

Harvest in Belgium

The Lord Jesus himself announced the work of Harvest of the Gospel Age: “Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.” Matthew 13:30

It began in the United States in the last quarter of the 19th century with the ministry of Pastor C.T. Russell, and spread progressively to the other areas of the world, Belgium being part of them.

Brother Russell visited Antwerp and Brussels in 1891; he met there Christendom that was ignorant of biblical truth. The fear of the clergy and of the fire of hell, doctrine that has no foundation in the Scripture, kept people away from opening the Bible. “We are not allowed to open the Bible, this book is forbidden and blacklisted,” they said.

A providential beginning

At the same time, a modest Swiss forestry worker named Adolphe Weber left his country to go living and working in America. By chance, Pastor Russell employed him as a gardener in his house in Pittsburg-Allegehny. He gained at his contact a good knowledge of the Holy Scripture and was a witness of the work of “harvest” developing in the USA.

He suggested going back to Europe to proclaim “the good news of great joy” in the French speaking countries. Brother Russell agreed with his plans and committed himself in funding financially the spreading of the Truth in French speaking Europe. When he returned in Switzerland, he began the translation in French of books of the “present truth” and published in daily newspapers advertisements referring to the first volume of the studies in the Scriptures and some booklets.

First answer

In 1901, a grocer named Jean-Baptiste Tilmant (father) working in Jumet- Gohissart, city located near Charleroi, answered one of these advertisements and asked for some literature. As a result, a small group of bible students started meetings at his house in 1902. For your information, Jumet is now part of the city of Charleroi.

At that period, the light of truth started to shine in some European countries, especially in Switzerland where Brother Adolphe Weber worked for the Kingdom. Urged by his desire to know more about the truth, Jean -Baptiste Tilmant wrote to this brother asking to receive more information. As an answer to his demand, Brother Weber came to Charleroi during his missionary tour, to strengthen the faith of this small group.

Evolution of truth until the First World War

Area of Charleroi

The spiritual food that the faithful and careful pastor C.T Russell was giving to the English-speaking people was now available for the French speaking. In 1903, the periodical “lighthouse of Zion Tower” was published in French for the first time. The light of truth began to shine so brightly in this mining area. Indeed, each Sunday morning, a small group of Bible students as they were called at the time, were going “in the fields” to sow the seeds of truth

contained in this eight pages periodical; they waited for instance at the exit of churches. That is how the two first editions of "Zion's Watch Tower" were largely distributed.

The small group of Jumet Gohissart pushed away the limits of its territory to the south in the French part of the country. Some time later, the truth of God's Kingdom also expanded among the Flemish population.

In the month of august 1904, ten years before the First World War, these brave messengers of the Good News went to Denain in France, to offer booklets to people getting out from a Baptist temple. Which were the results of their activity? Two years later, a congregation started near Denain in Haveluy.

Jean Baptiste Tilmant and his friends continued to bravely preach the biblical truth and other groups appeared to face this big growth, a deposit of books was opened at brother's Tilmant house in Jumet Gohisart

Help coming from France

As you, all know Belgium and France are border countries. Until that period Belgian brethren went to France to help but the opposite was also occurring. Around 1910, François Caré who had known the truth in France went to Liège to a protestant friend named Edouard Verdière. He could not help speaking with him about the truth. He wanted to help him leaving the false religion. His friend was so opposed to the message of brother Caré that at the end he finished by telling him "I don't want to argue with you any longer, I don't want to throw pearls to pigs" after these words, he went to bed, these words bothered Mr Verdière all night long. The next morning, he asked brother Caré to tell him what he meant. He told him that he will no longer speak about the truth to him because he did not appreciate the "pearls" he was offering him. After this explanation, his friend became more conciliating so that after his return to France brother Caré started to send him regularly periodicals. He also dispatched a few volumes of Studies in the Scriptures. It did not last long before Edouard Verdière accepted the Truth and even began to speak in public. In another district of Belgium, light began to break through the darkness.

