



This is Ruby Khoury.

**Her daddy is a
member of the
Middle East Division
Evangelistic Team.**

**Although Ruby's
daddy is away
from home an awful
lot, Ruby and her
two big sisters
understand why:**

*Daddy tells
everybody
about Jesus!*

**The
Middle
East** **Messenger**

March-April 1969
Volume XVIII, Number 2



In Beauty Through You

... be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you (*Ephesians 4:32*).

Sometimes we seem to overlook the importance of tenderness and thoughtfulness in our relationships with our wives, husbands, children, and our fellowmen in general. Yet these qualities were prominent in the life of Jesus, and should certainly be evident in the lives of those who seek to emulate His character. In our leading of men to accept and to follow the Saviour there are no characteristics that are more important than these.

Thoughtfulness and tenderness in our dealings with others produce for the church the equivalent of the intangible asset that the business world calls "good will." It is infinitely more valuable to a worker and his church than degrees or cathedrals. Never is a heaven-bound soul, member or fellow-worker, sidetracked in his upward journey because of the exercise of these qualities. Yet many are discouraged and withdraw from God's service because of an arrogant lack of consideration toward their feelings on the part of others.

A group of young medical students were training in the children's ward of a large hospital. One particular student seemed to be especially loved by the children. They always greeted him with affection. The others could not understand why. Finally they detailed one of their number to follow him and find out what it was about him that attracted the children. The observer detected nothing until night came and the young medic made his last round. Then the mystery was solved. He kissed every child good night.

Those who practice tenderness and consideration for the feelings of others keep alive that which is truly human. It is this which can reach out to bind people together across the barriers of race and language and ancient resentments.

In the last years of his life, Robert Louis Stevenson lived on the island of Samoa. When his friend Mataafa, the Samoan chieftain, was put in prison by the European authorities, Stevenson, though he was then ill and tired, went again and again to visit him. Always he brought some little gift. Deeply moved by this kindness, the Samoans came to regard the poet with deep love. When he died they buried him high on a hilltop, ruling that no firearms should ever be used there: they wanted him to sleep in peace.

Coldness is really a cultivated quality. "No child is born with a really cold heart," wrote Lin Yutang. This unpleasant trait is so thoroughly an adult fault that we often confuse coldness with maturity. Perhaps that is why Jesus said, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (*Matthew 18:3*).

Real maturity is Christ-likeness. Therefore reject shrewdness, suspicion, and haughtiness, and let your life dwell on kindness and loveliness. Counseled Bernard Baruch: "When in doubt, follow your heart and not your mind. When you make a mistake of the heart, you don't feel so bad."

So give tenderness and kindness priority in your life. Keep aglow in your life these little candles of tenderness, thoughtfulness, and kindness so that the love of Jesus may shine forth in beauty through you.

A. C. Webster

5 Baptised After Amman Effort



Amman Pastor Angely Gayed's winter effort concluded with the baptism of five candidates (pictured left): Siham Matarwa, Mr. and Mrs. Hanna Yousef Matarwa, Pastor Gayed, Bassam Rihani, and Ghaleb Haddad.

Jordan Section President Bill Clemons reported that "the meetings were very well attended. Every night was a full night. Some meetings were jampacked!"

Congress Delegation Set

MV Secretary Manoug Nazirian has announced the names of the official MED delegates to the World Youth Congress in Zurich as follows:

Meet Benghazi's Pathfinders!



Nurse Barbara Sauder reports from Benghazi on the local church's "newly-formed, active, enthusiastic Pathfinder Club. The members have just finished work on their knot boards, proudly displayed in the accompanying picture. The club flag and unit guidons were handsewn by supervisory personnel. Of the 24 Pathfinders, eight are not of Adventist background. Counsellors are Pastor Jon Green, Lab Tech Bud Sauder, Nurse Jane Sines, and Nurse Lois Benson. "Our first investiture service is scheduled for April," Mrs. Sauder (second row, left) reports authoritatively: she's the club director!

Amman Smokers Helped

A 5-Day plan to Stop Smoking conducted by MED Temperance Secretary Herschel C. Lamp and the GC's Francis A. Soper, editor of Listen, captured an average attendance of 115 persons in Amman recently.

The well-publicized group-therapy program helped at least 50 registrants gain an initial victory over smoking.

Pastor Angely Gayed and Teacher Tawfiq Madanat assisted.

