



MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER

No. 1.

January - February

1948

UNION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It is the policy of the Middle East Union to hold a meeting as early in the year as possible to study carefully the needs of the field and to lay plans for the expansion of the work in all its phases. To this meeting all the members of the Union Committee are invited and arrangements are made for two or more representatives of the General Conference to be present.

The Union Committee meeting to consider the work in 1948 was called for January 5 of this year, and on the evening of this date the opening meeting was held. Elder E. L. Branson, our Union Superintendent, spoke of the challenge of an unfinished task and quoted the solemn indictment: "If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us." 9T.29. We read: "Putting our trust in God, we are to move steadily forward, doing His work with unselfishness, in humble dependence upon Him, committing ourselves and our present and

future to His wise providence, holding the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end, remembering that it is not because of our worthiness that we receive the blessings of heaven, but because of the worthiness of Christ, and our acceptance, through faith in Him, of God's abounding grace." *Ibid.*

General Conference representatives

It was our privilege to have as representatives from the General Conference, Elder E. E. Roenfelt, Associate Secretary of the General Conference, and Brother J. F. Cummins, Assistant Treasurer. These brethren gave us invaluable help, each in his particular line of endeavour. Thus Brother Roenfelt counselled with us in our plans for more evangelism, better Sabbath Schools, a more efficient educational system, and harnessing the energies and talents of youth for missionary volunteer activity. Brother Cummins entered into our financial problems helping us to lay a foundation of sound budgets so that the work in the Middle East may not be hindered by lack of means so necessary for expansion and development.

The task that confronted the Union Committee at this time was no easy one. The needs of the field are always pressing; the calls are many; the room for expansion is only too obvious. But this year the Union received requests from the fields far in excess of its budget. The Autumn Council was able to increase our base appropriation somewhat, but it was not nearly enough to meet the present appeals that come to us.

All are agreed that Brother Cummins, upon whose broad shoulders rested perhaps the heavier end of the responsibility of "cutting the suit according to the cloth", did an admirable piece of work. With sympathy, tact, and straightforwardness, the inevitability of effecting drastic economies was made clear. It was plain that the General Conference had given generously and to the utmost of its capacity. Restrictive actions were accepted by all with sadness, but with a recognition of their imperativeness.

Our immediate task is not to weep about the past or to complain of the present, but to face the future with a deeper consecration in view of a great challenge in the Middle East that has now become even greater. After all, as Elder Roenfelt pointed out in his sermon on the Sabbath of the Committee meeting: "Our greatest need is not more money; not outstanding personalities; but more spiritual power... When Jesus sent His disciples to their task He said, First tarry for power. That is our great need today."

A vote of Appreciation

At the close of the meetings Elder Neal C. Wilson voiced the sentiments of the committee when he moved a vote of appreciation for the counsel for the General Conference brethren. He said: "Since this has been a committee session faced with problems and difficulties of a most critical and urgent nature;

and, since it has necessitated the utmost care in laying plans to solve the many details in connection with the carrying on of our work evangelistically, financially, departmentally, and otherwise; and, since the General Conference has deemed it wise to share with us the burden as evidenced in making it possible for Brethren Roenfelt and Cummins to visit our Union and to be with us during this committee session; it is with a feeling of deep gratitude that we as the Middle East Union Mission Committee place on record our unanimous appreciation for the excellent counsel and help rendered to this group and to the entire field by Brethren Roenfelt and Cummins. We are confident that the patience and sympathetic spirit manifested by these brethren in connection with our problems, plans, and needs will result in the definite progress of the Advent message during 1948 in this Union."

The committee meetings lasted from the evening of January 5 to the early hours of the morning of January 16. It was regretted that two of the Committee members were unable to be present: Brother A. K. Ashod, of Turkey, and Brother Bashir Hasso, of Bagdad. On Sunday morning, January 11, a general workers' meeting was called when the workers in and around Beirut were present and interesting reports were given by the Mission Superintendents of the progress of the work in their fields. Elder Harder gave a report of the College and Elder George Keough told of the beginnings of the Voice of Prophecy in these Bible Lands. The days were packed with busyness, not the least busy being the secretaries: Mrs. R. K. Seitz, Miss Lily Nowfel, and Miss Madeline Grin. The weather was remarkable for the time of year, being more suitable to spring rather than to winter. The visiting brethren were able to view some of the excellencies of Lebanon.

(Continued on page 3)



THE EDITOR SAYS:



The first days of 1948 were marked by laying plans and outlining policies in the Educational Council and Union Committee Meetings. Now the call is for action in the days that lie ahead. We feel sure that whatever may be the task assigned to us, under God, we are going to do it to the best of our ability in 1948.

The *Middle East Messenger* is going to be a welcome visitor to the homes of our workers and many of our church members. It will bring news of decisions taken in committee and, more important still, accounts of how the plans and policies are being put into effect in various parts of the Union territory. We hope that it will be inspirational as well as informative.