Opposition of the clergy

In the coalmine where he worked, Edouard Verdière had a colleague named Léonard Smets searching the truth. He was a sincere catholic; he diligently attended religious services with his family. He used to pray with a rosary. This man from Flemish origin lived in Heure-le-Romain near Vivegnis (Liège). In 1900, a protestant offered him a Bible saying, "I have the Book of God". Another day, at the confessional, Léonard Smets confessed to the priest that he was reading the Holy Scriptures. The priest said that if he still wanted to receive absolution for his sins he had to give back his Bible. From that day on, Léonard did not attend the service anymore. He thought, "If they are sincere, they will come to meet me, because they have to come and catch back the lost sheep". However, the priest never came to see him. Léonard Smets began to attend the protestant temple.

Even on his working place, in the coalmine, Smets was reading the New Testament. One day, Verdière noticed it. He was curious to know which his religion was; he began to sing a protestant hymn." I was protestant, answered brother Verdière but I have something better for you." He offered him a copy of the "watchtower of Zion" and witnessed with all his strength of the truth. It happened in 1912. Léonard Smets did not keep this truth for himself; he shared it with a Flemish colleague named Joseph Poelmans, father of seven children. He was disillusioned by the teachings of Catholicism and chose Protestantism. However when he read the periodical that Smets gave him, he recognised the accent of truth.

Later, the three coalminers Verdière, Smets and Poelmans questioned the protestant minister of religion of Herstal (Liège) about the doctrine of immortality, trinity and Hell. Instead

of helping them, the pastor was very angry and threw them out. They realised he was not better than the catholic priest, so they decided to meet and to study the Scripture with the help of the books they received from France.

Exposed to family opposition

Brother Smets' wife could not read or write and was opposed to the believing of her husband, she was ready to leave him and to take away their eight children. One day, just before the return of her husband from work, she gathered the children to tell them her intentions. Marcel, the elder son, aged 15, consecrated later, asked her "does Father beat me? Does he drink? Does he keep his wages for himself?" "No" answered the mother. Marcel said that he would not leave the house. In the meantime, the father arrived and quietly said to the family "if you go away I will help you to work in the garden and to cut wood". These words of love allowed the family to remain united.

The situation in 1912

In 1912, seven groups had meeting to study and to preach in the following cities: Haine-saint-Paul, Flémale-Haute, Engis, Amay, Ampsin, Liège and Jumet Gohissart, where the first group was founded in 1902. Each of these groups was organizing monthly meetings and was welcoming Brother Weber from the Swiss office for periodical visits.

A first stimulating assembly

In the beginning of the following year, 1913, the Belgian Christians had the visit of Brother J Rutherford and organised their first general assembly in Jumet Gohissart. This meeting strongly strengthened their faith in the establishment of an imminent messianic Kingdom.

First international meeting

A few months later, on august 31st 1913, the same brothers had the privilege to attend another meeting, not in Belgium but in Paris. They gathered for a day with other Bible Students from Switzerland, Germany and France in order to listen to Brother Russell, president of the society. He was arriving from Southport England, where a bigger meeting took place. Nevertheless, he was deeply touched by 70 zealous brothers and sisters coming from four distant countries. Even if he did not know their languages, he could read on their faces the interest they had for the truth. With the help of a translator, he fortified them saying that 1914 would be an extraordinary year. It was a real memorable day!

1914- A year that left marks

Near the end of 1913, just before the beginning of the marked year, the average audience to the studies organised by all groups reached about 70 persons. As they saw 1914 approaching, people had no forgotten what faithful preachers had announced for this peculiar year. Some made fun of brethren pulling up their potatoes because they had predicted that in 1914 they would harvest at the sound of the gun. A short time late, the First World War broke out in Europe. Belgium was changed in a giant battlefield. This was an obvious token or proof that the time of the gentiles was really ending and encouraged the Bible Students to go on with the work of preaching. Luke 21: 24-26

During the war, these humble coalminers were zealous to attend meetings. They had to walk 99 kilometres from Liege to Charleroi along the railroad tracks.

