

MISSIONS

A number of Protestant societies have missionaries in Spain. The Methodists have been working there for more than seventy-five years. The Plymouth Brethren have churches in a number of sections, particularly in Galicia, Madrid, and Barcelona. Baptists, too, have a number of churches in Spain.

It was early in the 1930's that Tage Stahlberg, a Swedish missionary, first took the message of Pentecost to Madrid. At present there are two full-gospel churches there and a fine Spanish pastor ministers to both congregations. The main church was recently enlarged.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

In 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Roman Perruc came to the port city of La Coruña, on the Bay of Biscay. Mr. Perruc, a Cuban, was married to a Spanish woman. This couple was converted in New York City and felt called of God to return to her native land with the message of Pentecost. Through prayer meetings held in their home the first Assembly of God was begun in Spain.

Some time after this beginning, Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Lamas, Spaniards who were converted in Cuba, returned to La Coruña to visit. For some months they worked with the Perrucs. In answer to much prayer, a meeting hall and permit for services were obtained, and when the Perrucs left the city to minister in another part of Spain, Mr. and Mrs. Lamas took over the responsibility of the work. During the past ten years the Sunday school in La Coruña has been departmentalized and an active young people's group has developed. As a means of transportation for visiting believers in remote areas, Mr. Lamas is using a Speed-the-Light motor scooter.

In Gijon, a city of 100,000 on the Atlantic coast, there is an Assemblies of God church which originally belonged to another Protestant group under Spanish leadership. In 1954 it was turned over to Hugh Jeter, who at that time was ministering in Spain. This Assembly is presently pastored by José Rego, a young man who is a former member of the Assembly in La Coruña.

THE PENTECOSTAL MESSAGE TAKEN TO SOUTHERN SPAIN

At about the same time that Tage Stahlberg went to Madrid, an English Pentecostal missionary, Mabel Bax, went to minister in Ronda, a city that now has a population of some 50,000 inhabitants. When Miss Bax arrived there was already a small group of Protestant believers. Later, this work was turned over to Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Thomas, also British Pentecostal workers. They were forced to abandon their mission and return to England when the Civil War broke out.

It was fourteen years later, in 1950, that the Perrucs went to Ronda and discovered a group of ten believers who, without leadership, had managed to maintain their identity as Protestants and to survive in spite of the anti-evangelical sentiments that existed during the years that followed the war. The Perrucs pastored this work until Roy Dalton took it over the following year.

Between that time and the year 1959, eighty believers have followed the Lord in water baptism, seventy-five per cent of which have also



Residence and Sunday school building in Ronda

received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Although thirty-three of these have had to leave Ronda in search of work in Barcelona, Madrid, and other industrial centers, the weekly attendance is still good and growing. During one month in 1959, the average attendance in the Sunday school was 103. The weekly attendance runs consistently at least twenty per cent above that of the preceding year.

In 1955, the first Assemblies of God property, consisting of five acres of land with three buildings, was purchased in Ronda. One of the buildings serves as a residence for the pastor; the second building was transformed into a chapel which is already being outgrown by the congregation; and the third, a two-story structure, is used for Sunday school classes and special occasions.

CHURCH OPENED IN BARCELONA

When Hugh Jeter visited Spain in 1949, he contacted a Spanish family in Barcelona who had accepted the Pentecostal message while living in New York City. They expressed a desire for someone to come and establish a church in this large city, and offered their home for services. When the Kenneth McIntyres arrived in 1952, they conducted services in the living room of this Spanish home. The room was soon filled and a small rented hall was secured.

Sunday school in Ronda

