he came home very happy. He had a check in his hand that he showed his mother as he announced, "Mother, I sold the truck. Now I am able to buy the new, larger truck I have been dreaming of."

"But, are you sure, my son, that this check is a good one?" his mother eagerly asked.

"Well, I think so," said José half confused. "I did not doubt its being a good one. This is the first question I have had about this. I must go tomorrow to the bank to deposit it to my account. I hope everything will be O.K."

But José couldn't sleep very well that night. He wasn't so sure now that the check would be a good one. What if it were not? What a terrible thought! Everything would be lost, or almost.

As soon as the bank opened its doors the next morning, José was by the cashier's window to deposit the check to his account. He had to wait a long time. At last the cashier came and announced the fearful words, "This check has no value. There are no funds."

Poor José! What could he do now? Undoubtedly, his mother who lived so near to God would have good advice for him. He had been so careless that he did not even know the address of the man who had given him the check!

"We are going to pray with faith to the Lord," said his mother, "and I am sure the Lord will find your truck and will give it back to you. Only have complete confidence in the workings of the Lord."

For three weeks José prayed with his mother. These were the first prayers in his life. Will the Lord find his truck? Will He give it back to Him? His mother said "Yes" with an amazing assurance. He couldn't doubt, but the days and the weeks elapsed and nothing happened. How long would the Lord take to find his truck and bring it back to him?

At the end of the third week, not telling his mother or anybody else where he was going, he went to visit one of his friends. Without his truck and without work, he had plenty of time to visit people. While he was talking to his friend, the telephone rang. Upon answering, the friend found the call was for José. Surely there must be a mistake, for José had not told anyone where he was going. How could anyone know he was there?

When he answered, someone at the other end of the line said, "Your truck is on such and such a street, in front of number so and so. The key is in its place. Come right now and take your truck home. Don't waste time." Click. The telephone conversation was over. José had had no time to get more information.

But before going to the place indicated, he spoke with his lawyer to get his advice. The lawyer said, "It could be a joke, José, but you can't lose anything by going to see what is happening. Take a taxi-cab and go there right away. If you find your truck there, with the key in its place, take your truck back home as soon as possible. You will not be making a mistake, because you have the false check as proof. Go right now without delay."

That's what José did. And his truck was there. It had been painted another color, but there was no doubt at all that it was his truck. And the key was in its place! José paid the taxi driver, went to his truck and took it back home as quickly as he could.

He came home happy as could be.

"Mother, Mother! I found my truck and have brought it back home. The Lord answered our prayers. He has given me back my truck. Now I want to be a Seventh-day Adventist like you, Mother."

"Yes, son," serenely said his mother, "let us pray now to thank the Lord for answering our prayers. As you offer your heart to Him, we will pray that the Lord may receive you as His son and a member of His church. This is the happiest day of my life."

When they rose from their knees, with tearful eyes his mother said, "Now, José, to confirm your dedication to the Lord it would be well for you to give 500 new cruzeiros (US\$125) as a thank offering to the Sabbath School."

APPEAL We also have many reasons to thank the Lord for His manifold blessings. Let us be liberal with our offerings to the Sabbath School: the twelve Sabbaths' offerings, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, the Birthday-Thank Offering, and the Investment Fund. All of these offerings contribute to increase the funds dedicated by the General Conference for the support of missions. Let us be generous in order that many people all around the world will know that the Lord answers prayer and wants everybody to be saved in His wonderful kingdom.

What! more pleas for help, more money yet!

When will it ever cease?

Must I sacrifice still more and more

For every nation, tongue, and zone?

"Oh, no!" I seem to hear a Voice from heaven say,

"Just give until your Father stops His blessings day by day."

SABBATH, JUNE 6

Dial 862027

by Helmut Mayer

[After obtaining his professional qualifications in business in 1951, the author decided to attend one of our German missionary colleges to prepare for the ministry. His first call came in 1955 from West Berlin, where he was ordained in 1961. Since 1966 he has been secretary for the lay activities department of the Berlin Conference, and since 1968 he is responsible also for the Sabbath School as well as other departments.]

