



No. 3.

April

1948

TEACHING IN HELIOPOLIS

By Miss EUPHEMIA M. BRYNE

Principal, Heliopolis Junior Academy

The Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean can be cruel, but never have they been more calm as the steady, well balanced troopship "Orduna" traveled from Liverpool in beautiful England December 20, 1947, to the North-east coast of Africa.

December 30, 1947 was a cheery day. Three o'clock was fast approaching when we hoped to be nearing our destination.

"Ah, See those buildings on the shore! Is that Port Said?" "No, it is on the other side of the bend. We shall be in Port Said in about two hours."

We were well on time. Our ship was not going fast but the buildings became larger constantly and then passed as others came into view.

"Did you see those lights blinking? They are signaling to our ship. There are others blinking too."

"Yes, we are nearing the harbor. There is the pilot ship now."

"Well, doesn't the captain of this ship know the way into the harbor?"

"O yes, he not only knows the harbor but he knows his ship better and would prefer to take it in, but it is custom to have the pilot of the country meet each ship."

We are soon in the channel and past the famous monument of Ferdinand de Lesseps. Many little boats came out to meet us. I was wondering if one could possibly be there for me. A little note about one hour later revealed that there was, and although I knew not one person in Egypt, I felt immediately among friends when I met Elder Wilson, and Elder Zytkoskee who took me through customs and then to their home in Heliopolis.

Certainly, it is not unusual to feel rather lost and alone in a strange land and among strange people, especially when their attire, which you have read about only in books, is what you behold everywhere. However, the best remedy is work and that I proceeded to do.

The Heliopolis school is really lovely. As I observed the first day, I found a splendid set up conducted most proficiently by Mrs. G. Zytkoskee who is also doing excellent work with grades 9 and 10, which meet in a small room on the roof of the church building.

Seven years ago our school began with about five scholars and one teacher, Miss Narguis Farag, who has carried her classes to the seventh grade and is held in high esteem by them. It was a real pleasure to watch Miss Narguis teach. Surely God has blessed the efforts of this faithful teacher, for we now have fifty-eight scholars, ten grades and four teachers. Congratulations, Miss Narguis.

As the members of the Constitution of the United States planned "better than they knew", so Elder E. L. Branson planned when he built the most inviting Heliopolis church with three good sized office rooms in the rear, all of which are filled almost to capacity by the church school. Yes, "he planned far better than he knew" and we are going to have to occupy those much needed rooms until we have another school building on the vacant lot across the road. All we need is some more good planning and money to match it.

Miss Aziza Farag is doing a master piece of work in the large room on the first floor with grades 1-3 plus the six babies ages 2½-5 years, who alone are as much as one teacher can manage. In order to relieve Miss Aziza of the entire responsibility of the babies, we have arranged our programs so that each teacher can spend one hour with them.

Long shall I remember my first hour alone with those six babies. In the first place my work has been mostly with the adolescent ages; in the second place, they knew no English and I no Arabic; and worst of all, we were total strangers. I could get their attention

for a moment and then they would scamper about getting into everything, avoiding me in every way. At last they sat in a corner together and by the looks in their eyes and the corresponding words, I was certainly not being complimented. The power of thought is a great blessing and plans were fast developing in my mind. That long hour of nightmare at last ended when Miss Narguis came to the rescue and instantly subdued six baby rebels into giants of order and good will, while I proceeded with my classes and then went to Cairo to carry out my thoughts. Love is a language which is understood the world over and it was my only hope of success with the babies. A few piasters spent for toys produced the desired result. Those babies and I are now the best of friends. They are also learning English and perhaps, some day, we shall laugh together as I tell them this experience in Arabic.

Ah yes, not only the babies were conscious of a stranger, but grades four and five, who were revelling in the sweet spirit of Mrs. Neal Wilson, must now submit to a change and become accustomed to new ways, methods and personality. Only God can adjust such reverses and truly He has blessed in this case. I found my classes alert and extremely well trained in Bible and memory verses. I am simply amazed at their knowledge of the scriptures. They have learned English very fast and are progressing extremely well in general. I am thrilled with the sweet spirit, and the scholastic standing in our school. I pray that it may progress as greatly in the future as in the past.