Echoes from periodicals

The following information are drawn from the periodicals as “lighthouse of Zion’s Tower” August 1904 till June 1909-“Zion’s Tower” from July 1909 till February 1916- “the paper for all” October 15th 1916, published in Switzerland in French.

Area of Charleroi –Jumet

The “Lighthouse” of August 1904, page 64, mentions for the first time the name and books from “Dawn”; (It has to be Volume I of the Studies in the Scriptures); subscriptions to the “Lighthouse” and request for free booklets and papers.

Jean-Baptiste Tilmant got to the knowledge of “Present Truth” in 1901. Before that year, he was a soldier in the “Salvation Army”. Here is what we read in the “Watch Tower” in march 1911, page 80: “from a zealous salvation soldier, he became in the full sense of the word a fervent soldier of Christ as soon as the good Heavenly Father gave him the Present Truth”

He was the first instrument to announce the truth in Denain and Auchel (France, North and Pas-de-Calais) in 1904, in the “Watch Tower” December 1909 page 47 in chapter “interesting letters, “ we read “.... I am going to pay a visit, with God’s good will to brethren in Denain and Auchel (France); they will open a new meeting room: those from Denain are especially expecting me, because by providence I was (with my daughter) the tool that first brought the wonderful light and truth of the millennial dawn. I am delighted to meet with them; they are now the first and the most devoted brethren in France.

We point out for your information that the son of Jean Baptiste Tilmant had the same first name as his father and was active in the field of harvest. In the “Watch Tower” December 1909 page 47, in the column ”edifying letters” one letter is signed by J.B. Timant. We have here a short passage” An Adventist hawker came on purpose to talk about the sublime present truth; my son Jean-Baptiste demonstrated the good sense of the Scriptures; another more sectarian hawker came and we urged him as it should be.”

In “watch Tower” July 1910 page 6 column “field of the harvest”, we can read”... from Belgium.... Brother Tilmant wrote to us (to the editorial staff) about the meeting of May 15th 1910: a blessed meeting. On Saturday, 35 brothers and sisters gathered at my house, a dozen came from France, Auchel, Lens, Denain, Haveluy and Brother Elie Jerville from Roubaix, 7 from the province of Liège and 6 from La Louvière and among others Brother Denis. Brother Lacharron from Werbomont (Liège) also came. On Sunday, we were 70 to meet at home.”

“Watch Tower” may 1912, announces on page 197, a general meeting in Jumet at Pentecost on June 26th and 27th 1912. in the edition of June, we can read that a meeting takes place every Sunday in Jumet, and in the edition of November we precisely know that the meetings lasts from 17.00 till 19.00 hour.

In the “Watch Tower” 1913 page 66, the editors announce the visit of Brother Rutherford in Jumet on Monday 22nd September for a private meeting.

In “newspaper for all” October 15th 1916 page 2, we find the report of a meeting in Jumet Gohissart, on Pentecost 1916 signed by JB Tilmant, the son, ” 3 brothers and 4 sisters symbolized their death to the world by baptism to live a new life and follow the divine model We have two brothers from Liège among us.

Area of La Louviere (province of Hainaut)- Haine St Paul and Haine St Pierre

For your information: La Louvière is a city, located at the west of Charleroi, a very populated area 25 kilometres from Charleroi.

“Watch Tower” December 1909 p 148, column “interesting letters” a short quotation of what Brother J.B. Tilmant wrote to the editors: “.....Brother Denis and others from Haine St Paul and Haine St Pierre are walking on and making progress...”

“Watch Tower” may 1912 p 204 column “interesting letters”: brother Elie Vaucamps from Denain (France) wrote to the Editor: “... our Easter meetings have outshone in number all our preceding meeting, we were at least 150... the groups ... La Louvière and Charleroi were represented.”