INTRODUCTION

The 1,729 Sabbath School members of the 15 churches in West Berlin send their greetings and pray God's abundant blessings on the Sabbath School members gathered throughout the world. Today you shall hear about a peculiarity of the inhabitants of Berlin. They are very keen on using the telephone. Almost every other Berlin family has a telephone. From year to year the directory becomes thicker and thicker. It is already so voluminous that it is published in two books. Nearly half a million names are recorded on its 2,000 pages. In a few years the one millionth name will have been added—names representing people whom Christ died to save in His eternal kingdom. What can be done to reach all these people with the Advent message? How can they be interested in the study of the Bible? Is there a way to reach them? Doors are firmly locked and many church members are old and unable to go from door to door. But God has shown His people a way to reach the thousands of Berlin.

Why should it not be by use of the telephone? The proposed plan of telephone evangelism was enthusiastically formulated. Ninety-one sermonets were prepared, and each one was recorded on a separate tape. The application for a special telephone number was handed in. After all these preparations were made, a problem still remained unsolved. How could the service be brought to the notice of the public? Our faithful Sabbath School members in the different churches of Berlin copied thousands of addresses from the telephone directory onto envelopes. Through their help 18,000 people who had the telephone received a personal invitation to use this new telephone service. Furthermore, at the close of church services the church members went from door to door distributing leaflets. In this way one church has already reached 70,000 families out of approximately 90,000 in its district. Weekly the lay activities leader divides among the members the streets of his area, in accordance with his town plan. By the time this report is given every family in this district, which has 200,000 inhabitants, will have been invited to utilize this service.

After all these efforts everybody wondered about the project's success. But God blessed this work abundantly. Thousands of people have already dialed the number. Many call daily and express their thanks for the message they have heard. When the tape with the sermonet is finished, each caller is given the opportunity to say a few

words, which are recorded on a special tape at our exchange. He can also make requests or give his address. Our secretary daily records these questions, wishes, and addresses. The minister then visits the people who have given their addresses, and the church members remember them in their weekly prayer meetings.

Now hear for yourself what young and old think of telephone evangelism: "For a long time God's Word did not mean anything to me, but your sermons have touched my heart. I have recently experienced terrible grief, and I would like to express my thanks for your comforting words. I am so happy that you can give me so much comfort and courage during this difficult experience."

This and other comments encourage us, and we believe that God will bless this work abundantly. Hundreds have given their addresses and asked for Bible lessons. The ministers have contacted many people. A teacher of religion asked for a visit from the pastor who had been delivering the daily sermons. She wanted to make a confession. For quite a while she had been unable to pray. She had lost her faith in the Bible and was full of doubts. She felt spiritually dead and was unhappy. Nobody could help her. Accidentally she found a reference to the telephone evangelism. Soon she called daily, and then she started with the study of the Bible lessons. After a few weeks she came to Sabbath School. And what was her opinion? Listen to what she said: "I am surprised to

observe the good spirit of your church members. The Sabbath School is a wonderful organization. What is said in the Sabbath School is not meaningless words. Your Sabbath School members speak with conviction of their experiences with God. This has deeply impressed me."

God grant that this woman may very soon take her stand for Christ and the third angel's message. She has found again the pleasure of reading the Bible and having daily prayer. She has advised many people to dial our telephone evangelism number. Among them was a Dutch lady pastor who had conflicts similar to hers, and who also telephones daily to listen to the message of renewed hope.

We pray and believe that in Berlin thousands of people can be reached through telephone evangelism. Of course, this work demands prayer, love, and devotion. Our faithful Sabbath School members have not only invested their time but also their financial means.

Seventh-day Adventists are pioneers of this work in Germany. Berlin is the city in which it started. However, a few years ago other Protestant and Catholic churches also instituted a telephone service, which differs basically from ours. A team of doctors, psychologists, social welfare workers, and theologians are involved in order to help people with their material and physiological needs. Our telephone evangelism is primarily concerned with acquainting people with the Word of God. We believe that the gospel can change one's whole way

of life. The Adventist message brings hope into many hearts. This is expressed by many of the daily callers as follows: "I look forward every day to listening to your sermonets. With so many problems in the world, they bring peace to my heart." "These sermonets do more for me than anything I get from attending my church." "I am at a party. Somebody gave me your number. I was very discouraged, but since I called today I feel that life is now worth living."

