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## Neglected Challenges in the Euro-Africa Division

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# Neglected Challenges in the Euro-Africa Division

BY BRUCE BAUER

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

Mission offerings for the fourth quarter of 2003 are earmarked for the Euro-Africa Division to build a seminary in Sofia, Bulgaria, and an evangelistic center in Paris, France. Seminaries are needed, and the evangelistic center in Paris could potentially reach out to the many Muslims in Paris. However, the challenges in the

by a total of 4.5 million people. The challenge of reaching these eight countries is huge, but there is more to the challenge. The eight countries have 351 distinct people groups, each needing the Bible in their language, a unique strategy, literature, a dedicated team of church planters, and much prayer support.

Britain. Pray for the European Christians that they will witness to the Moroccans in their cities.

Turkey remains the largest unreached country in the world. Seventh-day Adventists have had a presence in the country since before the First World War, but most Adventists have been Armenians, unable to witness effectively to the majority population of Turks. Pray for the success of new witnessing initiatives.

For decades, Muslim people have been resistant to the gospel. Perhaps God is waiting for us to join Him in His love for Muslims. Perhaps God is waiting for us to intercede and petition Him for a softening and turning to God in



A Bulgarian lay pastor is working with this group of Bible students. The 13th Sabbath offering this quarter will help build an Adventist seminary in Sofia, Bulgaria, so that more trained pastors will be prepared to share the Advent hope in Bulgaria.

southern portion of the division are staggering and are often neglected.

There are eight Muslim countries in the southern part of the Euro-Africa Division that make up the Trans-Mediterranean Territory—Afghanistan, Algeria, Iran, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, and Western Sahara. This territory has a combined population of 245 million people with only 176 Adventist members. Those numbers are shocking. There are 1,396,068 people for each Adventist member in that region.

Turkey and Iran are the two countries with the largest populations. Turkey has more than 70 million people with only 35 Adventists. Iran has a population in excess of 71 million with only 32 members.

During 2003, the population in these eight countries increased

In Afghanistan, there are 48,000 mosques but not a single Christian church. There are fifty languages with only two of them having the New Testament translated and an additional three languages that only have portions of the Scriptures. Pray

for translators who will give the Afghan peoples the Word of God in their own languages.

There are 2.5 million Algerians in Europe. Pray that the gospel will reach them so they can be the ones to share the gospel with their relatives and friends back home. Iran has 69 official languages, but most are without the Bible. Pray for translators.

Few Libyans have ever seen a Bible, and only two of the 11 languages have the New Testament. Pray that Christian broadcasts and Web sites will impact the Libyan people. Moroccans have emigrated in large numbers—1.5 million in France, 240,000 in Holland, 150,000 in Belgium, more than 800,000 in Spain (most of whom are there as illegal immigrants), 100,000 in Germany, and 50,000 in Great



The Trans-Mediterranean Territory has a combined population of 245 million with only 176 Adventists. Most of the people are Muslims and worship in Mosques.

Muslim lands. Perhaps God waits because of our hardness of heart toward Muslims. I know God waits because He wants Muslims from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people to join Him before the throne on the sea of glass.

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Photo by James Fisher.