

The
Middle
East **Messenger**

November-December 1968
Volume XVII, Number 6



**"Let the children come to me,
and do not hinder them;
for to such belongs the kingdom of God."**

--Luke 18:16



ABOVE: The Jordan Adventist Welfare Society Orphanage, now being developed near Amman, will aid refugee children. LEFT: Sligo MV Society-Columbia Union College Student Missionary Ellen Lorenz supervised the outpatient clinic treatment room at The Adventist Hospital, Benghazi, Libya, last summer. BELOW: Mother Erna Kruger and her little flock live at The Matariah Mercy Home near Cairo.



MESSAGE from the

Middle East

The Middle East Messenger

November-December 1968
Volume XVII, Number 6

RICHARD LEE FENN *Acting Editor*

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* This special issue of The Messenger has two prime purposes. The first is spelled out above by residents and friends of The Matariah Mercy Home near Cairo, Egypt: G I V E . We are sending a copy of this issue to every ordained and licensed minister and to every Sabbath school superintendent in the North American Division and to selected personnel in other areas with the high hope that you will be inspired to pass on the Mercy Home's message to your congregations and Sabbath schools in time to gather in a great Christmas 13th Sabbath overflow offering for the Middle East.

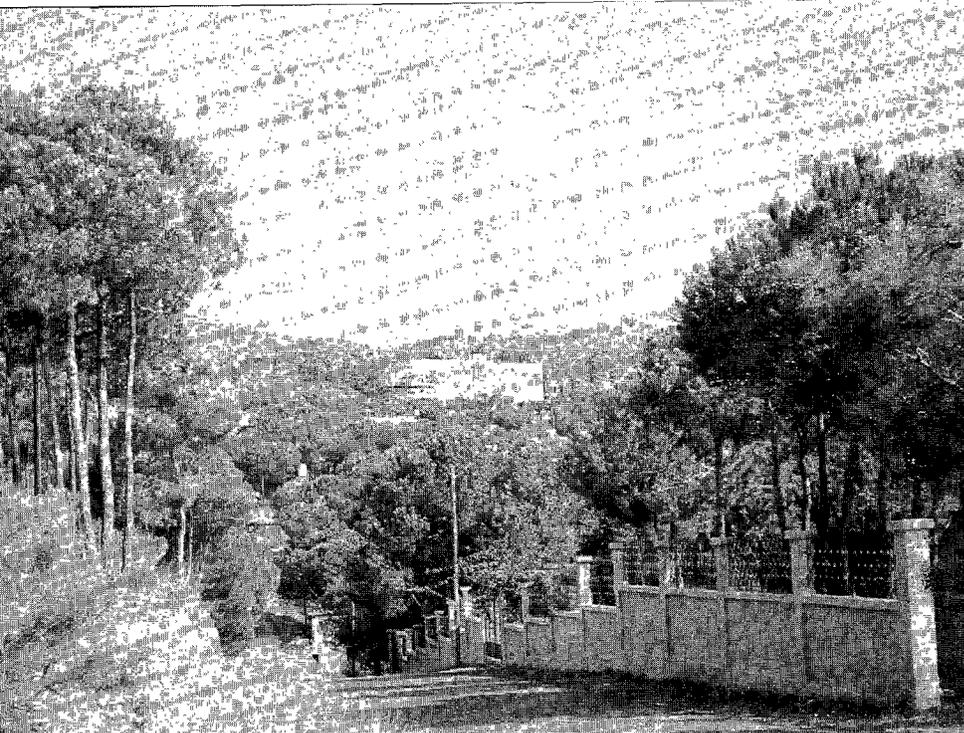
*Preparation for this issue began way back in July. The temperature then was just too high to feel very Christmasy, but by the time it was all wrapped up in early September the thermometer in Beirut was easing down and we were quite full of early Christmas spirit.

*Note these photo credits, please: front cover, Maxiphoto: N. B. Nercessian; page 4 (top), pages 6 and 7 (center), page X-1, Charles Mills; page X-2 (top left), pages X-2 and X-3 (top and bottom center), page X-3 (top right), Maxiphoto: N. B. Nercessian; page X-3 (middle right), page X-4, and back cover, Charles Mills; all other pictures by the editor.

* Our editorial appreciation goes to the management and employee staff of Middle East Press for bringing all of their printing talents into play for the production of this color number.

* Our second prime purpose (we didn't forget) is to wish you and yours a happy Christmas holiday and a New Year full of Heaven's best blessings! And thank you for your gift of love to the Middle East!

Richard Lee Fenn



Middle East College offers Adventist youth an opportunity to achieve a total education in preparation for a life of meaningful service to God and man.

BY FREDERICK C. WEBSTER
President, Middle East Division

Recently an international fair was held in one of the countries of the Middle East Division. Seventh-day Adventists operated a temperance education booth at the fair. The booth was unusually well-attended by the people of that land. At the close of the fair the manager invited our representative to his office. "We appreciate the contribution you have made to our fair and to our country," he said. "Your temperance message is wonderful; but we believe you have something additional to teach us. We have been observing your way of life. Soon my people must hear more."

Middle East College is training our youth so that in all of these lands men may hear more of God's truth for our day. This educational facility will be a recipient of the December 21 Christmas 13th Sabbath overflow offering.

Another key institution of the Middle East Division that will benefit from the united giving of Sabbath school members around the world on Christmas 13th Sabbath is The Adventist Hospital. This beautiful new medical facility opened its doors to the service of the people of Libya last January 18. We still need an educational unit in connection with the hospital so that we can become more fully involved in the life of the community.

There is also a budding institution in Jordan dedicated to making a home for at least a few of the many orphans and displaced children of Palestine. God will certainly reward us as we offer a home to the homeless and parentless children who are today sheltered in makeshift dwellings surrounding the crowded capital city of Amman.

Throughout the centuries the Middle East has been torn by hatred and strife. The people of this region have grown up in an environment of insecurity and bitterness. How wonderful it is that our message brings to them hope and peace and love.

