GYPSIES FOR CHRIST

12 MILLION IN THE WORLD

Three-Fourths of Them Speak the Gypsy Language: "Romanes"

ONLY 14,000 ARE SAVED!

But all are thirsty of the word of God. We must bring to them the living water. Listen to their cry, "COME and HELP US!" What shall we do?

Pray for Them. Be Partner with Us in this Special Mission Field.

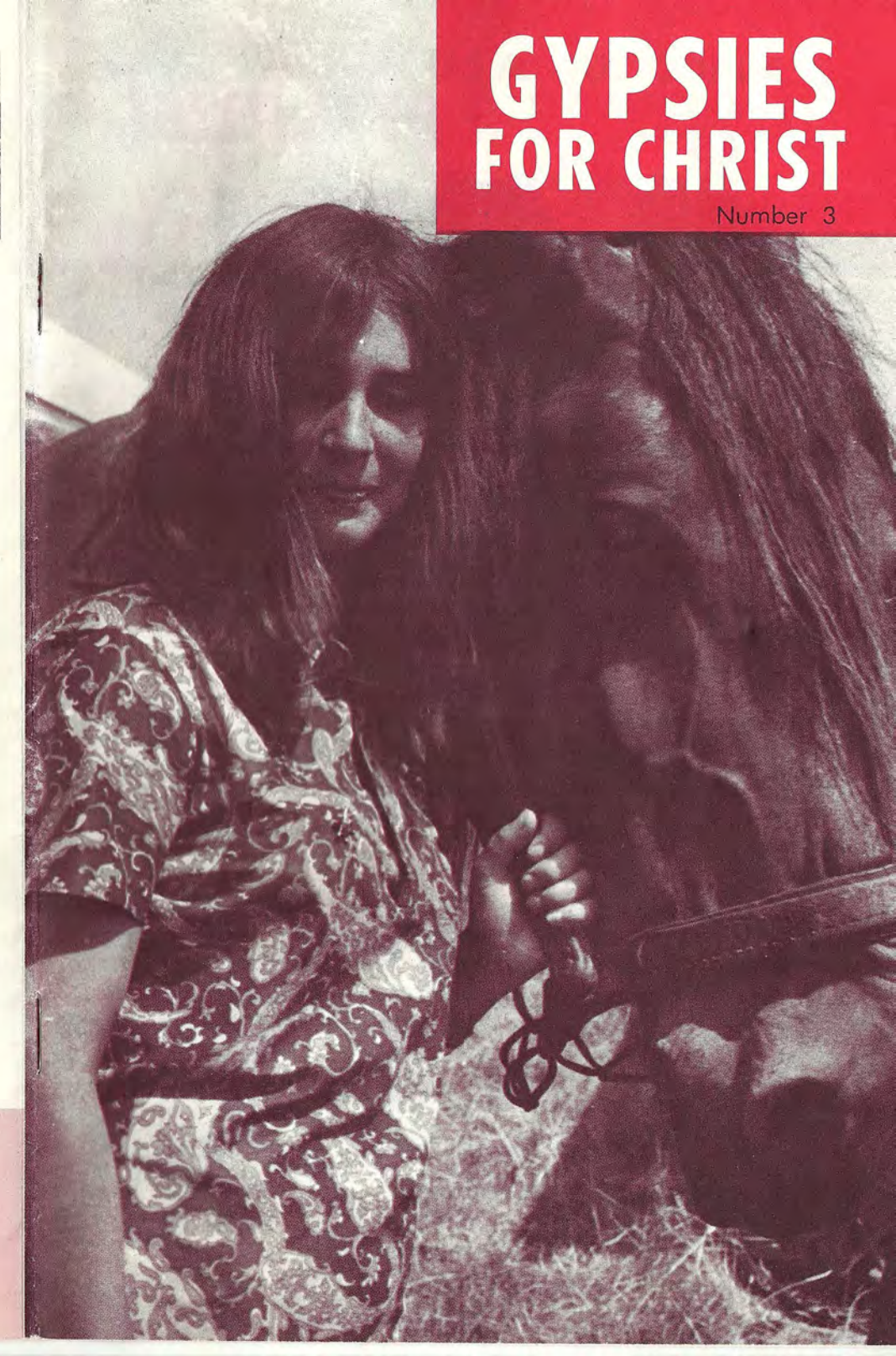
YOU CAN OBTAIN THIS MAGAZINE IN FOUR LANGUGES!

