

Middle East Messenger

MED Sets 4-Year Meet

The 1967 Quadrennial Council of the Middle East Division will convene in Broumanna, Lebanon, November 10-13.

Attending this quadrennial council—first since November 1962—will be 106 delegates including the members of the MED Executive Committee and representatives of the various Division sections and institutions..

President Frederick C. Webster will direct the convocation, aided by Secretary Ray L. Jacobs and Treasurer Robert C. Mills.

Representing the General Conference in Washington will be Treasurer Kenneth Emmerson and Associate Secretary Donald W. Hunter.

The theme for the four-day series of worship services, business sessions, and committee meetings to be held in the Printania Palace Hotel is the imperative "Break Through!"

Delegates will hear reports covering the progress of church activities during the past five years, elect officers for all sections, name trustees to the boards of Middle East College, Middle East Secondary School, Middle East Press, and Benghazi Hospital, and formulate plans for future work in the Middle East.

The first program of the council will be a sunset vesper service on Friday, November 10.

A symposium of representatives of all MED sections and institutions concluding with a presentation by Pastor Hunter will highlight Sabbath activities at the council.

New Benghazi Hospital Opens January 17, 18

Inaugural ceremonies marking the opening of the new Benghazi Adventist Hospital in Libya are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, January 17 and 18, Division officers have announced.

General Conference Vice President F. L. Bland and Associate Secretary A. E. Gibb will represent Washington. MED officers and Medical Secretary Herschel C. Lamp will represent the Division.

Although the official opening of the new facility has been delayed until January, hospital personnel have been encouraged to admit patients as early as the first week in December in order to help alleviate Benghazi's shortage of hospital beds.

Jordan War Relief Cargo Here; Orphanage Plan Approved

MED Laymen's Activities Secretary Manoug Nazirian (above right), with two Beirut port employees, inspects part of the 50-ton war relief cargo which arrived October 11. The sign identifies the shipment as "a gift to the people of Jordan from your friends the Adventists."

Pastor Nazirian and Evangelist Salim Japas, Division-level coordinators of the Jordan war-relief project, said they expected the cargo would be trucked to Amman around October 24 or 25. The bales of clothing and blankets are to be delivered directly to The Farm, site of the proposed SDA orphanage. The 400 tents included in the SAWS shipment are to be pitched by the church for refugees of June's Six-Day War.

Informed sources at Division headquarters meanwhile announced that "the Jordanian government has accepted the constitution presented to them for the operation of the orphanage. Plans are moving forward toward the organization of the staff and equipment."

The MED Committee requested Treasurer Robert C. Mills to produce a documentary motion picture of the tent camp phase of the relief project. He named Lebanon Section Evangelists William Armour Potter and Richard Lee Fenn to work with him on the film.

The \$103,500 cargo arrived in Beirut's port on the Spanish ship Benisanet. Pastors Nazirian, Japas, Potter, and Fenn visited the ship and photographed scenes of unloading operations in the port area.





TALKING TOGETHER

One day a newsboy, waiting to receive his allotment of papers, passed the time playing on the large iron gate in front of the newspaper plant. The bars that formed the gate were separated widely enough to permit the boy to put his head between easily. As he waited that afternoon his thoughtful mind began to analyze his position with regard to the gate. He noted that his head, both arms, and one foot were through the gate. He asked himself:

"On which side of the gate am I? Inside or outside? My body and one foot are on the outside, but the rest of me is inside."

Sometimes I have wondered if it might not be well for us as Seventh-day Adventists to analyze our lives and inquire of our hearts whether we are inside or outside the church of God. Indeed our names are listed on the books of the various churches in the territory of the Middle East Division. God dearly loves His church, and quite correctly, each follower of Jesus would want to make certain that he is a registered member of God's remnant church. Yet perhaps each member should ask:

"Am I living as a follower of Jesus must live? Am I walking in the pathway of strict obedience to God's commands? Am I able to say with St. Paul, '*Be ye followers of me even as I am of Christ?*'"

The most unhappy person in all the world is one who tries to be on both sides of the fence: a Seventh-day Adventist, yes; but an Adventist still seeking the environment of the world with its pleasures, its compromises, and its search for material values.