We are happy that the echo of that first century witness is beginning to resound in the Middle East Division. Soon, under God's power, the honest-hearted of these millions will hear heaven's message in its fullness.

Veiled faces, turbaned heads, camel caravans, Bedouin tents, endless deserts and the many other scenes. All of these scenes blend together in most peoples' minds when their thoughts turn to the Middle East.

The lands of the Middle East Division actually do encompass all of these unique characteristics and many others. Endless deserts, yes; but where water can be had to give moisture to the soil, produce unexcelled grows plentifully. These are also lands with modern, beautiful cities connected by good highways and rapid air transport. And the lands and the cities are inhabited by the most friendly and hospitable people in all the world.

It was to the people of these lands of the Middle East that Heaven sent the

Benghazi's Adventist Hospital moved into this new building last January. It was a 13th Sabbath overflow project.



greatest of all missionaries to redeem a fallen race. It was in these same lands of the Middle East that the early church began its task of witnessing, first solidifying into a strong home base and then carrying the wonderful story of Jesus around the world. The church in that time, vitalized as it was by the power of the Holy Spirit, accomplished such a complete and remarkable task men stand amazed as they view the happenings of that day. The echo of that great gospel voice of the first century is heard today in the lands of the Middle East. It seeks to warn 140,000,000 people that the Christ who trod the sands of the Middle East 2,000 years ago is soon to return in glory, this time in its skies.

From Libya in North Africa east to Iran and the frontiers of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and from the Black Sea south to the Arabian Sea, live these 140,000,000 people, most of whom are followers of Islam. Christianity has been unattractive to Muslims. To a great extent, Christian witness has been weak and unconvincing as a power to help men live better lives; but today a new concept of Christianity is beginning to make an impact on Islam. It is the Adventist faith that points men to a better way of life. The emphasis that Seventh-day Adventists place on healthful living, temperance, superior standards, and humanitarian ministry is making their faith stand above and beyond that which Muslims have generally termed "Christianity."

Gospel Echoes in the MIDDLE EAST

The following story is told by Ben-ghazi Adventist Hospital Physician Don Fahrback, Wife Alice, and Children Danny and Janie. Questions and comments in italic are by the editor.

Tell us about the Fahrback family.

ALICE: Don and I have been married 17 years. Our children are Danny, 14; Janie, 12; Nancy, 9; and Tom, 7.

DON: We've been in the Middle East two years now. We came from Georgia—the little town of Cleveland—where I was in general practice.

What prompted you to come?

DON: Probably our acquaintance with Dr. Cliff Ludington, medical director of the hospital here, and Dr. Eugene Hildebrand. They asked about the possibility of coming and we said if things worked out, why, we'd come—and things worked out.

What was the date of Janie's accident?

DON: Monday, April 8, 1968.

Do you recall anything significant about Sunday, the day before?

DON: The furniture for Dr. and Mrs. John Allen Sines, our dentist, arrived. And there was a program Sunday night. But some helped the Sineses unload. Furniture was all over the place. It was quite an event.

ALICE: Pastor J. Ernest Edwards and Pastor Manoug Nazirian were here that week end to promote lay-activity work.

Janie, you joined the unpacking crew on Monday. Why?

JANIE (pronounced Jan-y): We were burning trash to help them, and we were earning something for Sabbath School Investment.

Did you notice any strange objects in the trash?

(Janie shakes her head.)

Where were you when the accident took place, Doctor?

DON: I was in surgery at the hospital, about a half a mile from here.

Where were you, Mrs. Fahrback?

ALICE: Here at the house.

Janie, do you remember anything

about the accident itself?

(Janie shakes her head again.)

Do you remember anything at all about Monday?

JANIE: About 12 or 12:30—dinner time—something about going to a fellow by the name of Mohammad to buy some soft drinks.

Did you go to school that afternoon?

JANIE: Uhm mmm.

Do you remember anything about school?

(Janie shakes her head.)

Dan, where were you?

DAN: Playing—about 75 yards away at the other end of the road.

What did you hear?

Janie and Danny Fahrback



at the blast site.

DAN: I heard two explosions. I wanted to go and investigate, but it sounded further away than it was—about a mile off, I thought. I thought some armed forces were practicing bombing or something.

Mrs. Fahrback, what was the first word that came to you about the accident?

ALICE: I was here ironing. The doorbell rang and I went. Beth Dennis, the girl that was with Janie, came to the door, obviously quite shaken, and she said, "Mrs. Fahrback, there's been a—a—something blew up in the trash and Janie's legs are bleeding and she's fainting!"

Beth had run all the way from the field—and that's about a quarter of a mile from here, isn't it?

DON: I'd say so.

DAN: Beth told us to come when she started down the road to get Mom. I went to the scene, but Janie was lying

on the Whitehouses' front porch, and Mrs. Whitehouse was giving her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

ALICE: Janie had walked from the field to the porch under her own power! When Beth told me I had no hesitation. I went right away. I just wondered why Janie would be fainting if something were in her legs.

Describe your experience from the time you turned into the road where the Whitehouses live.

ALICE: I turned the corner, and I saw the Libyan neighbor. She was running and motioning me to come. She had a bottle in her hands—ammonia—and she said, "Qwais! Qwais!"—you know—"Alright! Alright!" But she was terribly agitated.

I got there. I stopped the car and jumped out and saw the crowd. Judy Whitehouse was giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and Laura Dennis and Jane Sines were there. I just didn't have any idea what it was all about. So I shouted, "Get a doctor!" I looked up and there was Cleo Johnson, the hospital business manager. And Cleo said, "Don't you think it would be better to take her to the hospital?" And naturally that was very good sense.

We quick picked her up and put her in the back of his car and he started driving. Judy kept trying to give mouth-to-mouth. Somebody said, "Laura, why don't you try heart massage?" Laura said, "Well, she's got this hole here. I don't dare." That was the first I saw the hole.