Area of Liège- Amay- Huy

“Zion’s Watch Tower” August 1906 p 256, column “interesting letters”... Brother Felix Jonet gave us good news about brethren in the province of Liège; two of them were recently baptized in Christ....”

“Zion’s Watch Tower” September 1908 page 172, column “interesting letters”... I have received 5000 “watch Tower” of July and August. I have sent a parcel to Jumet and another to brother. Kempiners in Brussels; I have also distributed to all the brethren in Liège... brethren will help to distribute at the Jewish synagogue and the Free Church in Liège and other cities. We just had a good meeting at brother Kinet’s house in Amay...” signed Félix Jonet.

“Watch Tower” August 1907 page 67, column “interesting letters”... we have decided to meet in spring: Monsieur, Pétré and I on the first and third Sunday of each month to read “Dawn” (first Volume of studies in the Scriptures). It’s doing well; there are six of us: Monsieur, Pétré, Lonchay, Kinet, Bronkart and I, we are following the good method; we are pushing the Bible in front. On other Sundays, we distribute “watch Towers” and leaflets to Catholics and Protestants.... The next Watch Tower about Purgatory will be excellent, we have decided to order 10.000 in order to distribute to many people. We all managed (the six brothers) to make a big distribution in St Maure, at three and a half leagues from my house, in the Ardennes where thousands of people are walking up and down.... We have made the three of us Pétré Monsieur and I, a good distribution of Watch Towers in Nessonveaux and Verviers. We have found a very interested Lady and two soldier’s .Signed Félix Jonet.

“Watch Tower” August 1915 page 58, column “interesting letters”... here in Liège all is well on the material point of view, but God blessed us even more spiritually increasing our membership. As you know, we have not abandoned our good meetings every Sunday in our room in Awirs and every Thursday at home. During the three first months of war, we had four meetings every week...” signed F. Pétré

“Watch Tower” July 1910 page 6, column “from the Harvest Field- encouraging letters”....an English young lady from Liège, miss P. is very interested, she subscribed to Watch Tower. Brother Tilmant ordered “Dawn” (Studies in the Scriptures) in English for her...”signed Félix and Marie Pétré.

This lady was Miss Perkins; she will be Brother Russell’s interpreter during his stop at the Liège Station.

Area of Brussels

“Zion’s Watch Tower” August 1906 page 256, column “interesting letters “.... We have received good news.... From Brother Louis Bourgeois living in Schaerbeek, he tried to distribute Watch Towers among the Protestants of Brussels; he had the pleasure to find some people interested in the sublime God’s plan...”

“Zion’s Watch Tower” October 1906 page 271, column “interesting letters “.... Brother Bourgeois from Brussels is encouraged, a few lent an ear to the Present Truth”

Moreover the editor writes the following” Brother Russell announces that besides the booklets “do you know that? “and “the wage of sin” two other books and volume I of Dawn (studies in the Scriptures) will be published in Dutch. Notification for the Belgian brethren.

“Zion’s Watch Tower” September 1908 page 172, column “interesting and encouraging letters “.... I have received 5000 Watch Towers of July and August. I sent a parcel to Jumet and another to Brother Kempiners from Brussels ... Your devoted brother in Christ Félix Jonet”

Brother Russell is passing through Belgium

“Zion’s Watch Tower” April 1911 and August 1911, editor’s note at the bottom of page 119” dear Brother Russell could only stop for a few minutes in Liège where dear brethren Pétré and some others were waiting to greet him on the train: sister Miss Peerkings (an English sister living in Liège where she learned about the Truth) served as a translator.

With the same train, Brother Russell arrived in Charleroi.