Loyalty is one of the nobler qualities that find expression in the lives of men: loyalty to family, to friends, to associates, to employer, to country. All these seem to bring out the best in man's nature. But loyalty to God and His church is nobility on the highest plane of development. Staunch loyalty to God is one of the characteristics that will dominate the lives of all who will inherit the earth made new.

Be loyal then to God. Plant yourself firmly on His side in both the great issues of life and in the little things that make up everyday living.

An attitude now prevalent downgrades the importance of little things, but God places great importance on little things, for life is really made of little things! Our devotion to God is the sum total of many little kindnesses, whispered prayers, moments of meditation, smiles, handclasps, encouraging words. Don't let Satan lead you to downgrade the importance of little things. A life dedicated to living on God's side of the fence cannot prosper if little portions of that life are lived on the wrong side of the fence.

Don't live an unhappy life of divided allegiance. Choose rather that happy life: wholehearted dedication to God and complete compliance to the way of life that He has chosen for you.

A. C. Webster



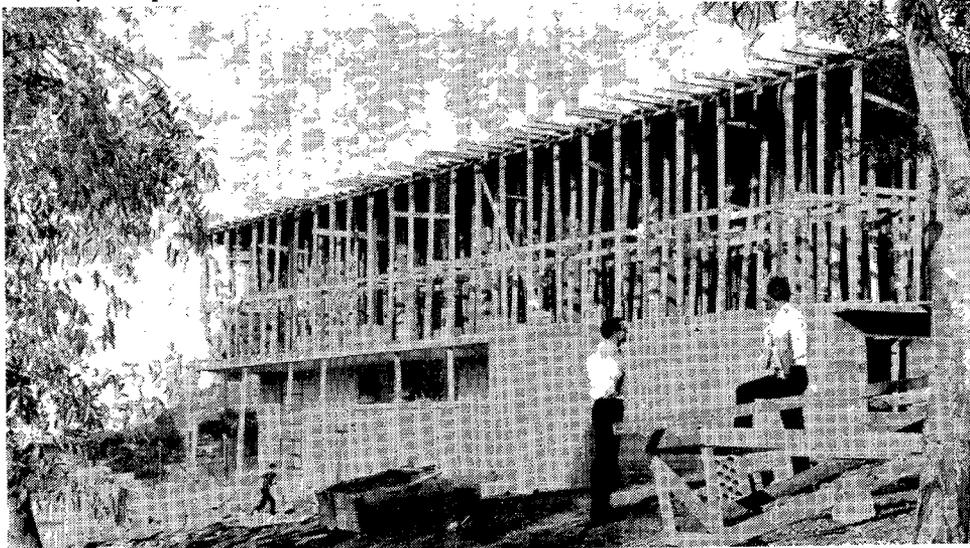
All aboard for Fall Council in Washington! Division President and Mrs. Frederick C. Webster prepare to leave for the States. But they'll be back with Mrs. Webster's mother (who didn't go)—and us—before you get this issue!

Pastor Hugh Cowles and Principal George Unger (below right) check progress on the rapidly-rising second-story addition to the Beirut Overseas School (popularly called Beirut Junior Academy). Although the construction project does bother school life a bit, students and faculty are quite willing to endure the temporary inconvenience as they anticipate lots more room!

On The Run

PEOPLE Dr. Joseph Khoury, MEC psychology and education instructor, was elected secretary of education of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lebanon at the Lebanon Section Biennial Session October 1. Section leaders assert that Dr. Khoury's added position will enable the church to strengthen the relationship between MEC's teacher-training program and the church's school system. / A familiar figure at Middle East Press is now wielding his blue pencil with greater authority. He is *Naim Awais*, now MEP's editor in chief. / *Sami Srour*, son of Lebanon Section President and Mrs. *Chafic Srour*, is now studying medicine at Loma Linda University. / *Henry Moussally*, who had accepted a call last year to Benghazi Hospital, was subsequently asked to go to Iran Adventist Academy in view of his ability in Farsi. The Moussally family is now serving capably in Tajrish. / Benghazi Hospital has placed calls for two accountants: Iraq's *Leon Dickran Thomassian*, a graduate of Spicer College in India, and Egypt's *Antar Yacoub*. / The sister of Turkey Section Bible Worker *Yevraksi Gomig* visited Istanbul from Yerevan, Soviet Armenia, last summer. Separated at the time of the Armenian persecution, the sisters had not seen one another in 50 years.