Do not forget that *you* are the one to let us know how you are doing, and everyone else is interested in what you are doing. So send us a note today, especially if you are in a far away place like Shiraz, or Pahlavi, or Meshed, or Istanbul, or Cyrenea, or Walla Walla.

We take this opportunity of sending you, though rather belatedly, our best wishes for 1948, and assure you that you and your work is a subject of our prayers. Will you take this as a personal message to you?

G. Arthur Kerigh

Gratitude to God

One of the actions taken by the Union Committee was an expression of gratitude to God for His blessings during the past year. In the words of the minute: "Voted to place on record our gratitude to God for the constant care and protection that He has exercised over His workers and people in the Middle East Union Mission and for His prospering hand over His work, and that we renew the consecration of our lives and our all to the finishing of the task that has been committed to us."

A call to evangelism

Another action constituted a call to evangelism in the Middle East. Once again reading from the minutes: "*Whereas* we are told in the Scriptures that it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe; and, *Whereas* public evangelism has been ordained of God as a definite and effective means of bringing to men and women God's

message of salvation; and, *Whereas* the time has come for us to embark on a more definite and aggressive campaign of evangelism, Voted, a. That all field workers be urged to spend a portion of their time each year in definite public and personal evangelism, and that mission superintendents so plan their work as to enable them to conduct more than one effort each year as time and circumstances permit, and where at all possible, institutional and office workers be urged either to lead out or to assist in such efforts. b. That in view of the fact that the operating funds of the various fields comprising this Union are very limited and consequently there is little money available for the conducting of evangelistic campaigns; and, In view of the fact that the larger proportion of the population of these countries is located in the villages where evangelistic efforts may be conducted in an inexpensive manner, that definite consideration be given to holding efforts in such places."

ON THE ROAD WITH OUR SUPERINTENDENT

We appreciated very much the visits of Brethren E. E. Roenfelt and J. F. Cummins to the Middle East Union this year. Elder Roenfelt, one of the secretaries of the General Conference and formerly of Australia was making his first visit to this part of the world. Brother Cummins had been with us two years ago and we were lappy for his return. These brethren brought real courage and strength to our workers and church members as they met with groups in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and Egypt.

Elder Roenfelt visited most of our churches in Iran in company with Elder Crider and the writer. We traveled to the far south-east and visited Brother and Sister Kenneth Oster and their new son. Brother Oster has been studying Pharsee in Shiraz this past year and has aroused a sincere interest in our message there. Elder Crider baptized their first convert from Islām and this man's relatives and friends are begging for evangelistic meetings to be conducted in their village. On the way back to Isphahan, we visited Persepelis and Parsagade the former capitals of Persia built by Darius and Cyrus. The ruins of their palaces, temples and tombs are graphic evidence of how transient human power is.

A very profitable Sabbath was spent with our believers in Julfa-Isphanan. The members of the church brought their friends and all were thrilled to hear Elder Roenfelt tell of the experiences of our missionaries and believers in the South Sea Islands. Brother and Sister Gasparian have recently located in Julfa and we wish them God's richest blessing

in the work there.

Our next stop was in Sultanabad or Arak, where we met Dr. Hargreaves and his family and Dr. Arzoo and Brother Sangerico and his family and others of the hospital staff. The hospital is doing a splendid missionary work. Elder Roenfelt spoke to the church in a special evening service. Brother Sangerico has been very successful in his evangelistic work and some will be baptized soon as a result of the meetings which he recently conducted.

We next visited our Russian language church in Rahmatabad near the south-eastern shore of the Caspian Sea. They were very appreciative and urged us to stay longer. It was really thrilling to hear them sing the old Russian hymns and to hear their testimonies of thankfulness to God for His mercies to them in their exile. Elder and Sister Kubrock are conducting meetings at the extreme south-western corner of the Caspian in Pahlevi and they have a number of deeply interested people there. We wanted to visit them but time would not permit.

We turned back south from the fertile green Caspian plain which is partly below sea level, to cross the high Elburz range to Teheran. Our road led up through the Chalus pass, one of the wildest and most rugged in the world. The northern slopes were covered with forests but soon we came to the bare jagged rocks of the high ridges. There it began to snow and it snowed so hard that we could scarcely see the zig-zag road and the snow became so deep that for a time it seemed

that we would never be able to get the ambulance through to the tunnel which was about 10,000 feet above sea level. However, with four-wheel drive we finally reached the top and began the southern descent to the central plateau and Teheran.

In Teheran we spoke in Union services to our Armenian and Russian churches. Our work has grown in Teheran and interested people are studying for baptism in classes conducted by Elders Crider and Beitzakhar. Elder Salakian is now conducting a special series of evangelistic meetings in Armenian and there is a real interest manifested.

The training school is being conducted as a day school this year in the upper floor of the Mission property in Teheran. Elder and Mrs. Boynton are being ably assisted by Mrs. Crider and some of the former students of Middle East College.