The story goes on: at the Station of Charleroi, to gain time, Brother and Sister Tilmant (and the writer as interpreter) have waited for him with a car. After the dinner, we had a half hour discussion with about twenty friends, and we took the road to arrive in Denain in the evening. (The writer at that time was Brother A. Weber)

Death of Brother J B Tilmant

“Watch Tower “March 1911 p 80. You have here a part of the obituary announcement Dear Brother Tilmant, the father, died last February 16th. The burial took place in Jumet on the 20th. Brother Elie Jerville made a speech near the grave. In this report, it is also written: “from a zealous soldier of the Salvation Army, he became in complete power of the word a fervent soldier of Christ since 1901; when the Good Heavenly Father gave him the opportunity to know “the present Truth”... lots of people gathered from many religious movements. Brethren (S. Lequime, Elie Vaucamps and Elie Jerville from France) grabbed the chance to tell the crowd about the infinite love of God, who by his beloved Son Jesus, redeemed all mankind to eternal life, not from hell but from the sepulcher of death

The children of Tilmant carry on with his work

“Watch Tower “March 1911 p 88.editor’s note, from which we have hereafter a short extract:” We are happy to say that the children Tilmant continue the work and are following the footsteps of the father”

Mention of some ecclesia’s (meetings) in Belgium during Brother Russell’s life Ecclesia of Jumet

“Zion’s Watch Tower” September 1913, page 66: the French editorial staff announces Brother J. Rutherford’s visit to Jumet on Monday 22nd September 1913.

“Zion’s Watch Tower” June 1912, page 212. The direction points out a meeting every Sunday in Jumet.

“Zion’s Watch Tower”-May 1912- reports a general Meeting in Jumet at Pentecost –June 26th and 27th 1912

Meeting near Haine St Paul and Haine St Pierre (La Louvière)

“Zion’s Watch Tower” December 1909- page 48- quote from “edifying letters”: Brother Tilmant writes:” Brother Denis and others from Haine St Paul and Haine St Pierre are walking on and making progress”

Brother Elisée Denis was writing to Brother J.B Tilmant – see “Lighthouse” March- April 1908 page 123

Ecclesia near Liege (Amay)

“Lighthouse” September 1908 –page 171 and 172

Brother Tilmant mentions Brother Gauthier from Liège and Brother Denis from La Louvière.

Excerpt from a Brother Felix Jonet's letter "I have received 5000 Watchtowers.... I have sent one parcel to Jumet and another to Brother Kempiners in Brussels; I have also delivered some to all brethren of the Liège district. He writes a little further:" we just had a good meeting at Brother Lambert Kinet's house in Amay (not far away from Liège), the whole Ecclesia is sending the best Christian greetings to you." Félix Jonet

"Zion's Watch Tower" august 1915- page 58 excerpt from a letter written by Brother Félix Pétré from Liège "God blessed us spiritually and he increased our number We have wasted none of our great meetings taking place at home on Sundays and Tuesdays....."

Meeting in Brussels?

Reading some excerpts from letters, we might think it has really existed.

1. Brother Félix Jonet from Liège mentions in his letter "watchtower" September 1908 page 172 that he sent a parcel with "Watchtowers" to Brother Kempiners in Brussels.
2. The editorial staff writes what follows, in "Watchtower" august 1906- page 256:" Brother Bourgeois from Brussels (more precisely from Schaerbeek in the suburbs) is encouraged; some people are listening to the Present Truth. Brother Russell announces that in addition to the leaflets "Do you Know?" and the "Wage of sin" two other booklets and Volume 1 are going to be published in Dutch (Flemish –Brussels is bilingual city)

Death of Brother Russell

After the end of Brother Russell's earthly career, on October 31st 1916, in Belgium as in other countries where the Present Truth was established, a few problems came to light, some people intended to divide.

In the course of events, for what concerns Jumet and the district of Charleroi, the Tilmant family and other people joined Rutherford who was elected president of the Watchtower Society. Others followed Johnson who gave his movement the name "Interior Missionary Laity Movement". Some joined Freitag, who at the end of 1917, still was responsible manager of the Watchtower edited in French in Switzerland. The last one founded the movement "Friends of Man". A small group was living in the area of Charleroi. We have known a person of this movement in our neighborhood.

Have some others not followed these three movements and remained in the Truth as we understand it, it is impossible to say?