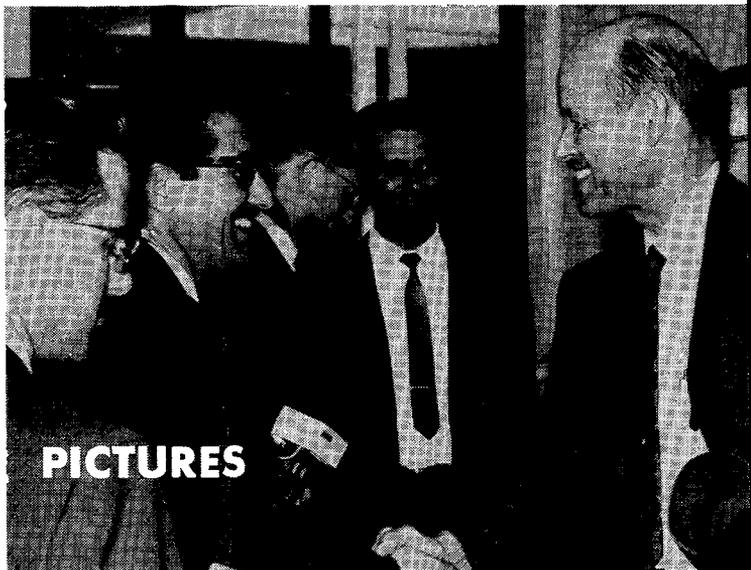
THE SCHOOL SCENE Students representing *Iran Adventist Academy* and



Lebanon's *Musseitbeh* and *Bishmezzine* schools have attained unprecedented records of success in government examinations. The MED Department of Education reports that in practically every case, Adventist schools presenting students for such tests have ranked high. Some achieved 100% passing. / Dean Ignatius Yacoub reports that *Middle East College* commenced its 1967-68 school year early in October with 87 students. *Middle East Secondary School* enrolled another 61 students, Dean Yacoub said. / An additional floor is now being added to Lebanon's *Musseitbeh Seventh-day Adventist School* in order to provide library and classroom space for the full secondary program Principal Alfred Akar and his staff

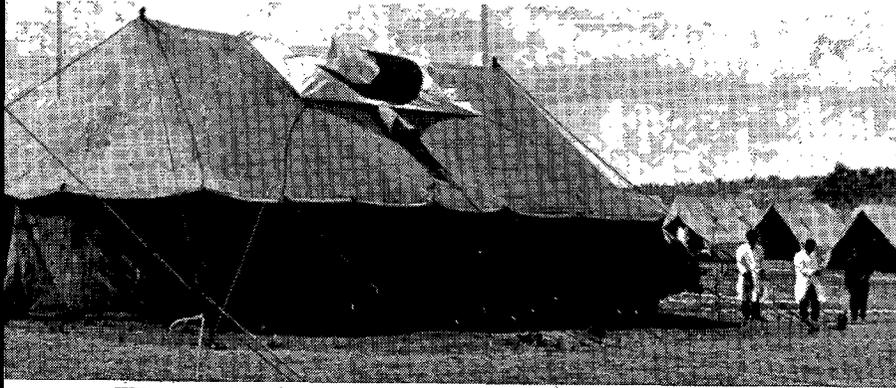
plan to offer. Funds for the construction project were provided by special appropriation and from monetary gains in the school's operation. / In *Bishmezzine*, school officials have announced their request for a three-room addition to the present building.