Elder Roefelt and I next visited Bagdad where we met Brother Cummins and studied the new hospital project with the local committee. The hospital is doing good work in temporary quarters, but everyone is anxious to see the new building actually under construction. The Fall Council appropriation together with funds contributed by the brethren in Iraq will build a real memorial to the cause in Bagdad.

At a special evening service with the church, Brother Phillip Doss was ordained to the gospel Ministry. All rejoice in the splendid success which has attended his labors in Iraq and wish him God's continued blessing in winning souls to the Kingdom.

It was not easy to travel from Bagdad to the Union Committee in Beirut. The Cholera epidemic in Syria caused all plane, bus and train traffic to stop. However, since Elders Crider, Boynton and others were wait-

ing to travel with us, Thomas Cook managed to persuade two men to drive a small bus across the desert to Damascus. There, after a delay of 24 hours for cholera examinations, we were taken in another small bus around the mountains to Beirut. The regular route was blocked by snow and it was a very weary but cheerful party that finally arrived in Beirut.

Elder Roefelt and Brother Cummins spoke to the Middle East College student body on a number of occasions and their sermons to the church and Missionary Volunteer Society were a source of real encouragement and inspiration.

After the committee work came to a close, the General Conference visitors were not able to visit Palestine because of the lack of security there, but flew directly to Cairo with Elder N. C. Wilson. In Egypt they visited the Fayoum Training School, the Fayoum Church School, the Mercy Home (orphanage) and church school in Cairo and spoke to our churches. From Egypt they proceeded to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia to visit our work, and council with their Union Committee.

We sincerely appreciated the spiritual help and inspiration which these brethren brought to our field and we trust that God will give them a safe journey onward to help other fields.

E. L. Branson.

Congratulations!

We notice that Constantine Christofides is one of the eleven upper division students of Washington Missionary College that were recently selected by the scholarship committee of the College faculty to appear in *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*. Congratulations Costa! Your parents may well be proud of you.

MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE WEEK OF PRAYER

The College Week of Prayer was held December 11-18, 1947. In the unavoidable absence of Elder E. L. Branson, the writer was asked to lead out in the Week at the College, and accepted with alacrity, anticipating a pleasant time with the students and Faculty, in which he was not disappointed. It is always a pleasure to associate with the teachers and students at our educational center, for there is nothing so pleasing as the sight of young men and women preparing themselves for the Lord's service, especially in this last phase of the struggle between Christ and Satan.

The plan of the Week of Prayer at the College was that there be two meetings a day, and a special time for the meeting of the prayer bands, so that every one would have the opportunity to pray as well as to listen to the subjects presented. The first meeting was at 7:30 to 8:15 in the morning, and this was followed by the prayer bands, when all the students and teachers went to their appointed rooms for fifteen minutes of prayer. The second meeting was at 6:30 to 7:15 in the evening.

The subjects discussed dealt with our personal responsibility for what we become, and God's character, especially in His dealings with sin and sinners. A man's salvation, or loss depends on his personal acceptance of the plan of God, and not on external events or circumstances. Our own decisions decide our future happiness. God is so able and willing to save men that no one need be lost, save by his own free choice. To know God is to love Him. As we see Him in Jesus, we are irresistibly drawn to Him in love and adoration.

The last Friday evening of the Week of

Prayer heard the majority of the students express their love to God, and their determination to follow Him all the way to glory. The testimonies were thrilling to listen to, and were an encouragement to those who gave them as well as to those who heard.

On the Sabbath afternoon, following the Week of Prayer, a baptismal class was formed, and was well attended. Elder G. M. Krick will carry the class to completion, we hope, and a goodly number will be baptised before the end of the school year.

There is a fine spirit in the College, and we solicit an interest in the prayers of the Union membership on behalf of the teachers and students, that God will continue to guide and bless them, that there may go out from the College a band of consecrated young people who will proclaim this Message to the ends of the countries of the Middle East Union. The Lord's coming is at hand, and the best way to be ready for it is to be earnestly engaged in His service of saving as many as will accept. May the Lord make and keep us faithful.

G. D. Keough.

Elder & Mrs. Arthur Keough are happy to announce the arrival of a son, Alger Lynn, on Feb. 5, 1948

Our readers will be glad to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Shafeek Farag, working for the last eighteen months in our Church and School at Amman, Trans-Jordan, had a daughter born to them on February 10 of this year. Our hearty congratulations!

PROGRESS OF THE WORK IN THE PALESTINE TRANSJORDAN MISSION

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings and ye would not. Behold your house is left unto you desolate." Matt. 23:37, 38.

The words of the startling denunciation, pronounced by the lips of the Saviour nearly twenty centuries ago, have echoed down through the ages, and again today the city of Jerusalem is experiencing desolation. As curfew is imposed to bring a pause in the lawlessness until the light of a new day, the "Holy City" truly is a most desolate place. Streets are entirely deserted except for armoured cars on patrol duty. Hearts of men and women are filled with fear and forebodings of what the new day may bring. But even in the darkness and seeming chaos of this troubled land, God must have a purpose and pattern for the shedding of His light to those who sit in darkness.