Only eight of our fifty-eight scholars are Seventh-day Adventists. This is truly a missionary school. Who knows what messengers of Light our scholars may be.

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EDITORIAL



CHALLENGE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

In the November issue, 1947, of *The China Division Reporter* there appears on the front page a challenging article by Elder W. H. Branson entitled: "There Remaineth yet Very Much Land to be Possessed." The words of the title are the words of the Lord to Joshua some forty years after Israel had set out to possess the land of Canaan. Israel had taken possession of part of the land but they had settled down to enjoy the fruits of an early victory and seemed to be forgetting that they had yet much to do before they could bring their task to completion.

Elder Branson draws a lesson for our own day from the experience of Israel in the past: "Just so it is today. God has called this people to world conquest. To 'every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people' is the command of our great Leader. But although more than a century has passed since we began, our task is very far from being accomplished. We have dotted mission stations, churches, schools, publishing houses and medical institutions here and there. God has blessed our labors and has given us a degree of success. We delight in telling of the rapid growth of our work, — but *'there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed'*."

Elder Branson has the world field in mind and doubtless China in particular. China presents the picture of many millions to whom the message of the second Advent needs to be taken. Brother Conard put the challenge of China graphically when he said that there were 23,026 individuals for each single Adventist believer in that great field (Cf. *Review*

and *Herald*, January 23, 1948.)

But the Middle East presents an even greater challenge. Do we realize that the area for which the Middle East Union Mission is responsible is one million square miles more than the area of the United States? That there are three major countries representing an area more than half the territories of the Middle East Union where there is not a single Seventh-day Adventist so far as we know? Eighteen million people live in these unentered countries representing a quarter of the total population of the Middle East. Brother Conard says that there are 23,026 individuals for each single Adventist believer in China, and 46,619 needy souls to every Adventist in Southern Asia. But there are over 72,000 individuals for every Seventh-day Adventist believer in the Middle East. Surely "there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed"

Elder Branson makes the need of the day clear: "What God calls for today is more pioneers. Heroes for Christ are needed everywhere,—young men and women who are willing to do and to dare for Christ in pushing the conquest of the cross into all the unconquered lands"

"Never before has the church of Christ faced a greater challenge than today."

It was forty years after the children of Israel had started out to conquer the land of Canaan that the message came to them to advance to final victory. Interestingly enough it is about forty years since the pioneer missionaries came to the Middle East. In 1908 Elder George Keough came to Egypt. In the same year Elder W. K. Ising settled at Beirut, Lebanon, and Elder R. S. Greaves landed in Smyrna, Turkey. About the same time Elder F. F. Oster entered Iran. After all these years is it not high time to

think of the work in terms of bringing it to a triumphant conclusion ?

We thank God for the work that has already been done, and for the evidences of God's continued blessing. While we are busy with our individual tasks in our respective fields, let us not forget to lift up our eyes to a great work that still needs to be done and pray that the Lord of the harvest may send forth labourers into his harvest.

TEACHING IN HELIOPOLIS

(continued from page 34)

We are more than anxious to develop our baby class into a large kindergarten next year to become a feeder for the grades. But alas ! how often have our church schools worked faithfully with the grades and then because of the great distance to an Academy the scholars have gone to the public school and have been lost to the "Cause" and to God. May God see fit to continue His blessings to our school and help us to make ends meet both from the kindergarten through the Academy and also financially.

We are endeavoring to season our "Three R's with the spice of Fine Arts." Mr. Hanna Watson, who teaches in the Orphanage, very graciously gives as much time as he can spare skilfully teaching our boys crafts, and drawing to grades 4-7. We greatly appreciate his kindness.

Madame M. Aine, a splendid French teacher, enriches our program with daily French classes.

Mrs. Zytkoskee's marvelous cooking class, the results of which we enjoy each Thursday, makes all our visitors want to return. She

also brings great joy to the students when we assemble Friday morning and spend a delightful hour with her as she teaches songs in English. Miss Narguis also contributes to this joy by teaching the National Anthem and other songs in Arabic.