WITH THE SECTIONS The *Egypt Section* revealed its plan to conduct nineteen evangelistic campaigns during the latter half of 1967. / The *Lebanon Section* held two MV camps during the summer with 70 juniors and 40 seniors attending. Pastor Salam Aboujawda directed camp activities. / The *Turkey Section* Vacation Bible School enrolled 46 children, only two of whom were from Adventist homes.



General Conference Radio-TV Secretary James J. Aitken received a VIP-type welcome at Beirut International Airport as he arrived in the Middle East for whirlwind itinerary which also included stops in Turkey, Cyprus, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, and Libya. Pastor Aitken, a former president of the South American Division, joined MED Radio-TV Secretary Curtis Miller in a search for possible broadcasting outlets in this area.

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When earthquakes rocked central and eastern Turkey this year and last, regional villages were literally leveled. People were left homeless.

But Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Service, Inc., joined in the rescue operation. Tents and other emergency supplies were airlifted to the disaster area.

Beyond that the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Middle East agreed to help the village of Varto rebuild its wrecked schoolhouse. But months passed before necessary formalities for the presentation of the gift were completed.



These pictures tell the story. Above left: Varto's wrecked schoolhouse. Above right: Peasant women work outside.

Church Check To Help Rebuild Turkey

Finally in September of this year Turkey Section President Manuk Benzatyan was able to make the tortuous trip to Varto to present to city officials a check from the church—enough funds to enable the village to construct a new school building.

house. Below right: Peasant women work outside. Below left: Pastor Benzatyan presents the church's check to city officials.

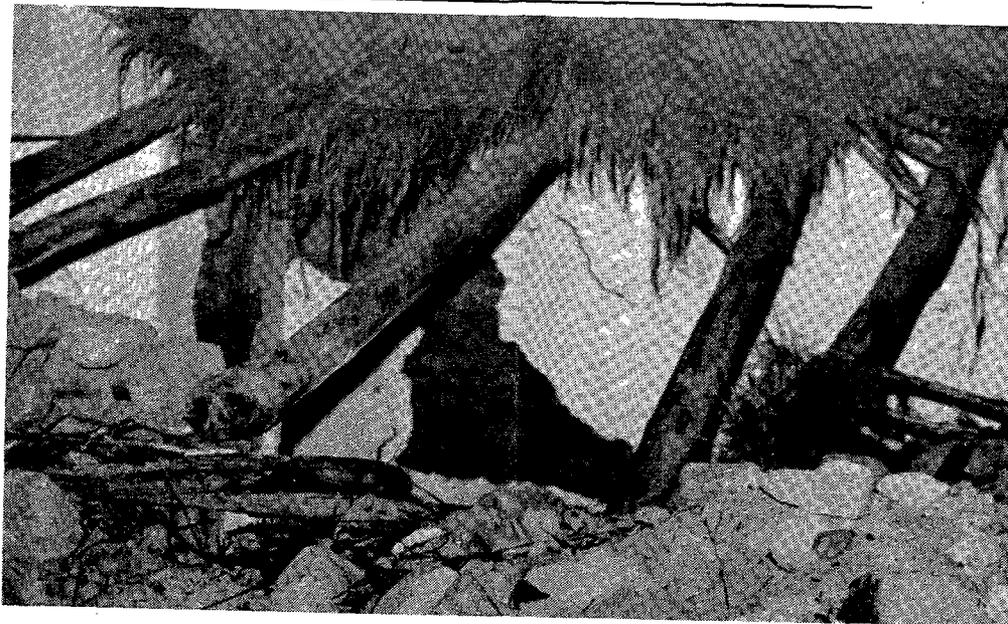




r to these were supplied by SAWS.
ble from an earthquake-destroyed

School

temporary tent home. And above:
of Varto and the village's other



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focus

BY CHARLES MILLS

Why have you chosen Middle East College? Selected students answer.

May Abdul Karim: "I have come to MEC to receive an education which develops harmoniously the spiritual, the physical, and the mental, and to major in religion in order to win souls into the remnant church of God."

Walid Abu Hamzeh: "I came to MEC because of the influence of some of my friends who attended. It offered a B.A. in business administration."

Ibrahim Dagher: "I have made Middle East College my college because of the wonderful Christian atmosphere that exists here. Middle East College builds men—the kind of men one of which I wish to be."