MEC, LLU Linked In New Program

The Board of Directors of Middle East College has approved a revised affiliation agreement with Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California, which will go into effect July 1.

The revised affiliation agreement states new policies designed to tie the two institutions together more closely.

MEC Academic Dean Ignatius Yacoub said that one of the highlights of the new program will be the regular exchange of faculty between MEC and LLU.

Dr. Joseph Khoury, chairman of the department of education at MEC, has been designated the first Middle East exchange professor to teach at the big Adventist educational center in Southern California

Coming to Beirut for the 1969-70 school year will be Loma Linda's Dr. C. Grant Macaulay, assistant professor of administration and curriculum in the School of Education. Dr. Macaulay will assume Dr. Khoury's responsibilities here.

Dean Yacoub also said that Middle East College will formally offer a natural sciences major as soon as Loma Linda approves the suggested curriculum.

Church Aids Bourj Hammoud Flood Victims



Mrs. Nazi Srour (left), wife of Lebanon Section President Chafic Srour, had plenty of help when she packed emergency food bundles for Bourj Hammoud flood victims. Dorcas Federation Leader Aziza Arbid (right) also participated in the relief project. (Photos by Minas Megurditchian.)



Pastors Curtis Miller and Saad Khilla--in action!
(Photo by Abadir Abdel-Messih.)

When a Vacation Bible

a Vacation Bible

Some people think Vacation Bible Schools can be conducted only during vacations--summer vacations at that. Technically, they're correct. After all, how can it be a *Vacation* Bible School if it isn't held during a vacation?

Originally the VBS program was designed, among other reasons, to occupy children profitably during the long summer months when there are no classes to keep them from boredom and mischief. "Why not have a program of Bible instruction for children," it was reasoned, "that will give them something worthwhile to do in their leisure time?" The VBS movement, used by many denominations, has swept the world. Each year millions of children attend churches and church schools during VBS time.

Here in the Middle East, Vacation Bible Schools are an integral part of the Sabbath School evangelism program of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each church is urged to name a VBS director at the same time other church and Sabbath School officers are elected. Last year thirty-one Vacation Bible Schools were conducted in this Division. Of the 1,746 children who attended, 1,247 came from non-Adventist homes.

We have discovered that a VBS, properly followed-up, produces baptisms. In the Egypt Section alone last year, 81 youth who once attended a VBS were baptized. We know of parents who have also been baptized

as a result of VBS follow-up. Obviously the VBS program ought to be coordinated with the total evangelistic program of the church.

So why then should a Vacation Bible School program be restricted only to vacation periods? Perhaps we need to drop the word "vacation." Let's just forget it if it's going to restrict us to only that time of the year. Let's simply call it a children's Bible school and make it truly evangelistic!

While observing evangelistic meetings conducted by several pastors in various parts of the Division, I have noticed an

abundance of children in attendance. In some instances, I've seen halls filled to overflowing with children seated right up on the platform, clustered around the speaker's feet. Too often the children's noisy enthusiasm denied the adults the full benefit of the spiritual messages. An idea hit:

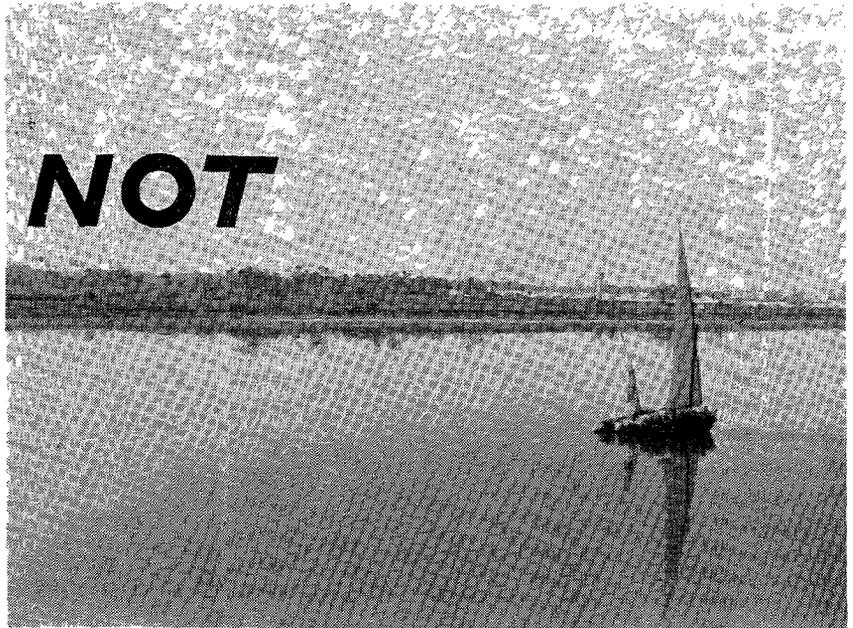
Why not conduct a Bible school each afternoon for all these children? The program could be geared especially for them--and it might teach them to be quiet during the evangelistic meetings!