APPEAL Berlin, a city reported to have the highest suicide incidence of any city in the world, needs the encouragement and hope of eternal life that the Advent message can bring. In order to reach the millions of this divided city with the plan of salvation, much personal sacrifice is necessary and funds are needed. The Sabbath School members of Berlin are grateful that the overflow of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will promote the work of God in the city of Berlin. Our believers in this part of the world are sure the love of their brothers and sisters around the world will be manifest this quarter, and wish to thank all in anticipation for their generous quarter's offering.

Robert Arthington, of Leeds, England, a Cambridge graduate, lived in a single room and cooked his own meals. He gave to foreign missions the sum of £500,000 (about \$2.25 million at current exchange). He said: Gladly would I make the floor my bed, a box my chair, and another box my table, rather than men should perish for the want of the knowledge of Christ.

SABBATH, JUNE 13

"Lift Up the Trumpet . . ."

by Karl Hinz

[The author was born on a farm in Germany. His mother, like Hannah, had promised God that should she be blessed with a son she would encourage him to enter God's work. She was naturally very pleased when in 1957 her son decided to study at Marienhoehe (Marie' ěn-hay) Missionary College in preparation for the ministry. His course of study was completed in 1963, whereupon his first call came from Hamburg. He was until recently the minister at Braunschweig (Brown' schwĳg), but is now in Celle. His special interest lies in brass band evangelistic campaigns.]

INTRODUCTION "Lift up the trumpet, and loud let it ring . . ." This combined motto and call is taken very seriously by the brass bands of Germany. They know that there are still many people who have not yet heard the message of Jesus' second coming. To be able to play the trumpet, or any instrument, is a gift that can be used by our young people to give them the opportunity to come into contact with others and acquaint them with our wonderful message. It provides a way of giving the gospel to many who cannot be reached in any other manner.

For several years now this new method has been tried in Germany to call the people's attention to the gospel. In many churches brass band groups have been formed that not only play at the Sabbath services, special festivals and evangelistic campaigns, but which support the spreading of the gospel in a very special way. On Sabbath after-

noons, or on Sunday mornings, these players and other helpers gather and go to famous and busy places in the towns. The brass band players group together and a large banner is displayed which reads: "Brass Band Service of the Seventh-day Adventist Church." In one of the cars a loudspeaker installation can be seen. The loudspeaker is fixed on the roof of the car, and soon afterward the program starts. The first hymn is played, followed by others. After two or three hymns the speaker goes to the microphone and gives a short testimony to his faith. Then the band plays again, and after a while a second testimony is given. The people stop and listen. Three times the evangelist speaks before the program ends. During the service many helpers distribute leaflets and invitations to those who are listening. All in all there are in Germany about sixty-seven brass band groups, with more than four hundred players. During the special mission months in spring and autumn, these brass band players go from street to street and square to square in the towns and villages in order to bring the gospel in a musical way to the ears of the people. While the brass bands are playing, other helpers go from door to door distributing and selling literature. In Berlin alone, on forty-three occasions using this approach, almost twelve thousand and five hundred magazines have been sold in the past four years.

Here is just one of the numerous experiences that our brass band players at Braunschweig have had.

During the MV Week of Prayer in 1967, the aim of each youth was to do something to reach people and tell them about Jesus. Months before the program was prepared and regular prayer meetings were held. It was MV Sabbath afternoon, and about forty players and fifteen other youth members were gathered on a famous square called Kohlmarkt, in the city of Braunschweig. Our players unpacked their instruments and started playing. Some other youth members went and interviewed the passers-by:

"What do you think about having beat music and other pop music played in churches?" "Can one still believe in the Bible?" "What does Christ mean to you?"

These and many other questions were asked, and soon our young people entered into discussions with the listeners. Among them was a young man who approached the pastor saying: "Please, can you help me? I cannot find any peace and have many unsolved problems. Could you come and visit me in my home?"

A few days later the minister went to see the young man. He had indeed many questions and problems, which the pastor could not answer all at once. They agreed on another date. Soon the discussion took more and more the form of Bible studies. The mother of the young man was also an attentive listener. When the minister tried to point out how much God loves His children and how much He wishes to save them, the woman started to cry. She told the pastor that she had once been a member

of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "Since I have stopped going to church," she said, "I have never been happy." Six months later the young man expressed his desire to be baptized. He had found his Redeemer. The efforts of the brass band players and youth members had not been in vain, and very happily they continue practicing in order to be able to reach and call many more people to Christ.