To the best of my knowledge Janie took a breath about twice on that trip. We all shouted to her and told her to keep it up: "C'mon, Janie! Breathe!" Her color was very poor. She didn't look very good.

Cleo was driving like mad. Someone said, "You'd better take it easy with Judy working on her."

We finally got to the emergency room and it was locked. I started running around the hospital shouting, "Get a doctor!" You know how women are! But I looked around just in time to see

(See JANIE FAHRBACH, p. 9)

as one of Lebanon's officially accredited institutions of higher learning, Middle East College must continue to develop its physical facilities as it enriches its curriculum. If the school fails, government recognition could be withdrawn in a twinkling. Then the bachelor of arts degrees conferred by MEC on its

the continuing program of growth of Adventist influence in oil-rich Benghazi, one of the kingdom's two capital cities.

The main thrust, of course, is The Adventist Hospital, a modern medical facility which, thanks to your generosity when a previous overflow offering for the Middle East was gathered in, opened

Your Christmas 13th Sabbath overflow offering for the Middle East will be cut three ways. You are therefore

candidates wouldn't be worth the paper they're printed on.

A new gymnasium will not only serve

its new building last January. It is no idle boast to declare that The Adventist Hospital is the nation's finest. Members



Pastor Jon Green and other Bengabzi Adventist Church members visit the site of the proposed two-room school and auditorium.

justified in asking if the slices will be too thin to mean anything really significant.

To get the answer, let's swing around the Middle East Division, visiting the places and institutions designated to receive this 1968 Christmas overflow.

We begin at Middle East College, Beirut, Lebanon, where young people from nations north, south, east, and west are securing a total Christian education at the crossroads of the world.

Members of the college board of management and administrative officials have long realized, however, that there is a glaring incomplete on MEC's institutional report card: an adequate gymnasium for physical education.

Well, why not teach "PE" in the great outdoors?

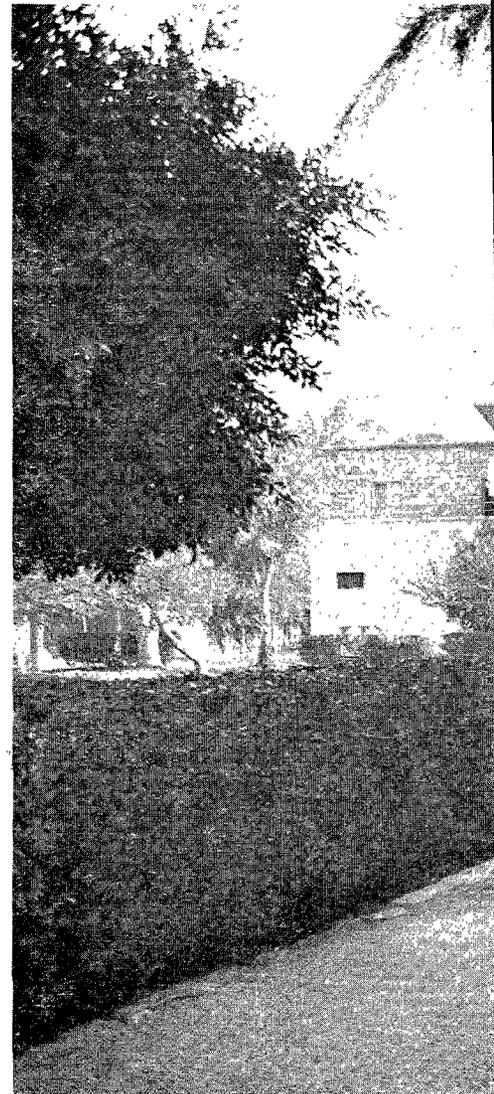
MEC does just that. But, believe it or not, there are days on end—even weeks—when the late fall, winter, and early spring weather in Lebanon is too wet for even ducks to do wing flaps outside.

Rainy weather isn't really the most important reason why MEC needs a gymnasium. To maintain its standing

the students and faculty of Middle East College, it will also be a great blessing to the leaders of the Middle East Division, the Lebanon Section, and The College Park Church, all of whom have long prayed for the day when they could program great rallies, evangelistic meetings, and other special church services in a hall large enough to seat everybody who would like to come. MEC's new gymnasium-auditorium will do just that—thus fulfilling a spiritual purpose as well as meeting physical and social needs.

This is a big project for the church in the Middle East. It is not surprising then that the MEC gymnasium-auditorium will get the biggest slice of the Christmas pie our Sabbath school members everywhere are going to serve on December 21.

Another educational project whose success will be determined to a great extent by the size of its share of the Christmas 13th Sabbath overflow is the development of an elementary-junior academy institution in Benghazi, Libya. Actually not a new idea at all, an enlarged school for children is part of



of the royal family and government circles think so. They come regularly for medical check-ups. They and thousands of Libya's indigenous poor get the same kind of care—the only kind of care Adventist Hospital personnel know how to give: the very best.

These thousands who visit the hospital every year are Muslims. To be a Libyan is to be a Muslim. We have not one Adventist Libyan—yet. All SDAs now working at the hospital are

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Don't Forget

BY L. CURTIS MILLER

Secretary, Middle East Division Sabbath School Department

I can't get the picture of them out of my mind—but then I really don't want to. I want the memory of them to stir me—and anyone who will listen to me—to do something about their plight.

Them are the refugees and orphan victims of the Six-Day War of June 1967. This lightning-fast clash of armies broke family circles by death, leaving thousands of children—innocent children—homeless. It's always the innocent children who have to suffer when political intrigues created by adults lead to war.

Here are some actual pictures of the Middle East today. The bombed-out Allenby Bridge sprawls grotesquely across the River Jordan. Refugees pick their way along the catwalks. They carry their meager possessions in their arms as they flee to the East Bank. But they will not find homes to live in. One man wades the muddy waters on foot. He carries a tiny little girl under each arm. Their home in Palestine was gone when the bombs and shells stopped falling.