English		French	German	Finnish
U.K.	U.S.A.	Vie et Lumiere,	Stimme der Zigeuner,	Virjo,
Gypsies for Christ,	Gypsies for Christ,	45 Les Choux,	5210 - Troisdorf,	Dagmorinsk 7B
13 London Road,	4260 147th Ave, S.E.	Loret, France	Schuberstrasse 6,	Helsinki,
Bromley, Kent.	Bellevue, Wash. 98006		Germany	Finland

Printed by Oak Cliff Printing Co., 3201 West Davis, Dallas, Texas 75211 — USA

GYPSIES FOR CHRIST

Number 3



JOHN AND NANCIE LE COSSEC

Missionaries to the

AMERICAN GYPSIES

NEWEST MISSION FIELD!

NANCIE, JOHN, SHANNON, CORINNE LE COSSEC

From the age of six until now, I have lived most of my time with the gypsies. I have learned much about them such as how to love them, their kind of life, how to understand them. I have traveled many times with my father and the gypsies throughout Europe. I have enjoyed every moment of it. My heart has been thrilled over and over during the gypsy conventions in which I have participated in many times. Last year, my wife, my two daughters and I spent 10 months among the gypsies in France. It surely was a blessing for us. Then, last October, it was my privilege to travel with my father throughout the USA. I thank the Lord also for the participation of my parent-in-law in the administration work . . .

My wife and I want to thank you all dear partners for your kind help and faithful prayers for us and this great outreach work of God. May God bless you.

In Christ,
MISSIONARY
JOHN LE COSSEC

PARTNER'S COUPON

☐ I pledge myself as partner in this International Gypsy Work and each month according to my abilities, I will send the enclosed amount: .....

☐ I enclose with my letter a gift of: .....

Your offerings will be used 100 per cent to the work of Salvation of the Gypsies.

Name (in Block Caps) ..... (Mr. Mrs. Miss Rev.)

Address .....

.....

Our magizine will be mailed free to every person who loves the Gypsies and wants to see them saved.

Send us all addresses of your friends. Print the addresses legibly on page 13, detach and send the list (if this page is insufficient, add another page) to:

USA Gypsy Work
4260 147th Ave. S.E. Bellevue, Washington 98006
GREAT BRITIAN Gypsy Work
13 London Road, Bromley, Kent

Everyone can co-operate in this effort. The smallest offering can become a powerful help when it is regularly sent. Who knows how long we willl have the freedom to act in certain countries?

Christian Gypsy Musician in Holland

PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS TO SUPPORT MISSIONARY JOHN LE COSSEC IN GYPSY WORK May Be Sent to:
JOHN LE COSSEC
Home Mission Department
1445 Boonville Ave.
Springfield, Mo. 65802

Gypsy Believers in Roumania

Gypsy Church in Spain

Gypsy Chiefs in South India
12 Reached by the Gospel

• ROUMANIA

In selling an axe, he receives an evangelical record . . . and becomes saved.

A young gypsy man has told us, in the Romanes language, his story:

"I was selling some axes in Bucharest and I entered into a house where the preacher Pierre was. He then spoke to me about the Lord and gave me a record in the Romanes language.

"When I was back to my home, I listened to this record. The songs and the message have touched my heart very deeply and I accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour. I listened to it several more times, and I called several others in the village to come and listen to the record. I went back to see brother 'Pierre' and he gave me a New Testament. I read it and now I want to be baptized and serve the Lord among my people."

The record had been used so much that it was completely worn out. We have had the job to give to this brother another record and a Bible, after having spent an evening with him, late into the night, to explain to him the truths of the Word of God.

The record has been made by Gospel Recordings, Inc., in Los Angeles.

• INDIA

Our Lord completely changed many of these gypsies into new creatures. In the presence of their gypsy folk many gypsies have denounced their former goddess Kaly, thrown out their idols, taken out their ornaments and men have cut out their long hair which symbolizes their heathen religious belief and have confessed Jesus Christ as their personal Savious. About 15 gypsy men have been baptized in water at Poolampatti Gypsy Camp. At present they are filled with the love of Christ, peace and joy.

(Excerpt from Evangelist A. Jacob's letter from India.)