APPEAL Today your help is needed in giving the message of a soon-coming Saviour to the millions in the city of Berlin. This city needs an evangelistic auditorium. You may ask "How can I help?" We are instructed that "spiritual prosperity is closely bound up with Christian liberality" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 344). When our financial resources are selfishly withheld from the support of God's work we individually suffer loss as well as the loss that God's work suffers. God has made the progress of His work in the earth dependent upon the liberality of His people because liberal-hearted giving contributes to the strength and spiritual growth of the individual as well as of the church. Let us plan for giving, pray for giving, and work for giving—and then give.

Have you heard the plea for churches?
How urgent comes the call!
There are many people praying
That we will give our all.

Let us respond in earnest
By giving all we can,
For the telling of the gospel
In each far-distant land.

—Juanita Weeks Boyce

SABBATH, JUNE 20

Breaking New Ground

by Armin Klingbeil

[The author was born in 1935 in an Adventist home. His father was a minister and his grandparents were missionaries and pioneers in Greece, Turkey, and Hungary. After having attended the missionary colleges in Friedensau (Free' dĕn-sow) and Darmstadt (Därm' stät), he entered the ministry. Since then he has been minister in Gelsenkirchen (Gel' zĕn-kĭr' ken), Dortmund (Dört' mödnt), and West Berlin. In December, 1968, he received a call from Neumuenster (Noi' mun' stĕr) where he is especially devoted to the Missionary Volunteer work in addition to his other duties.]

INTRODUCTION It is not possible for men to stop God's work. He makes His work live in a time when people here in Germany are doing away with godly reverence and worship. In this flourishing industrial society people fall victim to the idol of prosperity. Ministers especially are confronted with the consequences of this idolatry. They prayerfully have to search for new ways and means to preach the gospel. But God's Spirit guides them.

Today we wish to tell you about one of these new ways of reaching the people. A young German minister conceived the idea and initiated this new method. He calls it breaking new ground, inasmuch as new areas are chosen and junior clubs are formed there. This was pioneered in the town of Wittorf. It is a place with many children, but not a single Seventh-day Adventist. The minister searched the town and finally found a suitable

center for young people in a municipal building. The man in charge was willing to rent one of the meeting rooms once a week for this purpose, and it was arranged to let the pastor use the display board outside the building to promote the idea. That was an important prerequisite to the success of this planned work. However, the most important element was still missing—the children.

Three thousand invitations were printed, 200 of which were distributed personally at the doors of the people living near this young people's center, and all children between ten to fifteen years of age were invited. Then the minister thought of yet another way. He went to see the headmaster of the nearby school and informed him about his plan. The headmaster was obviously interested in this work and took 150 invitations. He called all the class instructors into his office and explained the proposed work to them and asked them to distribute the invitations. In this way all the children nine to fifteen years of age in this school were informed of the activities of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

The first Tuesday afternoon, which had been scheduled as opening day, arrived. Our minister was anxious to see how many children would attend. Of course, he could not expect a great number, for he was a complete stranger to these children, and also to their parents. But what a pleasure it was for him to see ten children arrive on the first Tuesday. A week later twenty came, and then thirty, and after

three months a group of fifty-seven gathered to participate in the Pathfinder activities, and of course also to learn about the Bible. In order to publicize this work, our minister placed short articles in the local newspapers, and every six to eight weeks invited more children to a promotion day with a special program. At last count one hundred and forty children were in attendance.

Now the minister is trying to come into closer contact with the parents. He visited them and brought them church magazines and especially youth magazines. Soon the first parents' meeting will be conducted, and they will also become acquainted with the Advent message.