A ragged, barefoot boy—only three years old—stands forlornly in a barren field in the valley of the Jordan. He stands there because he has no place to go. Another waif has all but given up hope: he sits in utter dejection on the rocky ground.

The stark reality of the ruthlessness of war burns into my mind as I see the picture of a five-year-old girl in an overcrowded hospital ward. Her face and right arm are a mass of napalm-seared flesh. Indeed, the innocent children suffer.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Middle East hasn't been standing by in idleness. Drive through Jordan today and you'll probably see in one place or another a blue tent with white stenciling which says in Arabic: "A gift from your friends the Seventh-day Adventists." We pass out clothing and blankets, shoes and cheese. But there isn't enough to go around. Here's a girl of 12 who represents her family of seven. She's holding two blankets—that's all they get. And it's already plenty cold in the ancient hills of Moab, Edom, and Gilead.

I can tell you more: Like the story of the women who do their cooking over an open fire in a refugee camp. (How many people will be fed from that small pot?) Like the story of the men who sit in the dust as outcasts, rejects—material for the human scrapheap. They have nothing to do.

And the children, of course. They are everywhere shooting marbles on the hard ground or pushing little sticks of wood in the mud puddles that decorate a refugee camp.

No, I can't forget these helpless, hungry children. Winter has arrived. The time of the great religious feasts is close at hand: *Ramadan* and *Fitr* for the Muslims, Christmas for the Christians. But these thousands of Jordanian children won't get any holiday gifts to dazzle their eyes. Eighteen months have passed since the Six-Day War—and with the passage of time the world (and the church too, maybe) tends to forget about the orphans of Jordan. How can these kids have Christmas without a home? Without food and clothes and a bed of their own? That's right, they can't—unless. *Unless you and I do something about it!*

Well, what can we do? We can give—give a generous Christmas 13th Sabbath overflow offering to build a new orphanage in Jordan where some of these children will finally find a home—an Adventist home. We can give a generous Christmas 13th Sabbath overflow offering to build a new orphanage in Jordan where some of these children will finally find nourishing food and decent clothing, where they'll find the warmth, love and security that was snatched from their young lives by a vicious war.

You and I have received much from our Father God. His Son Jesus Christ lived and died and yet lives for you and me. His Heart of love goes out to the orphans of Jordan who wait in meekness for us to do for them what He would do if He were in the Holy Land today.

As you and I think again upon the gift of the Saviour, let us not forget the children of whom He said, "... as you did it to one of the least of these ..., you did it to me."

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The righteous . . . grow like



For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come.

Hebrews 13:14.

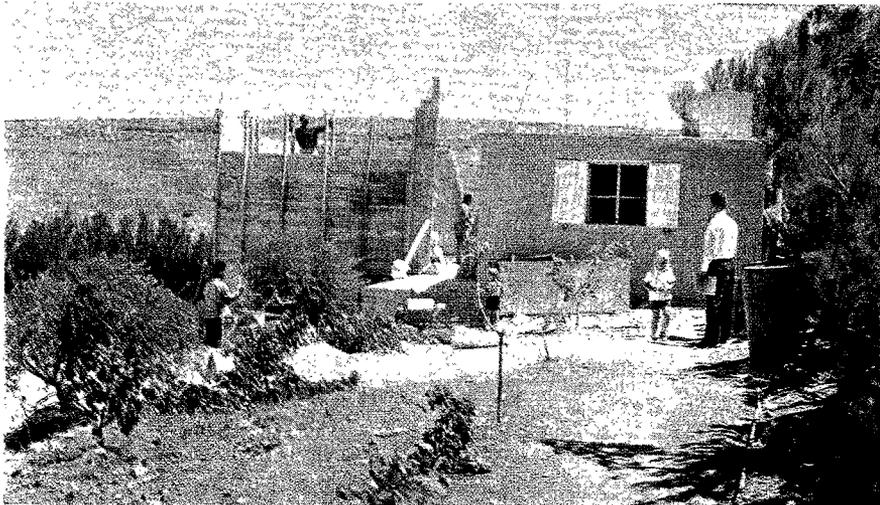
Remember the Middle East . . .

LOVE...LI



Pastors Mousa Azar and Willard J. Clemons inspect work at the site of Jordan's new orphanage.

Construction of the new orphanage in Jordan goes forward in faith of a big Christmas 13th Sabbath offering!



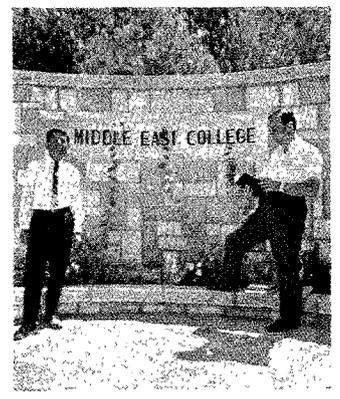
"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear m



"From the wilderness . . . as far as . . . the river Euphrates, all the land . . . to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory." *Joshua 1:4.*

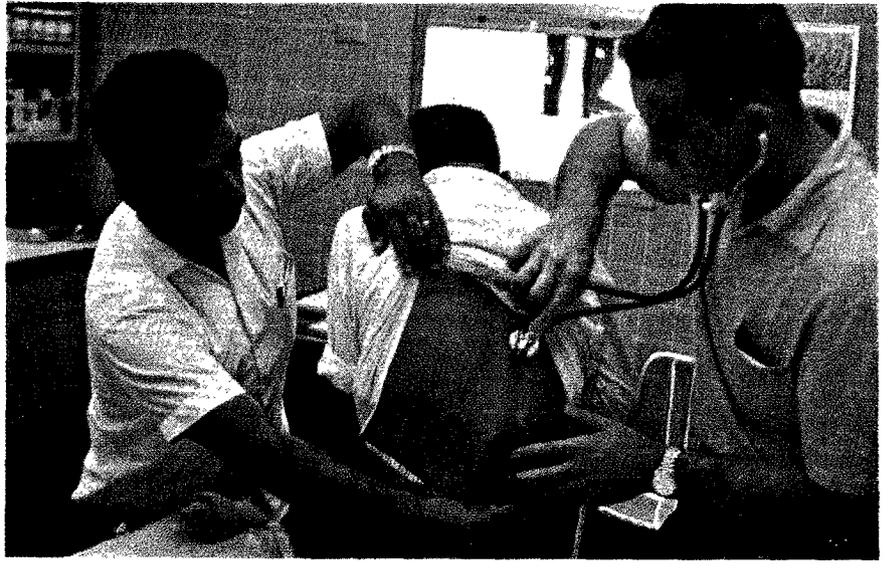
on Christmas 13th Sabbath!