Evangelist T. L. Osborn Crusade

Last year at the convention of Gravelotte, near Metz, East of France, all the preachers agreed to invite the evangelist T. L. Osborn to the 1970 convention. The evangelist gave us his dates when he would be available and he proposed also:

1. An evangelist crusade from the 15th to the 19th of July.
2. A spiritual retreat of Bible studies from the 20th to the 26th of July.

FAITH: Substance of his Messages.

Excellent sermons based on scriptural affirmations contributed in creating faith and to increase it among the many sick who had come to obtain divine healing.

The evangelist exhorted the souls to receive salvation and to repent and accept the new life offered by Christ, before talking of the healing of the bodies.

During the prayer in favor of the healing of the sick, he asked each one to put their faith in action. His way of praying proves without a shadow of a doubt that he lives in communion with the Lord and that is his strength. There were irrefutable healings. Immediate testimonies were given by some with emotion and tears of joy, others were heard a few days later, proving that there had been some evident deliverings.

God confirmed His Word and revealed once more that He is still today the Eternal one who heals.

John LeCossec, T. L. Osborn and C. LeCossec drinking tea with gypsies from gypsy church in Paris.

ROMS

Among the Roms of France, there are about 10 preachers that we see on the picture below. Some of them have gone in USA, others in Scandinavian coutries, others in Eastern Europe or in England. They are called to go among their brothers spread throughout the world, speaking the same Romanes dialect.

These gypsy preachers (Russian and Serbian gypsies) are singing in gypsy language—among them are John LeCossec and Loulou Demeter, who will become a permanent resident in the States.

1,500 Gypsy Trailers

On An 80-Acre Field During the 1970 European Convention in France

GYPSY CAMP

On left: The big canvas cathedral in which meetings are held four times a day.

- HEALINGS
- CONVERSIONS
- 160 BAPTISMS IN WATER
- 256 BAPTISMS IN THE HOLY SPIRIT
- 251 YOUNG PEOPLE CONSECRATE LIVES TO CHRIST

Trailers Arrival

More and more trailers are coming each year. They come from all corners of France. This year about 1,500 gathered on an 80-acre field. We have never seen so many bright-colored horse-drawn caravans as we did this year. Their arrival is always very remarkable: curtains flying outside the open windows, dogs tied under the caravan near the wicker and moving on with panting tongue, the children following behind it on their bare feet, the mother inside keeping the little ones, and the family's chief guiding the horse by the bridle. The way of life of these gypsies makes the missionary work among them difficult because they move every two days.

Meetings

Each morning, prayer-meeting at 7:00 a.m. followed by an edification meeting at 10:00 a.m. Each day, youth meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Each evening at 8:30 p.m. there was an evangelistic, edification, or missionary meeting.

The primitive church knew the revival from the day of Pentecost. The apostles have always taught that we have to be filled with the Holy Spirit. John The Baptist has said of Jesus: "He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit." There is no victory without the assistance of the Spirit, no progress without Him. Almost every evening at 11:00 p.m. a meeting was held for the infilling in the Holy Spirit under the leadership of the preacher, Raoul Espinas, pastor of the gypsy church in Marseille, south of France. There were 256 people filled with the Holy Spirit of whom, were many young people and they began to speak in other tongues.

Baptisms in water

There were two baptismal water services. The first time 130 were baptized in the river. The second time the baptizing was done in a baptismal tank that was installed on the open-air platform. Those baptized were some gypsies who had already been instructed by their pastors during the meeting held alongside the roads. Each year 500 new gypsies are being baptized here and there in France.

Missionary meetings

The flags of the 25 countries in which we bring the Good News, among the gypsy people, were floating at the entrance of the field and above the big canvas cathedral.

Several evenings were consecrated to this International missionary work. Songs in different languages, testimonies, results of the work, projects, and films, composed these evenings.

FINLAND

A delegation came in a little bus under the leadership of a young gypsy preacher, Hermann, who, in January 1970, went into Russia to preach the Gospel to the gypsies. Their songs and testimonies were very encouraging. There are more than 200 gypsies baptized in FINLAND and the work is prospering. They have been accepted into the Assemblies of God of that country, some of them have been admitted in the big church of Helsinki who county 3,000 members.

Missionary John Le Cossec speaking to the Gypsy Youth.