Meanwhile the minister has organized some weekend camps. These experiences of fellowship in God's out-of-doors have opened the hearts of the young people for God's Word. Here is just one of the numerous experiences that our minister has had that took place at a camp in Glückstadt (Glük' shtät). After the Bible study period was over and it was about time to go out for the planned walk to a nearby lake, dark clouds covered the sky. It looked as though it could start to rain any minute. Without any hesitation the minister asked the children to gather for a special prayer session. He explained to them that God is all powerful and would be able to stop the rain. Although it had started to rain heavily, the children got ready for the walk. After ten minutes the rain stopped completely and the sun

came out for the rest of the day. God rewarded their faith. On the way to the lake, little Ute (Oo'tay), a girl whose parents did not believe in God, approached the minister. "Mr. Klingbeil," she said, "it was good that we prayed for better weather. Now I know that God answers prayer."

God is using the young people to help evangelize their parents. Does not Jesus say in the Bible: "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3, R.S.V.)?

APPEAL Dear brethren and sisters in the Sabbath Schools throughout the world, you are invited to pray together that God may bless this work and much fruit may grow for His kingdom. How happy we can be that we have become acquainted with this wonderful message in some way or other, and that God has used some of His children to bring it to our knowledge. But how many more people are there who have not heard about God's love for this fallen world? Your Sabbath School offering today will help spread the most important news that there is in this world—Jesus Christ is the Saviour of mankind. There is still time for the people to be saved. Our offerings can still be used for this purpose.

"Thrust in your sharpened sickle,
And gather in the grain; . . .
The Master calls for reapers,
And shall He call in vain?"

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and . . . running over" (Luke 6:38).

SABBATH, JUNE 27

Extension Division Becomes Branch Sabbath School

by K. Kastl

[The author was born in 1899 in Neusalz (Noir zälts'). He graduated in 1928 from our German Missionary College "Neandertal," and entered the ministry. In 1930 he received a call to be a missionary in Yugoslavia where he worked as minister, secretary of local conferences and unions. He was also president of the North Conference until 1945. As a refugee he went through some very difficult years in Austria, where he worked until 1950. Although this was a very hard time, the Lord enabled him to direct some 100 souls to the acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour during this period.]

INTRODUCTION The Sabbath School is the heart of the Adventist Church and one of the most effective means of winning souls. One part of the Sabbath School is the Branch Sabbath School, which proves to be a real blessing to those who lead out, and a very successful method of outreach in the community. Wonderful experiences give testimony to the blessings that are imparted when the study of the Sabbath School lessons are carried out. However, there are some isolated members who find it impossible to attend church at all, and others attend only from time to time. Long distances, age, sickness, or lack of transportation are some of the causes. Sometimes the high cost of transportation coupled with a very limited income prevents the members from regular attendance at the Sabbath School. Should any of these

reasons cause a continued absence, then it is necessary to visit the members and take the Sabbath School to them in their homes.

In Austria, near the Italian border, there lived a very old and isolated church member. A refugee having nowhere else to go, she had settled in this mountainous area. For this sister it was very difficult to attend the Sabbath School at Villach (FYI' ak). There were very infrequent buses and trains which she could hardly afford to use anyway. However, she felt very unhappy about this fact, and when the minister visited her from time to time she told him about her problem. He then proposed to conduct a Branch Sabbath School in her home on Sabbath afternoons and to invite members of her family and the neighbors to join them. Slowly at first visitors came, and eventually every Sabbath afternoon a group of interested people gathered together to study God's Word. Finally the minister was asked to give Bible studies after the Sabbath School was over. Many questions about world developments were answered by consulting the Bible. The signs of the times were brought to the attention of the studious group, until eventually the Bible studies became more and more a preparation for baptism.

In the church in Villach all the Sabbath School members were praying for those who had been attending the Branch Sabbath School and were looking forward to the suggested baptismal day. Everything had been planned and

organized. Eight days before the baptism was to take place the minister once again visited the group. This time, however, he noticed that the atmosphere had changed. They were all looking very sad. What had happened? One of the ladies in the group—a widow with four children—was ill in bed. The doctor had told her that she was suffering from rheumatic fever. She had been collecting wood in the forest and had had to cross several mountain streams barefoot. The children were very young and did not know what to do, so they just cried. The minister asked all the visitors and friends of the Branch Sabbath School, as well as the children of the lady and the faithful church member in whose home the group gathered, to meet in order to discuss the matter. They soon came to the conclusion that it was only through the power of prayer and the grace of God that her condition could be changed. Together they went to visit the sick one and asked the great Physician for help. All the days that followed, until the Sabbath when the baptism was to be held, were days of prayer. Had everything been in vain?