We know that the two first groups remained for sure, but we have nowadays no more news of the "friends of man". Maybe some of them have not followed the 3 movements and have formed an Association of Bible Students just as we did. They have perhaps quit those movements afterwards; when did new teachings appeared .we don't know.

History of the current Ecclesia (meeting) of Jumet

Here is now the story of our ecclesia (meeting) in Jumet

The father Pierre Wlodarski, already consecrated, left Poland in February 1937 and came to find a job in a coalmine in the area of Charleroi. He and his wife have known the Truth and were consecrated in the early 30's (probably in 1933). His wife and their three young sons joined him in august the same year. The family settled in Roux small city next to Jumet. The adjoining

street to the house where they lived was drawing the limit between Roux and Jumet. The house of the Tilmant family was located more or less 3 kilometers away from there.

In a neighboring house, an older protestant lady was living, she had no children. One day, she brought us some useful kitchen utensils and she saw a Bible in the house but the conversation was impossible because of the language. She quickly realized that the Bible was an important link between us but that the way to understand it was different. Then she gave my parents the 1st, 5th and 7th volumes (The Revelation) of the Studies in the Scriptures, we learned a long time later that this was the result of the efforts of J.B Tilmant. We stayed in touch with her for several years nearly till her death.

We moved to Jumet (area of Heigne). We had no meetings; my parents were reading the Bible and sometimes some passages of STRAZ periodical paper in polish they received from the US before WWII.

They tried to have meetings with the “Jehovah witnesses” but theirs teachings were too different, they also had contacts with a small group of Belgians who gathered to study the Bible but they had some problems because of the language and the teachings did not respond to what they had learned before.

In the south of Charleroi (Jumet is in the North) lived the family Kula that had settled from Poland in the early 30’s, the Wlodarski and the Kula knew each others because they were native from the same place in Poland, they found each others back again in Belgium in 1937 and remained in contact, living only 15 kilometers from each other. The Kula couple was interested in the Bible in 1937 and after numerous contacts with the Jehovah Witnesses they became members and were baptized among them.

From time to time, the two families met and had opportunities to exchange views about the Word of God and what the Scriptures clearly teach.

After the Second World War, when Brethren from France began to visit Jumet, the Kula couple attended meetings held on those occasions. And that’s how they realized that what they were taught was not really approved by the Word of God.

In the beginning of the 50’s, the Kula’s had to move because the house they were living in belonged to a coalmining company that stopped its activity and sold the houses. Not so far away from us, there was a house for rent, they moved in. Dialogue and contacts with our parents were more frequent mainly on the subject of the Truth explained by Brother Russell and taught by the Society (The Watchtower).

Visits and contact with brethren from France assembled in AEB (Association des étudiants de la Bible)

Contacts with brethren of France assembled in Association of Bible Students began at the end of the Second War World. We don’t know for sure how the brethren in France realized that Brother and Sister Wlodarski lived in Belgium. Maybe that Brother Grudzien Nicolas from Poland when he visited brethren in France in 1939 told them about Belgium. He knew the Wlodarski when they lived in Poland. It seems that he intended to come and visit them in Belgium but the war was near and he had to return quickly to his country.

Among the first French Brethren that came in Jumet, we could mention Brother Raczynski from Lens, Brother and Sister Liszka from Valenciennes (Sister Liszka had a carnal sister living in Courcelles, city not so far from Jumet) Brother Joseph and Sister Stéphanie Wozniak from Arenberg, Brother T.F Pilarski and many others.

Before and after 1950, brethren from France came more and more frequently to serve the Word of God (brother Wozniak François, Kosmalski A. Liszka, T. Kubiak, J.Osorowski S., TF et Ed. Pilarski, Speil, a few from Saint Etienne and many others); the family Kula, their younger daughter and one son attended the meetings, in the following years just like in France, pilgrim brethren came from the United States and later from Poland. They still visit us nowadays (the names are too numerous to mention them all).