Receiving an invitation to conduct an evening-hour evangelistic campaign in



Story and Pictures by L. CURTIS MILLER

School Is **NOT** School!



The River Nile not far from East Zuwaq.

East Zuwaq, Egypt, I teamed up with Pastor Saad Khilla in an effort to test the children's Bible school idea. We decided to have a non-vacation Bible School every afternoon at three o'clock using the regular VBS format.

We were flooded with children! The very first day more than seventy poured into the little church. Pastor Khilla and I had to cope with the deluge alone. How could only the two of us ever hope to handle that many children during crafts and games periods—particularly when I was completely unable to communicate with them directly?

We did try crafts and games that first day—and then had to give up on those two activities! You can well imagine why Pastor Khilla and I both recommend that more than two individuals should be involved with a children's Bible school connected with an evangelistic campaign!

But even without the crafts and games, the attendance went up to more

than a hundred. It was a thrilling experience to teach the village children choruses, Bible stories, memory verses, and the books of the Bible. Our flock followed us wherever we went. Visiting home after home in East Zuwaq, Pastor Khilla and I saw Bible school pictures posted on the mudbrick walls. Many of the children came to the evening meetings. A few even started coming to Sabbath School. (But will they ever learn how to be quiet?)

The East Zuwaq Children's Bible School, though not conducted during a vacation period, successfully served its evangelistic purpose, contributing directly to the baptism of 21 persons at the conclusion of the campaign. The seeds were sown also that will bring a harvest in the lives of others who attended the Bible school.

You too can help sow the seeds of truth through Bible school evangelism *all year long!* Don't wait for vacation time! Anytime is Children's Bible School time!



March-April 1969

Volume XVIII, Number 2

RICHARD LIJ FAN Acting Editor

Published bi-monthly: The Middle East Messenger is the official journal of the

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
Middle East Division
Sabtayeh, Beirut, Lebanon
Post Office Box 2020
Phone: 260258

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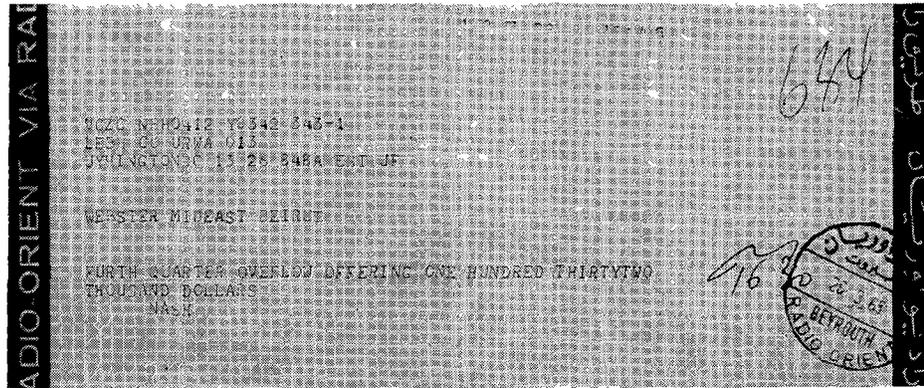
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MESSAGE from the Middle East

In Gratitude, We Now Resolve...