Suffering great pain, with much effort the woman traveled to the church that Sabbath to participate in the baptismal service and take her stand on the side of her Lord. Upon rising from the watery grave she found she had regained her strength and was able to travel home without the dreadful pain she had been suffering. God had not forgotten the supplications of His people. Was it a miracle? The peo-

ple think so. The people praised God, and great joy and thankfulness was present in the hearts of all the members, and especially in the hearts of the children of the woman. Of course, the doctor who visited her a few days later could not understand what had happened, but the sister herself and all the church members knew.

This was the beginning of a series of wonderful experiences for this Branch Sabbath School. Today it is no longer a Branch Sabbath School, but a growing church, which gathers from Sabbath to Sabbath at the same place. The church members too have recognized the need to spread the gospel and are experiencing a rich blessing from their individual and group efforts.

APPEAL Some things in life are only possible if money is available. The thorough functioning of the Adventist Church is no exception. Friends, our members in Germany need your help to advance our work and to provide active centers from which the gospel may be spread to those who have not yet accepted or heard the Master's call. This thirteenth Sabbath you can help put plans into operation that will strengthen the work of the church in this part of the Lord's vineyard. Amid joys and pleasures, are you giving thought to the many thousands around the world in needy places who are struggling to give the gospel in difficult places and willing to risk life itself? While they offer their all may we systematically give a sacrifice commensurate to the great need.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH

June 27

Suggested Program

- 9:15- 9:29 Inspirational song service.
 9:29- 9:30 Program participants enter.
 9:30- 9:34 Silent prayer and opening song.
 9:34- 9:36 Prayer—brief, remember the mission field to benefit from the offering overflow.
 9:36- 9:59 Special thirteenth Sabbath missions program—usually the adult and/or not more than two of the children's divisions participate.
 9:59-10:37 Class period—six-point program, 8 minutes (including taking of lay activities report, 2 minutes, and brief tie-in with last week's lesson).
 Lesson study 30 minutes.
 10:37-10:40 Closing exercises—close promptly.

Note.—Posters, announcements, and bulletin inserts provided free by the conference announcing the thirteenth Sabbath projects may be used. Plan all details of your program early—at least two weeks in advance. Instruct division leaders whose children are participating so that each may know the amount of time allotted. For additional program material see Children's Edition, *World Mission Report*.

Unfinished Business

Dear God, in all earth's mission lands,
 Thy world work still is incomplete.
 Empower our weak, though willing hands,
 Put wings, we pray, upon our feet.

Within our homes, our minds, our hearts,
 A noble work Thou hast begun.
 We'll see, through power Thy grace imparts,
 A finished work by set of sun.

Thy work for man goes on apace—
 Unfinished business everywhere,
 Redeeming this decadent race.
 Complete this task—this is our prayer!
 —Anonymous

Treasure

by Coress Goldsberry King

What do you hold in your heart?

What do you hold as treasure?

A bank book, a house, a car?

Or just the hours of leisure?

Hold your Bible in peace, my friend,

Search through its pages with grace.

Catch a glimpse of salvation—

Look in the Saviour's face.

Hold open your purse with thought.

Look at all its contents, lent.

Will it bring transient joys,

Or will it be well spent?

Give today of your treasure.

Answer now this mission plea.

You may share in heaven's treasures

Through all of eternity.

Which Are You?

by Margaret Locke

Are you a watchman asleep in the tower,

Daydreaming on in this critical hour?

Seeing no danger when danger is here,

Fearing no harm with the enemy near?

Are you a watchman who someday will face

Poor trembling souls who have passed beyond
grace,

Bewailing and screaming in anguish and hate—

"You did not warn me and now it's too late"?

You ARE a watchman? Then what kind are
you—

One that is faithful and zealous and true?

Rich the reward then, to you will be given,

Joys beyond measure, the fullness of heaven.

The Real Giver

The money gift is easy; there are hundreds
here to pay

And settle back, contented, while the toilers
work away.

Men will dig into their pockets for the gold
the cause may need,

And then leave it for another to go out and
do the deed.