The work in the Palestine Transjordan Mission is not a large work. The membership is under one hundred. But God does have many faithful honest children who will remain true to Him in spite of difficulties. In Amman, Transjordan we have a good Mission school with seventy six pupils in attendance. Miss Ruby Williams, a true soldier of the cross is leading out in the work of the school in that place.

We find an awakening interest among the Jewish Christians. Several weeks ago the writer was asked to address such a group, who were gathered together to pray for the soon coming of Jesus. The subject presented was "Christian Discipleship." It was truly

thrilling to have the privilege of presenting Christ to these souls, in the very city where He was rejected and put to death. He came to His own and His own received him not. but we pray that the day will soon come when many of these "children of Abraham" will receive Him as their personal Saviour. As a result of that meeting, several began attending our Sabbath services. The Sabbath gives us common ground for understanding.

On December six a Jewish gentleman who had learned from a friend about our services on the Sabbath, attended for the first time. It was a day of extreme tension in and around Jerusalem. Buses and taxis were all stopped, and people seemed to be fearful to go out of their houses. As he lived out in a Jewish colony, about ten miles from the city, and as there was no transportation available, he started out to walk. The walk would have been dangerous as his way led through hostile territory, but the Lord rewarded his faith, and a police car came along and gave him a ride into Jerusalem. He attended our service and seemed favorably impressed. After the service he started home. but no transportation could be found until five thirty on Sunday morning. When he arrived home he found that his colony had been attacked about half an hour before his arrival. His friends were very much astonished to witness his safe return. Last Sabbath saw him at the services again and after the service it was our privilege to study the Bible together for over two hours. He expressed great pleasure at finding someone "who would sit down and study the Word of God with him." His search for truth seems so genuine that not even the possibility of violence to

himself will stop him.

In Holon, near Tel Aviv, we have a young couple, Brother and Sister Levy, who are new in the truth. During a visit with Sister Levy the other day she expressed the longing of her heart to do something for the Master. She said that to name the name of Jesus would mean the possibility of being expelled from her community. She is even fearful of having Christian literature in her home. In her search for something which she could do she found an aged neighbor woman who seemed fearful of death. One day while talking with her she

told her that she need not fear death if her heart was right with God. She said that the aged woman seemed interested and asked many questions. Their visit made such a change in her that others of her neighbors came to our sister and asked her what she had told her neighbor to bring about such a change in her life. She no longer seemed to fear the future and her first thought was to please God in all of her actions. And so the work goes on in spite of difficulties.

L. J. Norris.
Superintendent.

A SPECIAL INVESTITURE SERVICE

A special Master Comrade investiture service was held at the Middle East College chapel on the afternoon of January 31, 1948 for seven foreign workers, presided over by Elder S. W. Johnson, sponsor of the College M. V. activities.

The seven candidates were: Elder and Mrs. F. E. J. Harder, Elder and Mrs. B. J. Mondics, Elder G. M. Krick, R. L. Mole and W. E. Olson.

Pastor Johnson pointed out in his opening remarks that these seven new candidates had completed the most of the requirements some years previous and for a long time had really only been on the brink of completion of the necessary work, and now after a minimum of campaigning it was now possible for these to be invested. It was also announced that now with this investiture there were in the Beirut area 38 Master Comrades, 25 of whom are workers of the mission organization.

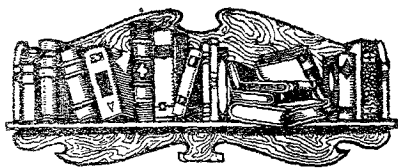
The program consisted of contributions of special interests and abilities of the candidates. Brother Olson gave an illustrated talk about the principles of radio followed by a piano duet by Mrs. Harder and Mrs. Mondics. President Harder then brought to our atten-

tion the value and importance of a knowledge of the weather and its causes. Following this Mr. Mole pointed us to some most valuable lessons to be learned from the life of the honey bee. Then a mixed quartet consisting of Elder and Mrs. Harder, Elder Mondics and Mrs. Seitz sang a special song arranged especially for the occasion.

The presentation of the 159 vocational honor awards and the 7 pins was made by Pastor Johnson followed by the reading of the charge by Pastor G. A. Keough, Union M. V. secretary. The consecration prayer was given by Elder J. S. Russell, pastor of the College church.

After extending a special word of welcome to the seven new Master Comrades of the Master Comrade Club, Pastor Johnson called on all ever to bear in mind the high calling of every S. D. A. young person and to do his utmost to make the most of his opportunities fully to prepare for the highest type of service it was possible to perform in these Middle East lands. The closing feature of the program was the singing of the Society rally song, "Youth Marches On" while all joined hands in two large circles around the chapel.

S. W. Johnson.



Ministerial Reading Courses.