WE...GIVE!



Michael Habib and Moses Elmadjian and their MEC schoolmates need a gymnasium for recreation. Make their dream come true!

Technician Bishara Aziz and Dr. Rob Johnson examine a Benghazi Adventist Hospital patient who has tuberculosis of the spine. The blue marks on the man's back indicate previous "witch doctor" treatment.



Love . . . Live . . . Give!

Next Sabbath is Christmas Sabbath. Our church and our Sabbath school will pause in the whirl of the holiday season to think seriously about the meaning of Christmas. It's something we've thought about before—that's true. Last Christmas, for instance. If that *was* the last time, then it's time to think about it again—seriously.

Why *did* He come? Why did the Father *let* Him come?

"For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

He came because you and I were lost. He looked for us, He found us, and He saved us!

This took a lot of love—the kind of love we don't see very much of in the world today. And yet He wants to see us developing and using this kind of love, for it is still the more excellent way.

If we truly love Him we must sincerely love others: orphans in Jordan who need an Adventist home, children in Libya who need an Adventist school, youth in the Middle East who need a complete college education.

If we truly love Him we must demonstrate our love by living for Him and for others.

And if we love Him and live for Him, then we must give to Him by giving to others: orphans in Jordan who need an Adventist home, children in Libya who need an Adventist school, youth in the Middle East who need a complete college education.

Love . . . Live . . . Give! This is why He came. This is the meaning of Christmas. And next Sabbath—Christmas Sabbath—you and I must show Him that we are finally beginning to understand.

—RICHARD LEE FENN



Pastors / Sabbath School Superintendents

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!

We couldn't afford to send a copy of this Christmas issue of *The Middle East Messenger* to every worker and member. But we do want you to get maximum use from this appeal pull-out section (pages X-1—X-4).

First, present Pastor Curtis Miller's stirring article, "Don't Forget the Children," as a Sabbath school mission feature.

Second, give the short editorial above a bit of time during the worship hour on the Sabbath just before you gather in your Christmas 13th Sabbath overflow offering for the Middle East.

Third, open the full-color centerspread before your congregation or Sabbath school, inviting the members to look at it closely on the bulletin board where you will give it a prominent position.

With your kind help, at least part of *The Messenger* will reach many of our good people around the world!

—R. L. F.

from other countries: Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, The Philippines, Korea, and, of course, the United States.

Direct evangelizing of Muslims is strictly proscribed in Libya, but Adventists can certainly answer questions when they are asked. We need to present to the people all kinds of op-

portunity for asking questions. An elementary-junior academy educational institution would make an important

portunities for asking questions. An elementary-junior academy educational institution would make an important

states Pastor Green, will serve the Adventists in Benghazi as their Sabbath house of worship. "It will function on Sundays as an open community church—with SDAs conducting the services."

Benghazi Adventists, an international group, are far from discouraged. They are, however, certainly challenged. And they want you to know that their goal is to make their international group national too. That simply means the addition of *Libyan* Seventh-day Adventists.

The remaining portion of your Christmas 13th Sabbath overflow offering for the Middle East is the smallest. But it may well be the portion which does the most in the least time to spearhead Adventist influence in Jordan.

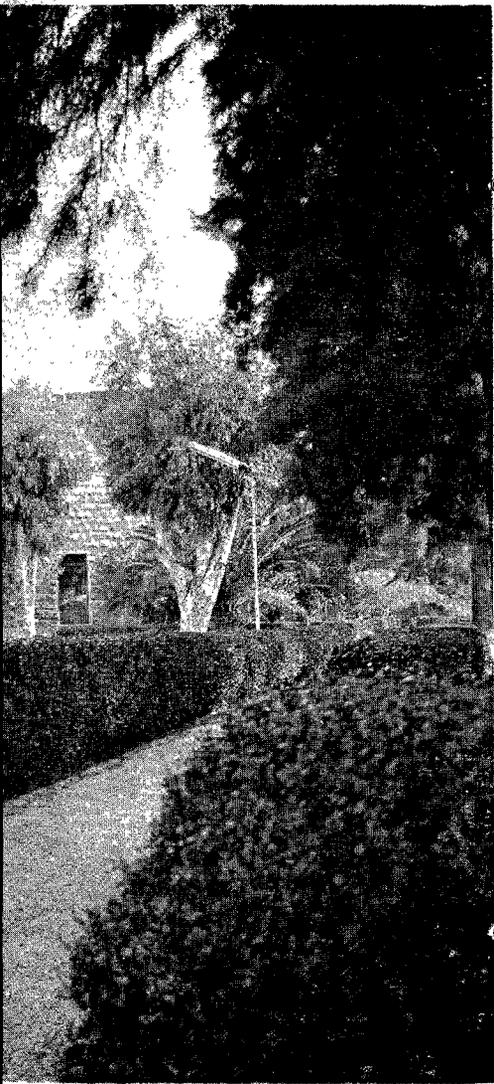
In faith that Sabbath school members around the world are going to give a

some 4,000 trees. Our goal is to care for 50 children—boys and girls. Our constitution declares our willingness to accept children right from birth if that is what's necessary. Actually, we will probably start with pre-school children. After we get our bus we'll begin to take older ones who will be transported daily to our school in Amman.