SPAIN

The needs in Spain are ever increasing as this work continues to grow at a rapid pace. According to the laws in this country, no more than 20 people are allowed to gather together to hold meetings and so there are some questions confronting the ministers; how long will they be able to hold out in this manner? In some places they have been threatened to be arrested. We will need to rent some halls and that is impossible, or buy some property and build. These are great barriers, but we are trusting in our God for the impossible. We have had the joy to accept 16 new candidates to the ministry. One of these candidates traveled 500 miles, hitch-hiking and nearly without food to come to this spiritual retreat!

At the moment where there are 500,000 gypsies who are open to the Word of God and where the revival is moving, we feel the necessity to ask every reader to pray with us for them. We have heard their call for help as one of the Macedonians: "Come and help us!" and we want to do our share. Won't you want to become partners with us?

INTERNATIONAL GYPSY BIBLE INSTITUTE

Background: HEADQUARTERS AND BIBLE SCHOOL. In Front: Students and Teachers, First on Left: Missionary John LeCossec

The harvest is ripe. As Jesus asked us, we have prayed the Master to send some workers for the harvest. God has answered our prayers and has found some workers. We have organized a Bible School for the young gypsies who enter the ministry. They attend for two years, with a two-month session per year. Each year we conduct seminaries for all the preachers. One seminary is held in France for the 200 preachers there and the other in Madrid for the 50 Spanish gypsy preachers in Spain.

Here are the testimonies of two young men who are attending our Bible School:

1. "Although I heard the Gospel since I was 14, I went into the world and away from God until I became 17. I had a sister who was older than me and she had an incurable sickness. Some christians prayed for her for six days and nights and then she was healed. I realized how mighty was the power of God when the sickness left her and it was then that I gave my heart to the Lord because I feared that I could have been just as sick as her. My life was transformed when I surrendered to the Lord and my youthful passions for sin left me.

This is how He called me into His service:

"I was in a cabin all alone, in prayer when the Lord spoke to me. His voice was so strong that it resounded throughout my entire being. It is difficult for me to express this extraordinary experience that I had with the Lord.

"I then came to the Gypsy Bible School to learn more about His Word."

Justin Fajardo

2. "When I met God, I was 17 and a half years old. Before this, I had heard the Gospel several times and some members of my family had already accepted the Word of God and were baptized.

As for myself, I preferred the pleasures of this world. I was already going to many nightclubs with some of my friends and I was beginning to become an alcoholic. I was a beatnick with long hair and I was bound by these things.

"Then one Sunday, my uncle was preaching the Gospel in a little village and I happened to be there accidently, (but is surely must have been the plan of the Lord). As I was watching, suddenly tears came into my eyes and I said to myself: You must be crazy, you are crying. I tried to stop but I could not. Then I felt the Lord upon me and He spoke to my heart and showed me that I was a sinner and needed to be forgiven.

"I accepted Jesus in my heart and He delivered me from all my passions. Sometime later He called me for His service.

"There are many gypsies who are still lost and I am happy to be able to go and preach to the lost souls."

Michelet Gerard

BIBLE SEMINAR
Each year, several times a year, we held special Seminars for Gypsy Preachers.

There are now 250 Gypsy Preachers in Europe.

Some of the Gypsy Preachers during the Seminar in July, 1970.

Among them—Evangelist Vic Ramsey from London.

OUR FIRST 1971 GOAL: CREATION OF A GYPSY CHURCH IN LOS ANGELES AREA

This coming fall, beginning in October, we are planning a great evangelistic crusade among the several thousands of gypsies in the Los Angeles are and surroundings. The campaign will last several weeks.

The gypsy pastor, LOULOU DEMETER, who has been missionary among his people in POLAND, HUNGARY, ROUMANIA, ITALY, and is actually pastor of the 200 members GYPSY CHURCH in PARIS, will come as permanent resident. He and his family will live in Los Angeles. He will be responsible for the work.

John LE COSSEC will also come with his family to help him.

A spirit-filled gypsy evangelist, FELIX RITZ, will come also from France. He has held several wonderful evangelistic campaigns in France and Spain. He has traveled among the gypsies in USA, India and other countries. He is a very good guitarist and gospel singer. The Missionary JOE MAZZU will also come and bring his help to this special effort. To every reader, we urge to pray for this coming great evangelistic outreach among the gypsies of California.

AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLES OF GOD, SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

After arriving from Paris and while waiting for the next plane at the St. Louis airport, I heard someone calling my name in French. What a surprise it was for me to see Missionary Joe Mazzu and to discover that he was going to be on the same plane as myself, bound for Springfield. Joe Mazzu has spent several years in France studying the French language and has held some classes in our Gypsy Bible Institute.

On October 7th we met with Rev. Chas. SCOTT, Director of Home Missions and we discussed together the best possible direction to take in evangelizing the American Gypsies.

We were happy to find that Director, Rev. Scott and the Secretary, Rev. Ringness were very concerned about this new great Gypsy soul-winning outreach and that they have given their approval for this new program.

We were privileged to have lunch together in the private dining room of the Headquarters cafeteria with Superintendent Rev. Zimmerman and Rev. Charles Greenaway, who is Superintend of Europe and the Near East. During that time we visualized the possibility of having California as our starting base and in harmony with that district.

From Left to Right:
Rev. Curtis Ringness,
Rev. Chas. Scott,
(Director Home Missions Dept.)
Mrs. Scott,
Rev. Charles Greenaway,
Missionary C. LeCossec,
Missionary J. Mazzu,
Missionary J. LeCossec,
Rev. and Mrs. Waldon,
(Supt. of Louisiana District)

In our conversation on the 28th of October, during our missionary trip across the USA, John was appointed by the General Council as Home Missionary among the gypsies. He will have to itinerate, in accordance with the Northwest District, throughout different churches to obtain support for his ministry. It is without a doubt a sure and serious method, but the disadvantage is, that this takes months and as a result it delays the work among the gypsies. This is why we are counting so much on the pledges of the readers which will allow John to be fully available at the time when we will undertake this missionary effort in California.

IN TULSA WITH THE EVANGELIST T. L. OSBORN

We were deeply touched by the simple and fraternal reception we received by Rev. and Mrs. T. L. Osborn at their Foundation.

Since 1958, the date of their first crusade among the French Christian gypsies, they have not ceased to express their friendship for the gypsies who, in France, have a deep appreciation for them. We talked together mostly about the Spanish work with their associates, Rev. Hartman, Director of the Foreign Department and Miss Fern, secretary. They have decided to become more intensively involved in the gypsy work in that country in which 500,000 gypsies live. The revival has spread rapidly among them during the last two years. Actually 12 preachers are receiving a monthly support of $35.00 from "sponsors" of the T. L. Osborn Foundation, and soon there will be 20 other receiving support from them. This will contribute to making the work grow more rapidly. The majority of the gypsies in that country are very poor and it is by hundreds that come to listen to the Gospel throughout the many cities of Spain.

In DALLAS, during the World Pentecostal Conference, we had a private meeting with the Rev. Chas. SCOTT and the Superintendents of some districts. After the showing of the film, "10,000 GYPSIES," we had a frank discussion concerning this missionary outreach among the gypsies.

C. LeCossec, T. L. Osborn, John LeCossec at the International Convention—France

THE CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY HERE AND THERE THROUGHOUT THE U.S.A.

We want to express our deep and sincere gratitude to all the pastors, their churches and Christians, who throughout our traveling have been very cordial and hospitable.

Everywhere we went, in the North, in the East, or at Oral Roberts University with Missionary Moore, French professor and his students, or in the Midwest or in Texas, as well as on the West coast, we have found a great family of brothers and sisters united in this soul-winning outreach for the lost souls whatever their race may be.

To everyone we give our thanks. May you remember us and the gypsies in your prayers.

John Le Cossec
With Richard Mason

Gypsy Preacher Young, His Wife,
and John LeCossec

The Mason Family

About 35 of them were saved when they all met together in Nebraska at the time of the death of the family "chief." One of the sons, Richard, who was already "born again," brought along his brothers, about eight of them, into the Christian life. They all received the baptism of the Holy Spirit at that time. Rev. Champlin, then pastor of the church in the town where they were living, helped them to their steps with the Lord. They are anxious for our support in bringing other gypsies to Christ. One of them, Fred Mason, has held several campaigne with the "Foursquare" churches last summer. Richard Mason, who is now in Rockford, Ill., hopes to undertake some evangelistic crusades among the hundreds of English Gypsies who are staying in groups of 10 to 15 caravans in different towns of the Midwest and to establish some gypsy churches among them.