The Ministerial Reading Course books for 1948 have been announced as being: *Reasons for Our Faith*, by F. D. Nichol, *Revival Sermons*, by H. M. S. Richards, *Fruitage of Spiritual Gifts*, by L. H. Christian, *Prose of King James Version*, by M. E. Olsen, *Heralds of God*, by James S. Stewart.

Workers may be interested in the Union policy which reads: "In order that our workers may be encouraged to make continuous effort in self improvement, the employing organization shall meet 50% of the retail price of the General Conference Ministerial Reading Course for each evangelistic worker who purchases the Reading Course books".

Be sure to pass in your orders as soon as possible for these books, if you wish to profit from this valuable reading material.

M. V. Senior Reading Course Books for 1948

Footprints of the Pioneers, Arthur W. Spalding.

In Quest of Life, Arthur L. Bietz.

Treasure from the Haunted Pagoda, Eric B. Hare.

The Story of Redemption, Ellen G. White.

The total club price for these four books is \$7.95.

The Junior Reading Course Books are equally attractive. They are:

The Talking Wire, C. J. Stevenson.

Conquering Heroes, Merlin L. Nefi.

Elo the Eagle, Floyd Bralliar.

Really-Really Stories, Book 2, Gwendolen L. Hayden.

The total club price is also \$7.95.

GOOD NEWS FROM TRIPOLI

We had three main objectives in mind when we moved to Tripoli: we expected that we would (1) study Arabic a little, (2) unpack, and (3) get some people interested in the Truth in preparation for an effort in the Spring.

Since we were strangers in the town we felt that we had plenty of time to get unpacked and settled. Then after that we might be able to study Arabic and hold some cottage meetings if we could find anyone interested. To our amazement guests started coming to welcome us to Tripoli within two hours of our arrival.

We have held thirty cottage meetings during the evenings in addition to speaking to those who come daily merely for friendly visits. The cottage meetings are held for from six to eighteen young men, most of whom speak English well, so that difference in language has not proved a great barrier.

Most of these young people are Maronites; however, we also have Greek Orthodox, Moslems, Roman Catholics, and Protestants attend. We hope and pray that these young men with their present variety of religious beliefs may change into the unity of Adventism.

Now that we are unpacked and settled we plan to start a new series of meetings in our home as soon as we can get chairs for the people to sit on. Also we are greatly in need of an organ with which to teach these young people some good gospel songs.

God is richly blessing our work in Tripoli and we pray daily that we may lead many of these interested souls to Christ.

W. E. Olsen.

MIDDLE EAST UNION EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL

A forward step was taken in the Educational work of the Middle East Union when an Educational Council was held in Beirut, December 31 to January 5, 1948. The objectives of the Council were stated to be :

1. To catch anew a sense of the solemn responsibility laid upon our shoulders to "gather the children"; "For the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand", (Joel 2:16, 1.), that "our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones polished after the similitude of a palace." (Psa. 144:12).
2. That by prayer and study we may seek to understand more fully our varying problems and give a lead in establishing educational policies for our schools.
3. That as leaders in the educational work in the Middle East Union Mission we may become personally acquainted with one another for mutual benefit and encouragement.
4. That by reconsecrating ourselves to our respective tasks there may go forth from this council a wave of inspiration and enthusiasm that will raise the standard of our schools everywhere, and lay the basis for further expansion and development."

The delegates to the Council as decided by the Union Committee in April 1947 were as follows : the Union Educational Secretary, G. Arthur Keough, Chairman, Middle East College President, F. E. J. Harder; the Nor-

mal Director at Middle East College, Miss E. Davis; Beirut Arabic School Principal, Miss Hana Jubran; Fayoum Training School Principal, R. L. Rowe; Mosul Academy Principal, Robert K. Hasso; Teheran Training School Principal, Paul Boynton.

The members of the College faculty were also invited to attend and the Mission Superintendents were asked to be present if they could possibly arrange their schedule and appointments to do so.

The meetings resulted in a number of recommendations which were brought to the Union Committee and adopted. We trust that these recommendations as they are implemented will mean further advancement in our educational work in the Middle East.

It was very much regretted that Brother R. K. Hasso was unable to leave Iraq to attend the meetings. An outbreak of cholera in Syria closed the frontier between Iraq and Syria just at the time when he should have been travelling. Brother P. Boynton managed to arrive a day before the council closed and so was able to catch up with the recommendations and give us his valuable advice on a number of items. Of the members of the Faculty, Brother R. L. Mole, Elder G. M. Krick and Elder S. W. Johnson gave us of their time and counsel. We were happy to have Brother Farag Assad part of the time as well as Elder B. J. Mondics, Elder N. C. Wilson and Brother L. J. Norris. The working out of an academic ladder was the knottiest problem of all, but we trust that a compromise has been reached that will prove helpful to our teachers in evaluating academic attainment from the various systems of education in the Middle East.