But in every worthy struggle that shall help
the race to climb,

The world is always seeking for the men
who'll give their time.

The money gift is easy, but a better gift
than pelf,

Is to dedicate to service not your money,
but yourself,

For though gold and silver often are the
things a cause demands,

No righteous dream can triumph without
willing hearts and hands.

And in every field of service that is known
to mortal ken,

You can hear the leaders calling, not for
money, but for men.

The money gift is easy, many gladly pay the
price

Who sit back in times of danger and refuse
to sacrifice;

There are men who give their money for a
purpose that is fine,

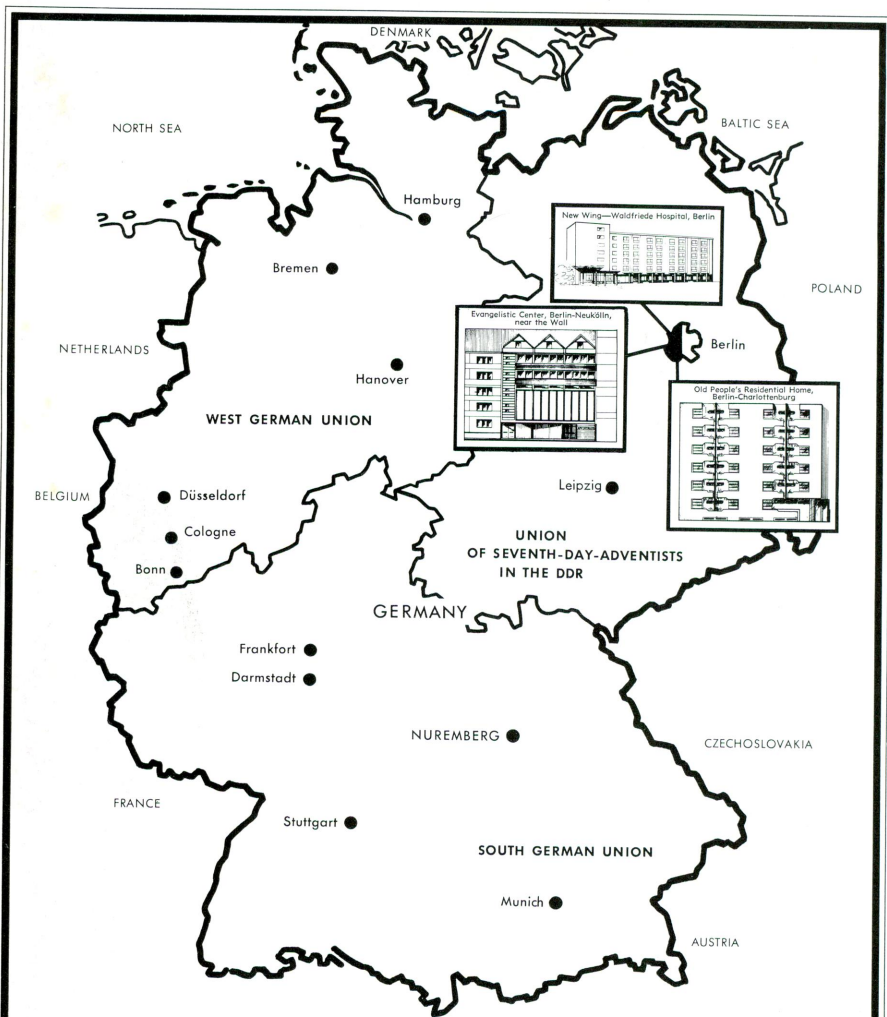
Who never share the burdens on the bitter
firing line.

But the men the world is seeking in the
tasks it has to do,

Are the men who'll share the struggle and
stay with it till it's through.

—Selected

**The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering Overflow
for the Third Quarter 1970
Will Go to the Southern European Division**



CENTRAL EUROPEAN DIVISION

Unions	Population	Churches	Church Memb.	Sub. Sch. Memb.
South German	29,087,468	240	12,961	15,601
Union of S. D. A. in DDR	18,403,800	341	12,670	14,107
West German	28,021,371	197	11,784	13,639
West Berlin Conference	2,197,300	15	1,571	1,727
Division Totals	77,709,939	793	38,986	45,074