"The children will attend Bible classes and worship services—all of the phases of training which we are accustomed to giving to our own young people.

"Jordan's government leaders are very much in favor of this great project. When we presented it to them, they expressed great happiness with it. We applied for the paving of the entrance road and the government took care of it for us."

FBNN



The day before this picture was taken, these Matariah Mercy Home children returned from a fine camp on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

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contribution. Church leaders responsible for the development of this project believe that many influential middle and upper-class Libyans would be only too happy to enroll their English-speaking children in the Adventist school.

Says Benghazi Church Pastor Jon Green, "My dream is to see our school include Libyan children, for here is a kind of evangelism which would be permitted. Our own national children al-

record-shattering overflow offering, Jordan Section leaders began plans and actual work on a new orphanage over a year ago—right after the tragic Six-Day War of June 1967 raged through the Holy Land.

Pastor Mousa Azar, named director of the new home for homeless children, tells the story:

"The 33,000-square-meter site is very proper for an orphanage. It has on it

But will a little orphanage near Amman really win souls? Yes, indeed! The Matariah Mercy Home near Cairo proves it. Opened in 1947 and directed by Mrs. Erna Kruger, a veteran of 36 years' service in Egypt, this orphanage lists over 120 graduates. What have some of them gone on to do?

Answers Mother Kruger: "We have a minister at The Cairo Center Church, an accountant out at Gabal Asfar

School. Two former residents now in America have Ph.D. degrees. We have a half-dozen nurses around in the world.

Another appeal for your support of Adventist orphanage work in the Middle East comes from Mrs. Habib Ghali, vivacious wife of the president of the Egypt Section. She tells about Nabil Mansour, one of the older members of the Mercy Home family:

"Nabil first came as a little boy into the orphanage and, of course, he grew

up in our schools. He asked for baptism and joined the church. So all his life he has been an Adventist. Nabil hoped to go to Middle East College, but the door was closed for many years. He was called into the army, but he had a car accident so the army sent him home. He found a job and went to work. When the employer found out that Nabil's school certificate from Gabal Asfar was not recognized by the government, he lowered his salary by more than half. He had to work out some

other plan to make a living. He tried to emigrate to Australia. He was accepted—but after a month his acceptance was withdrawn without any reason being given.

"These disappointments came rather close together—the pathway to college blocked, emigration blocked, plus the fact that he couldn't find work—not even in the mission: he lacked a college education!

"He struggled on with his low-paying job. One day while going to his office in this frustrated state, Nabil suddenly felt great pain in his back. With this came a very bad headache. He screamed for the bus to stop, but nobody helped. Nabil continued screaming and pulling on his shirt from the pain.

"The next stop was the location of his office. Climbing up the steps, he had another great pain in his head. He fell unconscious at the last step. He was taken to a hospital in an ambulance.

"We at the mission heard the news, so my husband and I hurried to the hospital where we found him in coma. He remained in coma for 22 days.

"Nabil has one brother, but no father, no mother. The brother left his own office work for 20 days to stay with Nabil in the hospital, losing his salary for those days, of course.

"The diagnosis: cerebral hemorrhage. He remained in the hospital for two months. Then he was transferred to an army hospital because he had been a soldier. He stayed at the army hospital 15 days.

"About this time an American neurosurgeon visited Cairo. Nabil asked for brain surgery saying 'If God wants me to live, I will make it.'

"Nabil is much closer to God than he has ever been before. He had not been completely faithful in Sabbath observance: all of the places he had been employed required him to work on Sabbath. Since the time of the accident, Nabil says, 'I reaped what I sowed. Because I wasn't faithful to God, He had to bring me close to Him the hard way.'

"I would like to say that three doctors stated their fears Nabil would not live more than three days after the cerebral hemorrhage occurred. But we all fasted and prayed. I'm sure Nabil's life was spared through the fervent prayer of the church.

"Nabil is not completely well yet. One leg and one arm are partially paralyzed. But he is improving slowly, steadily. He can walk, he can move his arms, he plays, he exercises, he studies,

First Student Missionaries Comment on Summer Experiences



Gordon Pifher, 21, Paris, Ontario, a theology senior at Atlantic Union College, comments

On being chosen student missionary: "When they called my name, it was a real surprise!"

On his work in the Middle East: "Camps! Camp meeting in Iran—the best I've attended anywhere. Junior camp pastor in Iran and Egypt. More junior and senior camps in Turkey and Lebanon. Egypt gave me a real thrill. Pastor Mikhail Fahmi, who taught the baptismal class, and I saw 17 of our junior campers baptized."

On camp life: "The food was good, but it didn't always agree with me!"

On communication: "Expressions like 'Be quiet! Go to sleep! Attention!' are more useful to a camp worker than greetings. I tried to learn them in Farsi, Arabic, Armenian, and Turkish."

On pot-smoking collegians: "If they had a God-hope they wouldn't need it."

Ellen Lorenz, 21, Detroit, Michigan, a nursing senior at Columbia Union College, comments

On being chosen student missionary: "I was simply flabbergasted!"

On her work at The Adventist Hospital, Benghazi: "Besides giving approximately 5,000 shots, I changed an uncounted number of dressings. I helped out with Vacation Story Hour and Sabbath school.

On the Libyan people: "It is said that little things make them happy and little things make them mad—and that's just how it is."

On witnessing in the Middle East: "You have to witness by being interested, by smiling, by giving them an intangible feeling that you care."

On future mission service: "I'd like to say yes, but certainly not single!"



he talks (by the way, he couldn't talk for awhile after the accident). He is getting back to normal. He has good courage. This year he will be at Middle East College. The opening of the opportunity for Nabil is an answer to the many prayers offered for the work in Egypt."

And what does Nabil Mansour plan to study at MEC?

Replies the 24-year-old Mercy Home graduate: "I am planning to study the ministerial course."