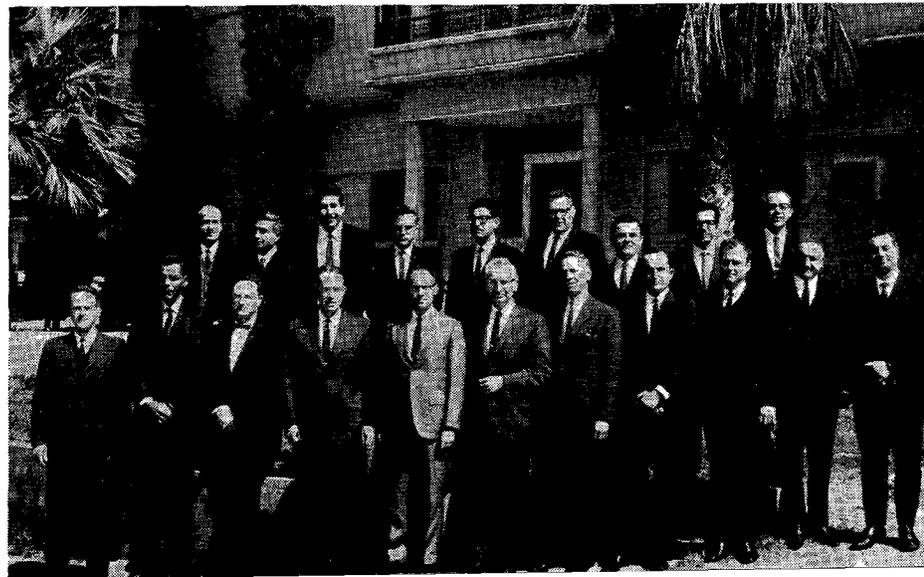
We heard his voice, in tones of jubilation, rolling up from the lobby. He had just torn open a cable from the General Conference in Washington. Now he was sharing the big news with everybody in the building: a \$132,000 overflow for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Middle East!

President Webster, Sabbath School Secretary Miller, and every other Seventh-day Adventist in the Middle East are profoundly thankful for this tangible expression of the support of the church around the world. No, it's not a world-record 13th Sabbath overflow (the South American Division, for instance, got \$139,000 back in '66), but it is a record for the Middle East. Quite obviously, our many special messages from the Middle East got through to thousands of church members everywhere. And you responded enthusiastically. We can but say "Thank you!" and pray that you will always be ready and willing to love... live... give!

Let's check the plans that the Christmas 13th Sabbath overflow received December 21 will finance: First, a gymnasium-auditorium for Middle East College--needed now more than ever (MEC expects a definite increase in enrollment next school year). Second, an elementary school-junior academy building in Benghazi where medicine and education remain the only available avenues to the hearts of Libyans. Third, a beautifully-situated children's home near Amman which should be ready for occupancy within a matter of weeks.

The generosity of Adventists elsewhere certainly ought to challenge Adventists here to be careful, faithful stewards--and not just in regard to the designated projects. As stewards, we must put forth inspired efforts toward the achievement of new evangelistic goals set during the spring committee in March (see picture below)--goals which, among other things, should see 200 baptisms per quarter and the construction of many new churches and chapels.

We can no longer blame lack of growth on lack of funds. Money is not the problem; it's personal. With God's help it can be solved--it *must* be solved--and soon!



TRANSITION

BORN *Jillane*, January 28, to Mr. and Mrs. *John Strain*, *Benghazi*, their second daughter... *Ramy*, February 20, to Pastor and Mrs. *Maurice Katrib*.

DIED *Henry Mousally*, 44, February 3, of a heart attack, in *Tajrish*. He was a staff-member of *Iran Adventist Academy*.

ARRIVED *Adventist Hospital Lab Techs Darrel McConnel* and *William Bradshaw* with their families, March 4, in *Benghazi*. The *McConnells* are back from furlough. The *Bradshaws*, from *Portland, Oregon*, commence their first term of service in *Libya*.

DEPARTED Former *Mouseitbeh Adventist School Principal Alfred Accar*, now in *Boston*... Former *MEC Librarian Abed Samaan*, who plans to continue his career in the States.

SHUKRAN That's "thanks" to Dr. *E. Richard Kinne*, *Middletown, New York*, *OB-GYN* specialist who flew out to *Benghazi* at his own expense to give a fortnight's service as a visiting physician.

APPOINTED To be professor and co-chairman of the Department of *Anesthesiology*, *Loma Linda University School of Medicine*: Dr. *Bernard Brandstater*, presently chairman of his department at the *AUB School of Medicine* here. The *Australian Brandstater*s (including *Wife Narida*, *Children Suzanne, Kerry, Nigel* and *Elizabeth*) leave *Beirut* this summer "with mixed emotions," the distinguished doctor admits. "We've been here 12 years or so. I spent a lot of time designing the surgical and anesthesiology facilities for the new *American University Hospital*." A favorite speaker in church services and other programs, Dr. *Brandstater* also contributed to the musical life of the *Adventist community*.