Some Members of the Gypsy Church in Texarkana

The Young Family

They were won to the Lord by the testimony of a sister *Davies* and other Christians who went to witness to the gypsies staying in the surrounding area of Texarkana, about 20 years ago. Since that time, several have been baptized. We had some very encouraging talks with Brother Young and Mr. and Mrs. Davies when we visited them. Brother Young assumes the spiritual leadership of that community which is located about eight miles from town. Mr. and Mrs. Davies are members of an Assembly of God church in Texarkana. There is a Chapel in their trailer park of about thirty caravans and there, several times a week, the gypsies assemble themselves together to pray and meditate on the Word of God. During the prayer meeting in which we participated, we saw the manifestation of the Spirit of God. Yes; the Lord is truly walking among these gypsy families. We have promised them to come to their help and hold some spiritual retreats to strengthen them in their faith. Texarkana is an important station. It constitutes a frequent stop area for gypsies who travel from Louisiana to the North and back. It is here where they meet together and it is here where they can find the Word of God and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

THE "ROMS" OR RUSSIAN AND SERBIAN GYPSIES

This group is the most important in the United States. The Russian gypsies are called "Kalderachs" and the Serbian gypsies are called "Matchoya."

We find them in all big cities, however, the largest communities are in California, New York, Chicago, Florida, Texas, Kansas and Portland, Oregon, etc. . . .

In CHICAGO, we have been received by several of them. We have shown them a film on the French gypsies who have the same customs and dialect.

In WILMINGTON, Delaware, we were received by a family in whom the mother is a fortune teller. We spoke to them for four hours concerning the Word of God. The three young men in the family were very open to the Gospel, the mother and father also. One of the sons wanted to come with us.

In WICHITA, Kansas, we had also some talks with another family, then in HOUSTON, Texas, where we visited a family with the missionary Joe Mazzu. They were all happy to hear the Word of God.

In VIRGINIA, we were showing the film "10,000 Gypsies" in a meeting held in the Baptist church in Richlands and we had a great surprise, to see a gypsy. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and married to a non-gypsy American woman who is teaching English in a high school.

In LOS ANGELES we visited also several other families. All of them have shown an interest in having their own gypsy church. We found a gypsy youth very open to the Gospel. But as everywhere else, there are young gypsy people who can't read. With the Spiritual Work, there will be also a need for social work. They will need help to learn how to read, that they might in turn read the Word of God.

Gypsies For Christ

This will now be the title of our Gypsy Work Magazine. This will share with you the joys and blessing received among the Gypsy people. This is our goal: To reach all the Gypsies in the World for Christ.

Edited by

FRENCH GYPSY WORK

for the English Speaking Christians in States, England, India

International Headquarters: Mission Evangelique Tzigne.
45. Les Choux, France

Manager for USA: Bert Peterson, 4260 147th Ave. SE Bellevue, WA 98006

We are happy to count among our friends Mr. Bert Peterson who kindly accepts to take care of the administration and the bookkeeping of the magazine.

Bert A. Peterson

This magazine is also available in other languages with different News of other Countries, such as:

French German Finnish

GYPSY WORK IN U.S.A. OUR GOAL!!!

ONE MILLION GYPSIES FOR CHRIST

Yes! One Million Souls Who Need To Know Jesus Christ

Gypsy Children In Texarkana, Texas

With this goal in sight, John Le Cossec has dedicated his life to reach the Gypsies with the Gospel. Appointed as Missionary by the Home Missions Department of the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Mo., John Le Cossec will assume the full responsibility to evangelize the American Gypsies. He has completed three years at the Northwest College and is now 26 years of age. He will be accompanied in this mission work by his wife Nancie.

10,000 MILES ACROSS THE STATES IN 5 WEEKS TO COORDINATE THE MISSION FIELD!

Visiting With the Gypsies

This trip, which took us from the West coast to the East coast, gave us the opportunity to meet with hundreds of Gypsies and helped us to obtain a first-hand report of their spiritual needs. Knowing their spiritual needs will help us in finding the best way to meet these needs.

English Gypsies

There are different groups of gypsies in the U.S.A. One of these groups is called "English Gypsies" and this group has been touched by the Gospel about 20 years ago. Two simultaneous movings of the Spirit of God on two separate families in different states, brought the revelation of Jesus Christ as Saviour to both families almost at the same time. One, the *Mason* family, was living in Nebraska, the other, the *Young* family was living in Arkansas.