Back in Amman, Pastor Willard J. Clemons, president of the Jordan Section, counts the cost of establishing an Adventist orphanage in his field:

"Up to now we have received only advances with the expectation and hope that we will have a large overflow offering. I suppose when we are finished with the first phase we will have spent in the neighborhood of \$40,000. It has been estimated that our share of the Christmas overflow could amount to that much. So we're hoping that we'll receive that amount and more—because, of course, we'll always have a project at the orphanage where we can use the funds."

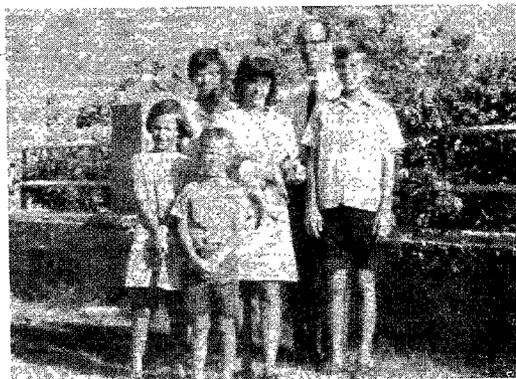
Pastor Azar appeals personally: "We believe that Christ worked for the needy. This project will be a great help to the work in Jordan, especially in these days of trouble when we have so many orphans, so many people driven out of their homes. I hope that our brethren will see our situation—although they are far from us—and back this project with the very good offering I know they are planning to give."

Pastor Clemons agrees, of course: "Certainly we are looking forward with anticipation to a good offering. We know that if our people around the world are made aware of our needs and of the very worthy project we have here, they will respond. They have never failed. We are hoping and praying they will respond in a very positive manner to the needs here in Jordan for the refugee children—for the orphans. We are confident of a very good overflow."

Must the Christmas 13th Sabbath overflow be sliced so thin the various portions lose their significance? Obviously, no! The slices must be thick, the shares must be generous. But after all is said and done, the actual size of those shares is really up to you. We in the Middle East are positive you'll be showing your overflowing Christmas love by your overflowing Christmas giving!

The Janie Fabrback Story

(From page 5)



the door was opened. Cleo had the key. I have no idea how we got her in, but we did. We laid her on a stretcher on the floor.

Dr. Fabrback, when did you first see Janie and what was her condition at that time?

DON: The time lapse was probably a few minutes. She didn't look too bad at first. The problem was, she wasn't breathing. I didn't feel any pulse, and as time went on her color became poorer—bluish, cyanotic. The skin began to discolor across her chest.

Doctor, you saw that the girl on the stretcher on the floor was your own daughter. What was your reaction as a father and as a doctor to this scene?

DON: What happened? Was she hit on the head and unconscious? She wasn't moving. She wasn't talking. What had happened was the main thing. It was peculiar that her legs were covered with streaks of blood—cuts on them from fragments. That's all I saw at the time. I didn't see the chest wound.

Did either of you have any fear at this time that Janie would not pull out of it?

ALICE (nodding): About this time. The fear came over me that she was gone.

DON: I didn't feel that way.

Why, Doctor?

DON: Well, you can never give up hope on anybody. She wasn't looking exactly that bad. I mean, she could have. She didn't breathe, but we were getting air into her lungs through the inhabation tube and we were pumping the heart.

At this time was your doctor-self taking possession of your father-self?

DON: About a fifty-fifty mixture. I had to force myself not to think of her as my daughter.

ALICE: He had to keep telling himself that this was just another patient.

Let's continue reviewing the scene in the emergency room. Following the insertion of an inhabation tube and an attempted I-V, what procedures did you follow?

DON: The thing was to keep the airway open and oxygen going in—to keep cardiac massage going. As her condition became worse, we got more vigorous. Dr. Ludington came in and started to do a cutdown on her leg—a cut through the skin to find a vein. It was just about the time Cliff cut into the vein and said the blood looked awfully dark that she took her first breath.

Was this first breath followed immediately by others?

DON: Well, not immediately. There was a period of probably many seconds, and then she took another one. Gradually they came more frequently. She began to feel a pulse. She developed a blood pressure of 90 over 70 or 80. We moved her up on the examining table. She began to carry on a bit then.

ALICE: When they said that she had started to breathe, I talked to Danny outside for the first time. I told him to "keep praying—she has a chance now because she's starting to breathe."

DAN: I'd been outside there five or ten minutes, I believe, and then Mom came out and said Janie had started breathing. That was really the first time I knew anything really bad—really that bad had happened.

We know that Janie was in the emergency room long enough for Dan to make two trips from the hospital area to the house here. By his own count he was at the hospital at least a few minutes between the trips. He was outside the emergency room for at least five minutes before Mrs. Fabrback emerged with the first hopeful news. We may figure then that Janie was in the emergency room for approximately 24 minutes to half an hour before Mrs.

Fabrbach relayed to Dan the first words of hope.

ALICE: The Libyans in the hall outside made signs that they too were praying and I know that hospital workers were praying together over in the library. I didn't even look at her for awhile when she started breathing. I thought she had gone, but then she started to make the noise—a moan like an ether cry, you know. Everybody had sort of a half smile and said, "Quais! Quais!" Then she vomited a lot and I tried to sing to her because I thought something familiar would strike the back of her mind.

DON: You were singing to her before that.

DAN: You were singing to her before you came out and told me.

DON: Oh, right from the beginning—*Jesus Loves Me*.

DAN: *Angels Watching Over Me*.

ALICE: OK, I'm overruled! I just thought it was something that would help her. Somehow—in her subconscious somewhere. That was my feeling.

This first breath that Janie took—

DON: That was good news!

ALICE: But sometimes they take a breath like that before they expire.

DON: But Janie hadn't taken one all the time I'd been in there. And that was very bad news.

Because of the time that had elapsed, did any of you doctors in the emergency room fear other damage?