BIG BUSINESS Total financial investment of church and participating oil companies in *The Adventist Hospital, Benghazi*, now exceeds \$1,260,000.

CRASH COURSE New trend in language study now being tested by *Adventists* in the *Middle East* has students involved in a "total immersion" program for two solid weeks. President *Frederick C. Webster*, *Benghazi* Pastor *Jon Green*, and *Hospital Lab Tech Darrel McConnel* have survived *Arabic* as taught in *Beirut* and in the States. *Iran Pastors*

Robert Nickell and *R.M. Massey* went through the *Farsi* fire in *Tehran*. Pastor *Jack Bobannon* will go at *Farsi* in the States.

REPORT CARD Several church employees are engaged in authorized graduate study programs in the U. S. . . . Pastor *Jack Bobannon* completes his Ph.D. in communication at *East Lansing's Michigan State University* this summer. . . . Field Secretary *Robert Darnell*, at the *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*, laboring on his Ph.D. in *Islamic*s, hopes to overcome some serious obstacles and still be back in *Beirut* this summer. . . . *Benghazi* Teacher *Aaron Dennis* at *Andrews University*, is expected in *August*. . . . The miracle girl, *Nellie Haddad*, is married to the miracle man, *Anees Haddad*, *MED* youth and temperance secretary studying sociology at the *University of Southern California, Los Angeles*. Strained by *Nellie's* recent grave illnesses and repeat

appearances at *Loma Linda University* for heart surgery, *Anees* has nevertheless pressed on with his Ph.D. program. Thankfully, *Nellie* is getting well again—another miracle. . . . *Middle East College's Henry Melki* is making rapid strides toward winning his Ph.D. in linguistics at *Washington's Georgetown University*. . . . Scholars and families are unanimous in expressed hopes to return to the *Middle East* as soon as possible!

FURLOUGHS Short furloughs coming up for several workers and their families. . . . *Lebanon Section Pastor-Evangelist Harley D. Bresee*, April 30. . . . *BAH Maintenance Director Russell Nolin*, May 1. . . . *MEC English Professor Dale Hepker*, June 23. . . . *Iran Overseas School Teacher Harold Johnson*, June 23, but they'll be returning to *Beirut Overseas School*. . . . President and Mrs. *Frederick C. Webster*, June 23. . . . All going to the States. . . . *MEC's* history man, *Baldur Pfeiffer*, takes wife and little girls home to *Germany* this summer where he will defend his doctoral dissertation. . . . An extended furlough, beginning *August 15*, goes to *BAH Business Manager Cleo Johnson* for graduate study.

NEW HORIZONS Of service appear in the immediate future for five overseas families returning permanently to the U. S. . . . Completing five years in *Cyprus*, Section President *Sherwood Jones* (with *Wife Joan*, *Children Scott, Jeanette*, and *Susan*) leaves *Nicosia* the end of *May* to take up hospital chaplaincy training in *California*. . . . Also winding up a five-year term, Dr. *Herschel C. Lamp*, *MED* health secretary (with *Wife Trudie*, *Sons Tom, Bob*, and *Don*) departs *Beirut* the end of *June*. He's going to *California* too—to join the staff of *Loma Linda University's School of Public Health*. . . . And *Middle East Press Manager Robert E. Anderson* (over 11 years) (with *Wife Elsie*, *Children Gregg* and *Joni*) is also going to *California* where he takes up a new post at *Pacific Press, Mountain View*. . . . *MEC Maintenance Director Lloyd Nolin* (eight years) will leave the campus after his successor has arrived. His family has already been in the *Northwest* for some time. . . . *Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Maryland*, is the destination of Pastor *Richard Lee Fenn* (five years). With *Wife Joan*, *Children Rusty, Robbie*, and *Carolyn*, he leaves *April 30* to become *CUC's* assistant to the president.

MESSAGES

* We have enjoyed *The Messenger* for several years—both before and since our retirement. We do not know the subscription price. We are enclosing U. S. \$1. We have no idea how much that will represent to you. Please continue the subscription. . . . Our prayers are with all the workers in your difficult but inspiring field. It is wonderful how the Lord is blessing in the finishing of His work on earth.

