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GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

Miner's Conscience  
Changes Sunday Work

DENAIN, France (BP)--In this industrial region of northern France, few people go to any church. The workers nearly always vote communist.

They live in ignorance of the gospel. Christianity, to them, is Roman Catholicism. Even Catholic writers admit that this region is pagan, hostile to the Roman Catholic church and its clergy.

Henri Vincent, president of French Baptists, claims this region offers the best opportunities for evangelism. There is less self-satisfaction and a greater sense of spiritual need than among the more comfortable city-dwellers.

Baptist work is strongest in this area of France where French Baptists had their beginnings.

A miner was converted around 1880 in the Baptist church here. At that time, mining was compulsory on Sunday. The convert's Bible taught him this was not right.

However, if he did not work as directed, he would lose his job and his family would suffer.

Rather than tell him what to do, his pastor began to pray with him. The following Sunday the miner went to work. A fortnight later on payday, he refused to accept wages for his Sunday work.

"I worked because I was forced to, against my conscience," he declared. "I did not want to work for the money, and I'll not accept it!"

This so startled the paymaster, he consulted his superior. The superior was so impressed by the man, the story reached the top boss.

The mine boss called for the miner and listened to his story. He was touched by the Baptist's convictions.

"If you feel this strongly about your religion, I shall issue orders that you are never to work on Sunday again," said the boss.

It was not long before an order was issued prohibiting all mines from forcing a man to work on Sunday against his conscience!