DON: The next worry was cerebral anoxia. We just had to wait and see on that one—which was about 15 hours before she woke up. Anyway we gave her medicine to quiet her down and Cliff did most of the suturing. We took an X ray. It was a portable—poor quality. We looked at the picture and didn't see anything—*bumdulillah!*

How long was she in the emergency room?

DON: About 45 minutes.

ALICE: We didn't have any extra beds. I know that.

DON: The hospital was full. We had to dismiss a patient.

How did the first night following the accident go?

DON: Rattles in her lungs. Tubular respiratory sound. We detected a heart murmur. She did very well, though. The main concern was her level of consciousness at this time. She was unconscious. There was no response.

What was it that injured Janie in the explosion? Had any attempt been made to determine what had happened and what had caused her injuries?

DAN: Craig Ludington and I went back to where it happened and Habib Bana came with us. We got there and were looking around in the rubbish. Craig turned around and he just pointed at something on the ground—and there was one of those anti-tank shells, just lying there. Craig and I ran.

DON: These are the warheads of World War II shells. There are many of these around here. In the fire, they got hot and the powder inside went off.

Having learned that Janie was the victim of a bomb-type explosion, did you alter plans for her medical care?



DON: I don't think so. The main thing we were worried about after the first day was respiratory infection. And the heart murmur became louder. We thought a piece of metal would show up even on a portable X ray pretty clear, but it didn't.

When did she actually regain consciousness?

DON: Tuesday morning about 6 or 7.

Janie, do you remember anything at all about this?

(Janie shakes her head.)

What was the first thing she said?

DON: Laura Dennis just walked in and asked, "How are you, Janie?" She said, "Fine, can I go to Sabbath school?" Just like she had been asleep and woke up!

When did you decide that she had to have further work?

DON: Well, a couple of days went by and we took another X ray. We still didn't see it. We kept worrying

about this murmur being louder. So I finally ordered a lateral chest X ray. I think it was on Sunday, April 14, because Cliff was in a house committee. I got the X ray and looked at it and then I could see a piece of metal about an inch long and the diameter of a carpenter's nail, whatever that might be. Then there was some slight enlargement of her heart. We all sat down together and talked it over and decided that this was a problem that needed to be looked after by hands that could handle it. In a short time we decided to make arrangements to go.

* * *

To go—on a 24-hour air trip to Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California. There Janie went through many tests as Drs. Ellsworth Wareham and Joan Coggin, members of LLU's renowned heart team, prepared the young Sabbath School Investment worker for open-heart surgery.

Back in Benghazi, Dan returned from a week-end excursion into the desert to find his parents and sister gone. "I thought she had died," he said.

Janie made good progress. Dr. Fabrbach went up the coast to look for medical equipment. Then Janie "got sick. Actually," Dr. Fabrbach recalls, "she went into a congestive heart failure. She developed a hemopericardium. She looked sicker almost than she did in the emergency room."

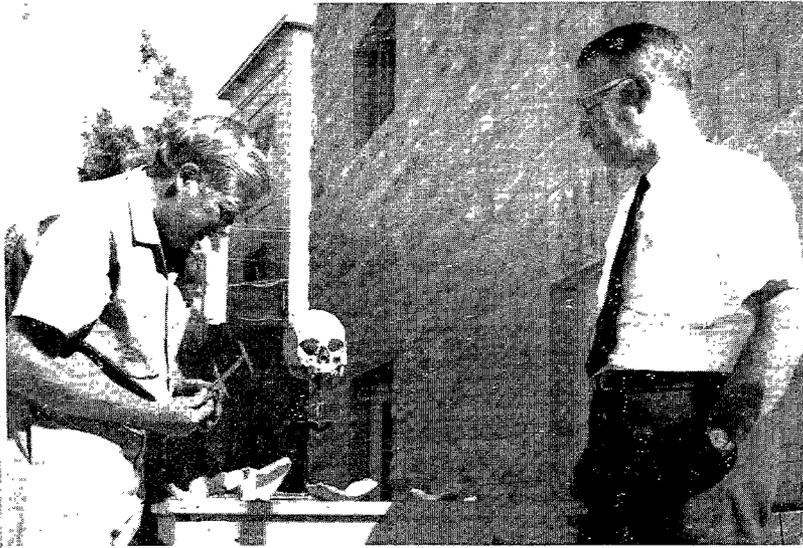
On Thursday, May 2, Dr. Wareham and his Loma Linda teammates opened Janie's chest cavity in an effort to repair a hole in the ventricular septum—a hole in the wall between the two main pumping chambers of the heart. The surgeons also hoped to remove the fragment that had pierced her heart. It was now located somewhere between the pulmonary vessel and the bronchial tubes.

The surgery was a success. The hole in Janie's heart was closed, the hemopericardium was removed, but ironically the fragment that caused all the damage couldn't be found.

Janie's post-operative course was, in Mrs. Fabrbach's words, "beautiful!"—until she had a relapse. By then, Dr. Fabrbach had gone back to Benghazi.

"I was done in. I thought Janie would die for sure," Mrs. Fabrbach remembers. "But the doctors put her on medicine—and she responded."

Janie's strength returned. And Janie and her mother returned to Benghazi. She's with her family this Christmas in perfect health and that's the best Christmas gift they could ever wish for.



ABOVE: Anthropologist Robert Little tells MED President Frederick C. Webster about the 2,000-year-old skeleton discovered last summer during the Andrews University Heshbon Expedition in Jordan. RIGHT: Middle East College Ministerial Student Najeeb Nakhle greets Atlantic Union College Student Missionary Gordon Pifher who worked with youth at seven different camps in Iran, Egypt, Turkey, and Lebanon during the summer. BELOW: Voice of Prophecy Associate Speaker H. M. S. Richards, Jr., (back row, third from left) brought a large group of friends to the Middle East last August. These people will be big givers on Christmas 13th Sabbath when the overflow offering for the Middle East is gathered in. May their tribe be increased—by you!

**"And men will come from east and west,
and from north and south,
and sit at table in the kingdom of God."
--Luke 13:29**