THE FAYOUM TRAINING SCHOOL

The history of Fayoum Training School really begins outside of Fayoum Province. In November of 1945 school was started in Assiut in rented quarters, under the leadership of Habib Ghali. The need for more space and a place where the physical as well as the mental and spiritual natures could be developed eventually led to the transfer of the school in 1946 to its present location. Leadership of the school changed to Daniel Guirguis. There were no buildings of any kind and school began in tents that were no great protection from the cold and wind and dust.

In 1947 the school changed from tents to its own buildings. As the months have gone by the changes that come with growth have come. Today there are two buildings, one for a dormitory, the other intended for classrooms. There are fifteen rooms completed so far, and they are being used for kitchen, dining room, office, teacher's living quarters, classrooms and student living quarters.

The campus consists of about 70 acres that are being reclaimed from the desert in the Fayoum Province in Egypt. At present less than 30 acres are under cultivation, but the farm has made outstanding progress under the direction of Brother Fouad Guirguis. About 3000 trees have been planted—date, mango, lemon, tangerine, and olive. The sands and water and sun combined with hard work have produced already in the first year of cultivation considerable amounts of spinach, tomatoes, melons, and some corn, okra, cabbage, cauliflower, green onions, celery, and turnips. We are hoping for the day when the farm will supply most of our fruits and vegetables.

The Fayoum Training school is located

about sixty miles south west of Cairo. The roads leading to the school, pass by the pyramids and other antiquities. The nearest large village is Seila, of about 5,000 population. Fayoum, the capital of the province is about ten miles west, a city of 30 to 40,000. The school is located on the main railway line from Cairo to Fayoum. The train stop is Seila Station, in case you would like to visit us.

The school is strictly a boarding school, at present boys only. Meals are served family style, with Mrs. Rowe in charge of the kitchen and dining room.

The purpose of the school is to train workers for finishing the work of the gospel. It is planned that vocational training will be combined with the training of mind and spirit. The classes cover the work of grades 5-11. Grades 6-8 are under the supervision of Habib Ghali. Associated with him are Shebata Gindi and Samuel Yanni. We were greatly saddened by the loss of Mrs. Habib Ghali, who was suddenly taken from us after a very short illness.

Grades 9-11 are being taught by the principal and his wife and Jean-Pierre Grin.

The total enrollment this year is 26 although there is room for more students. Difficulties of transportation and visas made it impossible for many to attend this year. We hope that next school year there will not be any cholera controls to ban those who would like to be with us.

Our plans for the future involve more growing pains. We hope to be able to finish construction of another dormitory, the present buildings, a chapel, a kitchen and dining room

unit and homes for our teachers. Some still find it necessary to travel to and from Fayoum every day to teach at the school. As mentioned before, plans also are being laid for expansion in vocational classes and further development of agriculture. In addition to this we intend to offer a course for village teacher training and summer classes to help our present teachers in Egypt advance in skills and general knowledge, especially a knowledge of our faith and doctrine. Our aim is to prepare for service.

We invite sincere students to join us and prepare for a place of usefulness in the great harvest field.

Robert L. Rowe,
Principal.

"APOSTLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST"

We have heard with great joy that Helal Dos of Bagdad has been ordained to the Gospel Ministry. Details of the ceremony have not yet been received, but we wish Pastor Helal every blessing as he continues to serve his Lord in these Arabic fields.

Brother Helal is one of a group of twelve who attended our College in Amman, 1940-41, and called themselves the "Apostles of the Middle East". He is the second of the group to be ordained, the first being Pastor Chafic Srour. Brother Wilson Basta will follow next, presumably, as he was recommended for ordination at the recent Union Committee. We rejoice that these young men are giving evidence of their call to the ministry and are beginning to shoulder the burdens of the work in these difficult lands.

Other members of the Amman group doing valiant service in other lines are: Naim Aweis, teaching in the Beriut Junior Academy;

Negeeb Azer, teaching and holding evangelistic meetings in Aramoun, Lebanon; Camille Nowfel, in his senior year at Washington Missionary College, called to be Instructor in History and English at Middle East College this next year; Ayoub Azer, physio-therapist, doing excellent work in Jerusalem and now connecting with the medical work in Iraq; Antar Yacoub, doing pastoral work in Cairo; Wadie Farag, studying at the Seminary for his Master's degree after completing his work at Emmanuel Missionary College; Yacoub Nashed, studying at Washington Missionary College after being connected with our educational work in the Middle East for a number of years; Daniel Guirguis, studying at Pacific Union College to improve his talents after being principal of our academy at Mosul, teaching at the College, and helping to mould the recently established training school in Fayoum; and Abraham Mazlum (last mentioned, but by no means least in personal achievement!), who plans to become a doctor and use his talent in God's service wherever He calls.

Church Calendar

We trust that all workers and church officers have received a copy of the Church calendar card to keep in their Bibles for constant reference and to post on the church bulletin board. If you need some more of these cards please write and let your superintendent know. The next important date is March 6, Training School Day. Let us place before our members the importance of the work of our training schools and we trust that the offering taken for their support will be substantial.

REPORTS FROM THE UNION MEETINGS

The following summaries were prepared by the Editor from notes taken by Mrs. R. K. Seitz.