Jamil DerObanian: "If I study in Iran I would have the Sabbath problem. Here no such problem exists."

Nassib Jeha: "My brother, a graduate of MEC, recommended it to me. Secondly, I have utter confidence that here I can complete the building-up of my personality to the best of my satisfaction socially and academically. And finally, in such a world as exists today, MEC is one of the strongest spiritual refuges in the Middle East."

Ziad Kassamani: "I plan to make business administration my life work, so I came to get my B.A."

Herant Melikian: "I have attended other than Adventist schools, but I prefer the Adventist school above them all. MEC is also nearer my home than others I would attend."

Najeeb Nakhle: "I came to MEC to study the English language. I liked the atmosphere of this Adventist college. That and other things helped me to decide to be an Adventist. Later I had a chance to work in Brazil, but I wanted to come back to MEC and continue my education."

Abraham Pourbassani: "It was the only Adventist school available, and I didn't want anything else."

Nabil Razzouk: "I was baptized in 1957. I went to church school in Bishmezzine, and after I finished there I wanted to continue my education in Adventist schools, so I came here."

Mohammad Shakibnia: "My brother, passing by MEC a few years ago, stayed one day here and talked with the students. He found out that here the students and faculty do not smoke or drink. He thought that this was the kind of place that I should come to get my education—and he was right!"

Two Needs

The people of the Middle East need bread!

And the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Middle East has moved and will continue to move to help alleviate this need. A 50-ton SAWS, Inc., cargo of refugee relief supplies (blankets, tents, and clothing) valued at over \$100,000 has just been unloaded here in Beirut. Shortly it will be trucked to Jordan where the church will supervise the establishment of an emergency camp for refugees of the Six-Day War. In Turkey, Section President Manuk Benzatyán has presented to Varto village officials enough funds to rebuild the town's earthquake-devastated schoolhouse. Throughout the Middle East, "your friends, the Seventh-day Adventist" are becoming known as the *the* people of the Book—people who concentrate on people instead of politics. As the church distributes bread for the physical man, she must be ready to distribute bread for the spiritual man. Thousands are hungry. Let us feed His sheep.

The Adventists of the Middle East need news!

Members and workers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Middle East need to communicate more effectively and efficiently with one another. Good news and good ideas demand dissemination. One method of meeting this need is immediately obvious: this journal, The Middle East Messenger. Its effectiveness as a communicator, however, depends a great deal upon how enthusiastically members and workers will respond to The Messenger's renewed plea for more news stories, feature articles, photographs, and other editorial materials. Such items should be flowing constantly to The Messenger office at Division headquarters. But regular readers note despairingly (as does the acting editor!) that some sections and some institutions are becoming silent sections and inaudible institutions! Let's break the silence barrier! The Messenger stands ready to be your messenger. All it needs is your message!

TRANSITION

BY BERTA JACOBS

ARRIVALS *Charlie Maksoudian*, son of Middle East Pressman and Mrs. *Yervant Maksoudian*, July 15 . . . *Carolyn Benzatyan*, daughter of Turkey Section President and Mrs. *Manuk Benzatyan*, August 10 . . . *Wisam Khoury*, son of Dr. and Mrs. *Joseph Khoury* of Middle East College and the Lebanon Section, September 26 . . . *Ray Bitar*, son of Middle East Pressman and Mrs. *Raymond Bitar*, October 2 . . . *Tania Hanna*, daughter of MEC's Mr. and Mrs. *Ibrahim Hanna*, October 2 . . . *Robert Ghazal* son of MEC Business Manager and Mrs. *George Ghazal*, October 16. / MEC History Instructor *Baldur Pfeiffer*, Wife *Gerlinde*, and Daughters *Sabene* and *Beate*, from Germany, September 21 . . . MEC Freshman *Mafalda Coffee*, from Willow Springs, Missouri, U.S.A.

COMING SOON *W. E. Read*, veteran scholar and editor, to research doctrinal problems regarding the divinity of Christ, October 29.