PASTOR AND MRS. A.L. ZUMWALT
Gresham, Oregon

* As a worker in the editorial office of *Casa Editora Sudamericana*, I am an occasional reader of *The Messenger*. We receive your publication regularly, but not always do I get notice of it. Today I read in the *September-October 1968* issue that *The Messenger* is sent free for the asking. Needless to say, here is my name and address. . . . Please accept my congratulations for the excellent presentation of your magazine. . . . Greetings to Pastor *Salim Japas!*

DANIEL OSTUNI
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Our offer still stands. Send your name and address to us and we'll send The Messenger to you free! (The Zumwalt's kind contribution of LL3.15 will help us pay the postage.) --Ed.



Salim's ladies: Wife Olivia (center) and Daughters Norma and Estela.

There is no I in the word TEAM

STORY AND PICTURES BY CHARLES MILLS

"Hello! My name is Khoury!"

"Hello! My name is Khoury too!"

With this exchange of greetings, Khoury George Khoury met Khoury Salim Japas and formed the Middle East Division Evangelistic Team. (The word *khoury*, by the way, is an Arabic equivalent for pastor or minister.)

The Arab heritage of Evangelist Japas is evident in his first name. The family name is actually Khabbaz (that would be Baker in English), but his Syrian parents adopted a Spanish variation when they emigrated to Argentina where Salim was born.

The big dream during Salim's student years was to return to the land his parents left and there preach the second advent of Christ. In fact, this dream became a condition when it came to taking a wife: "If you marry me, you must promise to go with me to the Middle East as a missionary."

The girl who promised to go was Olivia Gerber, of Swiss-German background. But Salim and his bride did not immediately get the chance to sail for Syria. Nor did the energetic young couple just sit still waiting for the big dream to come true. Salim became a highly successful evangelist in Argentina. He also obtained a Master's degree from one of Buenos Aires big universities.

In time, Evangelist and Mrs. Japas,

with their son Carlos (who just recently completed his tour of duty in the Argentinian army) and daughters Norma and Estela, went to the U. S. where Pastor Japas conducted spirited evangelistic campaigns among the Spanish-speaking peoples of Washington, D. C.

Then the day came when the Middle East Division called Salim Japas to come, preach to the peoples of the lands of his parents. The Middle East did not have to call twice. The big dream was coming true.

Meanwhile, a young Aramoun, Lebanon, lad, a graduate of Middle East College, had entered the ministry in his homeland and was rapidly proving his high calling. Following seminary studies in America, Pastor George Khoury became president of the Middle East Division's Lebanon Section.

Then he too received a call to move into full-time evangelism. He readily accepted. George's wife Venice and their three pretty little girls understood what this new job would mean to their close-knit family life: Daddy would be away an awful lot. But the girls responded nobly: "Now Daddy can tell *everybody* about Jesus!"

The new team's initial effort was in the mountain town of Aley, Lebanon, just east of Beirut. Right after the Six-Day War of June 1967 the evangelists worked with the relief program for refugees in Jordan.

Since then Pastors Japas and Khoury have gone all over the Division—to Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran—preaching and baptizing, usually together, sometimes separately. Their total number of baptisms to date is right around the hundred mark.

But their work has not been without opposition and frustration. While conducting an evangelistic campaign in Zarqa, Jordan, Pastor Japas suffered a detached retina resulting in total blindness in one eye. A specialist labored over the evangelist for eight hours in the operating room of the American University Hospital here—while scores of friends and fellow-workers labored with the Lord. Within eight weeks, Salim Japas was getting back to work, his vision restored.

The Team



Japas and Khoury

The team is at work right now, conducting a big effort in the church's Ramses Square evangelistic center in Cairo.

Wives Olivia and Venice say their itinerant-preacher husbands are very faithful in writing letters home to Beirut. "But I just wish I could go with my husband everywhere he goes!" Mrs. Khoury says. Last summer she, Nina, Vickie, and Ruby did help Daddy in a campaign in Mansoura, Egypt.

Preaching is a challenge to both men. Evangelism is the keynote of their lives. "We must preach as member before," Teammates Japas and Khoury assert. "Jesus is even at the door. We must bring the people in!"

George's girls: Wife Venice, Daughters Ruby, Nina, and Vikie.