Egypt :

At the recent Union meetings Elder Neal C. Wilson gave an interesting report of the progress of the Advent Message in Egypt. He pointed out some of the difficulties confronting the work. There was the difficulty of travelling and holding workers' meetings because of the necessity of having an identity card or passport at all times. There were financial difficulties because Egypt had withdrawn from the sterling area. There was the political unrest due to UNO's decision in favour of partition in Palestine and Egypt's close connection with the Arab League. A spirit of nationalism made foreign work very difficult and although our work may be organized on a national basis the Moslem government is very much opposed to Christian work. Then the cholera plague made visiting impossible. Thirty to thirty five thousand people died from this epidemic according to official figures, though there is reason to believe that the actual figures are even greater. Elder Wilson expressed gratitude to the

- General Conference for sending out anti-cholera vaccine, and stated that none of our members had been affected by the cholera in any of the areas. Elder Wilson then went on to outline the work in the Egypt Mission. Referring to the schools he said : "Our educational work is building up good will, and through the small medical work we are doing we are able to win the affection of the people." Elder A. G. Zytkoskee has been holding a very successful effort in Shubra, Cairo, as a

result of which many are asking for baptism. The Training school in Fayoum had a good opening in spite of opposition from government officials in certain quarters and the Minister of Education is planning to visit the schools. The orphanage in Mataria, called the Adventist Mercy Home has twenty two children in it aged four to ten. Under the self-sacrificing labours of Mrs. Kruger and her helpers the little children are being brought up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. It is impossible in this brief summary to include all that Elder Wilson reported but it is gratifying that our work in Egypt is progressing in spite of opposition and apparently God is turning obstacles into stepping stones to success.

Middle East College :

The group of workers gathered to hear the reports of the superintendents of missions and heads of institutions at the recent Union Committee meetings listened to Elder F. E. J. Harder's report of Middle East College with the greatest of interest. It is recognized that our college, as the training centre of the Adventist youth of the Middle East to carry the Advent Message to these Bible lands, is perhaps the most important of the Union's institutions.

Elder Harder reported that twenty-three young people were baptized in 1947, the largest number of baptisms in any year in the history of the College. The College Missionary Volunteer Society was very active, seventy students being invested in one or another of the M. V. progressive classes. A potent factor in the building up of morale among the students and faculty was the moving of the College from rented quarters to our own property and buildings. There was now

a feeling of stability and expansion could take on a more permanent form. Work had been started on the development of the farm and it was expected that in a few weeks many of its products would be ready for use. The industrial Department of the College had shown good progress and was turning over profits. Brother Harder made the statement that the actual cash income of the College was covering actual cash expenditures in the cafeteria. At the same time the college had a number of pressing needs, first and foremost was the need for more water. The drill of a well could probably meet this need. There was also a need for a filter to purify the present source of supply. The boys' dormitory was not large enough for the present enrollment. The addition of another storey would meet the present need. The shop was too small and the power plant was too near the classrooms. An industrial building needed to be built some distance away. The college also needed more laboratory equipment and more extensive library facilities. It was a source of gratification that the courses offered by the college were now more stabilized and granted students opportunity of steady progress in five junior college and two sixteen grade courses. The prospects for the college looked bright indeed.

NEWS NOTES FROM IRAN

These notes have been sent to us by Mrs. C. C. Crider.

A new little missionary has arrived in our midst. His name is Donald Lynn Oster, and he arrived at the Oster home on December 15. Though he only weighs a little over eight pounds we feel sure that he will soon become an enthusiastic worker like his Mother and Father.

A very special privilege was enjoyed by many of the members of the Iran Mission in listening to heart-warming mission stories and inspirational sermons of Elder Roenfeld of the General Conference. During the twelve days that he spent in our field he was able to visit a good many of our churches. We are only sorry that he was not able to visit every one, but we hope that some day he may return to our field again.

The cheery smile of Elder E. L. Branson is always a welcome sight in Teheran. Elder Branson spent almost two weeks in our field this month, and his counsel and advice were greatly appreciated.

After the stress of many examinations the students of the Iran Training School are happily enjoying a holiday season. However, for the principal, Elder Boynton, the vacation means work. He is at present attending an Educational Council in Beirut.

A happy occasion recently was a baptism in Shiraz of a man with whom Brother Oster has been studying for some time.

Our Mission Hospital in Irak reports a good full patient list, with all the staff work-to capacity. The town of Arak lies on the border of Luristan, and is surrounded by hundreds of tiny villages, and our medical institution has a wonderful opportunity to serve these people.

Brother Salakian has been holding meetings for the Armenian-speaking people of Teheran for some weeks, and reports several who are very definitely interested in the Messages which he brings to them.

Brother Sangarloo of Arak is spending a short time in Teheran with his wife and son

Roger.

Brother Gasparian who has recently moved to Isfahan is promoting in a special way the Young People's work in our church there, and his work and enthusiasm is much appreciated.