DEPARTURES Iran Section's *Johnny Minassian* and family, to Andrews University for graduate study in religious education, September 11 . . . Iran Section's *Gerald Kovalski* and family, to the U. S. on medical return due to Wife *Sandria's* serious illness.

APPOINTMENTS *Hilal Dose* and family to Iraq Section where he will serve as pastor-evangelist . . . Former Jordan Section President *Harry Robinson* to pastorate of the Houston, Texas, Pecan Park Church.

ITINERATING Laymen's Activities Secretary *Manoug Nazirian* and Evangelist *Salim Japas*, Jordan, September 18-28 . . . Treasurer *Robert C. Mills*, Iraq, September 19-22.

TOO POOR TO PAY

BY

ELLEN FAHIM MICHEAL

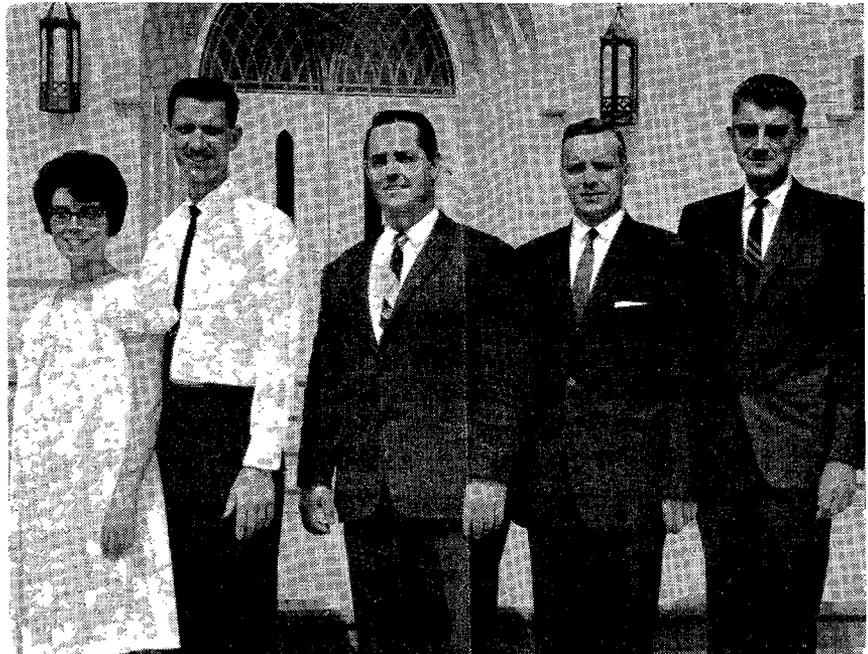
I came to Jesus, for I was sick
With sin and sorrow and care,
Just to let Him touch my sinsick soul
And all my burden share.

He suffered much carrying my load
All the way to Calvary.
Yet He opened not His Mouth at all,
Expressing His agony.

As I knelt at the foot of the cross
On that dark, cruel day,

I heard Him say in a faint, low voice:
"Forgiven! She's too poor to pay!"

Appointees Attend Mission Institute



Among the 55 furloughing missionaries and mission appointees attending the 1967 Institute of World Missions at Andrews University last summer were three appointees to the Middle East Division: Pastor and Mrs. Jon Green (Mrs. Green being the former Eppy Hasso, daughter of Bashir Hasso, Baghdad), to Iraq; and Don P. Lane, to Turkey (later released for health reasons). Dr. Gottfried Oosterwal, Philippine Union College, was a guest lecturer, and Dr. M. O. Manley, chairman of the department of missions at Andrews University, directed the institute.

Rare Portrait of Adventist Pioneers in ME

BY A. N. BARLAS

The first Seventh-day Adventist to enter Turkey was a layman, a Greek shoemaker named Theodore Antoni (below left), who had emigrated from Turkey to the United States where he accepted the Adventist faith. In February 1889 he returned to Turkey as a self-supporting missionary. Antoni's arrival marked the beginning of permanent SDA work in the Middle East.