Radio Luxemburg broadcasting “Peter and Thomas” Birth of the Ecclesia of Courcelles

As result of these broadcastings, in French and sponsored by the Brethren of Dawn from the U.S; 3 Belgian families were interested in the Present Truth. It was Brother Lechien Armand who got in touch with Brother Félix Pilarski through the mail service of Radio Luxemburg: Brother Félix aimed him towards Jumet. These 3 families left the movement they were members of (the Jehovah Witnesses) because they thought the teachings they heard were not in harmony with the Scriptures. Here are the names of the families –Lechien Armand et Louise- Duchateau Ernest et Helena- Henrioule Edmond et Jeanne. They decided to have meetings during the week (on Wednesday and Thursday) to study the Figures of the Tabernacle. With their agreement, the families Wlodarski and Kula joined them. The studies were held in two languages with the help of a translator “(2 languages were spoken French and Polish)”

Those meetings were held by turn at the houses of A.Lechien, E.Duchateau, and Ed. Henrioule. These meetings were not easy to follow. It took time and patience, the choice of the subject to study was quite difficult. However, the Lord blessed these meetings and everyone could take benefit and had a better understanding of God’s plan.

Brother Félix Pilarski and others brethren worked a lot for these meetings because they spoke french perfectly.

Later, Brother Armand Lechien understood that the Present Age is dedicated to the Heavenly Calling: he decided to renew his consecration through the symbol of water immersion during a convention in Roubaix. It might be in 1955.

After that Brother and Sister Duchateau, Ernest and Helena, Sister Lechien and Sister Kula determined to do the same thing. In the house of Brother Duchateau, four baptisms took place. Many brethren from France attended this event, in particular Brother Félix Pilarski, Elie Jerville, Gérard Peau, maybe also Osorowski Sylvestre, Pilarski Edouard and many others and of course those of Jumet.

Brother Félix Pilarski made a handsome contribution to the development of the meeting of Courcelles with edifying biblical discourses and his visits. He was also personally active in the country of Liège and in Brussels where he had a deposit of booklets. Other brethren also paid many visits among them we can mention Brother Joseph Wozniak, Adolphe Debski, and others.

Establishment of a Polish Ecclesia(meeting) in Jumet

At the end of the 50’s, for practical reasons, an ecclesia was established in Jumet in Polish language, we did not stop the link with that from Courcelles, a meeting together with the Belgian brethren was held from time to time when a brother from France was visiting and could make a discourse in French. Moreover, when a brother came from the United States and spoke Polish, Brother Pilarski translated in French for the edification of the Belgian Brethren. The meeting in Courcelles lasted for a certain time. I often attended, because they were held during the week. Afterwards, Brother Duchateau Ernest died suddenly; meetings continued for some time and then Brother Lechien died after a quite long disease. The ecclesia of Courcelles disappeared in the mid 70’s.

Our ecclesia, meanwhile, increased in members, three were consecrated, then four, five and finally seven, with sympathizers from both families (Wlodarski and Kula). Nowadays, after the death of several members, the ecclesia of Jumet counts four consecrated members.

Projection “Why did He come to earth?”

On October 24th 1987, the ecclesia of Jumet organised two projections of the film “Why did He come to earth?” in the community City Hall of Charleroi. Those shows were announced

with advertising: posters in public places, advertising in the city with loudspeakers, spots on local newspapers radio and TV, display on electronic screens, distribution of leaflets.

More than hundred persons attended these film projections. Leaflets and tracts were given to the participants but only few asked for further information and other booklets.

Conclusion

It clearly appears that the interest for the biblical message of Truth is vanishing with time passing on. We also notice that the number of members in ecclesias is also decreasing. We have an important clue showing that the earthly career of the Church is ending and that consequently the harvest of the Gospel age is ending.

We can rejoice because of the manifestation of the Church under the care of the Lord and in the Kingdom of God is more and more approaching, together with the great work of blessing of all families of the earth. 1 John 3:2 Genesis 22:18

“and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

“And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice”

Compiled and written by Emile Wlodarski assisted by Brother Adolphe Debski