Another visitor to our office within the past few days is Elder Kubrock. He is at present working in Bandar Pahlavi, and has found many folk there interested in studying the Bible with him.

NEWS NOTES FROM LEBANON-SYRIA

These notes have been sent to us by Elder B. J. Mondias.

A few weeks ago another Sabbath School was organized in the village of Aramoun. Here Brother Najeeb Azar is holding evangelistic meetings in the evenings and teaching in our new school during the day. Many of the children attend this new Sabbath School, and the people have been attending faithfully every week.

The Lebanon-Syria Mission has started the new year with strong emphasis on evangelism. In eight different cities or towns meetings are being held to tell the people of the coming of Christ. Four new converts were added to the church by baptism already this year, and there are five more who will soon be baptized.

The meetings in Beit-Mery are very successful. Nearly every Sunday night the school hall is full, and the attendance on Wednesday nights is good. Elder Cha'ic Srour reports that meetings are now being held in Broumana and another village near by.

The Beirut Arabic Sabbath School has

had a very successful Investment program. Up to the present time more than L.L. 160.00 has been raised. The superintendent, Brother Yousif Barbawy, is conducting a model Sabbath School in the Arabic Church. He has introduced the birthday ribbon plan of increasing the offerings to missions, and we know that there will be some who will receive a knowledge of the truth as a result of this work and who will be saved in the kingdom of heaven.

WE BEGIN AGAIN

The new year offers us the opportunity of beginning again. We begin to read our Bibles through again. We begin a new series of texts in the Morning Watch and if, for any reason whatever, we should have failed to observe the Morning Watch in 1947 we begin again in 1948. We begin the reading of the Spirit of Prophecy books, perhaps according to the scheme outlined by the M. V. Department under the name of Character Classics. The Union office is following in its morning worship the reading of year II in this schme, entitled "From Trial to Triumph". We begin again with organizing our society work so that the new year will see fresh advances in Band work and Progressive Class activity. And if our church or company or school should not have a society organized we begin to lay plans to organize one.

Let us make a good beginning in 1948.

MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER

Organ of the Middle East Union Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists, P.O. B. 1011, Beirut, Lebanon.

Editor: G. Arthur Keough

Two important actions taken at the Union Committee Meetings :

Our Sabbath Schools :

Two more actions are worthy of special note : one concerns the Sabbath School. The minute reads : "*Whereas* it is our conviction that we are facing the time when the people of God must meet the tests and trials of the last days; and, *Whereas* in view of this it is imperative that every advent believer be fortified with the word of God; and, *Whereas* the Sabbath School is an effective means to that end; Voted that endeavours be made to enroll during 1948 every church member as an active member of the Sabbath School, and that the responsibility of attaining this goal be placed upon every worker and church officer."

Special emphasis is to be placed this year on the children's divisions in the Sabbath School. It is necessary too that the Sabbath School have funds with which to purchase their needed supplies. The Union committee made the following recommendation : *Whereas* it has been demonstrated that the Sabbath School is a very effective soul-winning agency; and *Whereas* past experiences have indicated that a large number of children and young people who are regular members of the Sabbath School in due time request baptism and acceptance into church membership; Voted a. that our workers and church officers be urged to lay plans for organizing more satisfactorily the Junior and Children's Divisions of Sabbath Schools and the raising of the standards of teaching in these Divisions; and, further, that endeavours be made to provide leaders and teachers in these Divisions with better and more adequate facilities with which to carry on their work; b. That in order to provide better facilities for the work of the Sabbath Schools, especially in the children's divisions, church boards in organized churches, and local mission officers in the case of church companies, put forth special efforts to increase

church expense offerings in order that there might be sufficient funds available from these offerings to provide suitable facilities for the work of the Sabbath School; c. That in order to provide more adequate funds for the provision of the Sabbath School supplies, the church expense offering of the third sabbath of the second month of the quarter be devoted to this purpose." The church calendar indicates when these sabbaths come.

Missionary volunteer work :

The other action has to do with gathering our young people together that their energies may be harnessed for the finishing of the work in these lands. "*Whereas* we are told through the Spirit of Prophecy that the work of giving the Advent Message to all the world will be finished largely by Young people; and, *Whereas* the time has come when every advent believer should be pressed into the service of God; and, *Whereas* the Young People's work is an effective agency to this end; Voted a. That efforts be put forth to organize a fully officered Missionary Vounteer Society in every church and company of believers in which there are sufficient members to warrant such being done; b. That upon the organization of such societies, steps be taken to assist the society officers in their activities by supplying them with the necessary supplies for carrying on their work in harmony with the recognized and accepted plans and policies of our Missionary Volunteer Department; c. That in order to stimulate the Missionary Spirit in the hearts and minds of our Young People, a specific objective be determined by the Union Committee to which twenty five percent of the total offerings given by the Young People be devoted, it being understood that seven-fifty percent of all offerings taken be retained by the local society with which to provide themselves with such facilities as will enable them to conduct their work effectively."