Zadour G. Baharian was baptized in 1890. In 1894 he became the first Middle East national to be ordained to the Seventh-day Adventist ministry. Officiating at the ordination was H. P. Holser, then in charge of the Central European Mission, who visited Constantinople.

(For further historical information, see *The Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, pp. 1332-1334)



Emphasis on Evangelism Stressed in Lebanon

Lebanon Section President Chafic Srour on September 27 presided at the first regular evangelistic planning session to be held since his appointment.

Division Ministerial Association Secretary L. Curtis Miller keynoted the theme for the session, urging workers to achieve the goal of communicating truth to all the world.



Lebanon Section Evangelists Richard Lee Fenn and William Armour Potter, now working in Ras Beirut, presented a tentative plan designed to emphasize evangelism in the various churches of the section.

Pastor Srour, who plans to conduct at least three efforts in the next few months, told the group that he will be convening similar evangelistic planning sessions as often as once a month.

Seedtime and Harvest

● Some seed sprouts quickly; other seed sends out its shoots more slowly.

Take Adel Kamal, for example.

He took the Voice of Prophecy lessons some 15 years ago. That seed has been maturing all the while. When Lebanon Section leaders visited him in recent months, Adel opened his Bekfaya home for weekly Sabbath studies.

"Nobody in my village can understand why I want to change my religion," Adel says.

But change he has. He will be baptized by Pastor Chafic Srour on November 4.

● Audiences attending Evangelist Harley D. Bresee's programs in Beirut's Markaz al-Adventist are predominantly Muslim.

Gleaning names from those attending the three-nights-a-week better-living lecture series, The Adventist Center team has encountered no difficulty in arranging a full schedule of Bible studies in many Muslim homes.

● Eleven more candidates have been baptized by Pastor-Evangelist Fakhry Najeeb in Upper Egypt's Assuit district, raising his total for the year to 30.

In Cyprus:

Temp Team Captures Crowds

BY HERSCHEL C. LAMP, M.D.

It was easy to conclude that the SDA-sponsored temperance booth at the Cyprus International Fair in Nicosia was the most popular of all the displays.

Smoking Sam, who burns up two packs of cigarettes every five hours and also advertises 5-Day Plans through a little speaker hidden beneath his beard, proved to be such an attraction that I could hardly get through the door of the booth myself.

The real feature of our display, however, was the continuous presentation of the movies "One in 20,000" and "Verdict at 1:32." Literally hundreds were attending the tiny temperance theater.

A film on cigarette manufacturing sponsored by Craven A and a movie on mining in German—an excellent picture, really—could draw no viewers at their respective booths. But the temperance films packed the house every time.

Other fair exhibitors openly coveted Smoking Sam. The Craven A Cigarette Company manager threatened legal action, but then decided that the result would only be more publicity for the scientific facts which condemn smoking.

Men Still Changed On Damascus Road

BY

MANOUG NAZIRIAN AND SALIM JAPAS

Returning from Jordan recently we brought a young man with us from the Jordanian-Syrian border up to Damascus. A senior at the University of Damascus, he is also an officer in the Syrian customs service.

Along the way we enjoyed a good talk with him. When we arrived in Damascus he invited us to his home which we found to be located across the street from The Damascus Center. We told him that The Center is our church headquarters for Syria and took him over to visit the place. He met Mrs. Maurice Katrib at that time, and since then her husband, president of the Syria Section, has begun Bible studies with the customs officer.

On September 22 we again found

ourselves at the Syrian-Jordanian border. As the car was being inspected, we asked about the young man we had met on the previous trip. "Yes, we know him," the inspector replied, "and this man is a changed person now." "But how is he changed?" we asked. "Now he has stopped drinking and he does not smoke anymore. He is changed—all because he made that trip with you from this border to Damascus!"

College Park Church Adds 5 Youth in Baptism

Four young people were baptized in a service conducted recently by The College Park Church: Dr. Herschel C. Lamp examines the candidates (below, left to right): Tom Lamp, Kamal Ghazal, Iskender Tekin, and Nisreen Jerjes. A fifth, Boutros Katrib, was accepted into membership, having been baptized previously by Pastor Maurice Katrib.