Progressive Bands, Prayer Bands for the girls, and Council Period, conducted by Elder Zytkoskee, each Wednesday for the boys, sewing classes and recesses all make our school a pleasant place to be in.

We teach from 8:30 A.M. till 2:00 P.M. but the teachers continue their work each day by preparation, visits to the homes, special classes, attendance at Gospel meetings and prayer meeting, and last but certainly not least, each Tuesday, one hour before prayer meeting, finds my faithful teachers gathered in my classroom for prayerband and teacher's meeting.

I thank God for the privilege of working for Him in this little school and pray that the rays of truth from each school in these Arabic lands may cross and recross each other as they shine forth into unknown places and hearts that are seeking Salvation.

A GOOD REPORT FROM TURKEY

An excellent report has reached the Union of the good work being done by Miss Ipraxie as Bible Worker in Istanbul. A number of people have been baptized as a result of her efforts. She is doing the only type of work it is possible to do in Turkey and it is encouraging to hear of this success.

THE CHARACTER OF THE MASTER COMRADE *

By S. W. JOHNSON

M. V. Sponsor, Middle East College

The character of the Master Comrade could be described in a variety of ways exemplifying any or all of the superb qualities that constituted the character of our one and only Pattern, Christ Jesus himself.

But today I would limit my remarks to but two of those characteristics. The first characteristic is that of Nobility of Character. As young people acquiring a training for a superior service, we must ever attain to those highest ideals and principles that it is possible for one on this earth to achieve. We are challenged to become examples. And what example is it that does not demonstrate something superior from that which is so evident all about us? Yes, we are challenged to be living examples of all those noble ideals that the apostle Paul held up before us, namely: "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report"... Thus this noble character will put Christ first in every thought, plan and activity. The cause of God on this earth will be his one and only motivating power. These high ideals lived out in any life will make him a power for good wherever he is. Furthermore, it is one of the unmistakable lessons that history teaches us that lives of men and women that held unwaveringly to such ideals were honored and revered by friends and enemy alike. All

recognize and respect the noble character.

The second characteristic of the Master Comrade character is what I have termed "Effluence of Character". By this title I mean that ability or characteristic of making his influence to flow out and cause others to follow in the way of thinking and acting that he is advocating and practising. It is a fine thing, we all agree, to possess a noble character, but it is far better that this noble character be put to use for the betterment of others. A light under a bushel produces little illumination. So with our characters also. So it seems to me that no little endeavour should be put forth to find and pursue occasions to make our noble influence felt by others. Striving to attain this nobility of character is worthwhile only in that the end results can be put to the service of others. The character of the Master Comrade is in that its nobility is felt afar. And only those who have a burden to make their noble influence felt afar should accept investiture as Master Comrades. So with these ideals as fundamental in the highest progressive class of the Missionary Volunteer movement we can be assured of a solid, steady growth in not only the number but also of the quality of the young people being trained to finish the work in these lands of the Middle East Union Mission.

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Palestine is in the news today! Elder L. J. Norris has an article in the *Review and Herald* dated March 25, 1948 which is well worth reading. You will find it on the front page.

* *Abstract of a talk given by Elder S. W. Johnson at an Investiture Service held at the Lebanon-Syria Camp Meetings.*



AMMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Miss RUBY WILLIAMS

Paul "planted, Appolos watered; but God gave the increase". Thus the Lord has supervised His work in Amman, Trans-Jordan, using agencies that were sometimes unconscious of His purposes. Thus the school has grown and developed.

The foundations of the school were laid early in 1945 when Elder H. G. Rutherford was Superintendent of the Palestine-Trans-Jordan Mission and Elder C. H. Mackett was Union Secretary-Treasurer. Fareed Srour who had studied a number of years in Middle East College was in charge of the school and supervised the erection of the building. Amman is a city situated on mountains, some of

them flourishing with new houses and streets indicating the prosperity it has enjoyed during the war, and the school property is on the best mountain where the residential section of the city is located

In the beginning before the new building was ready the school was held in the homes of the members, the children moving from one house to another every month. Miss Wadad Waimrein was the teacher for the girls and young boys.

Meanwhile God was preparing other agencies to contribute to the growth of the School. Miss Ruby Williams started studying Arabic. At Middle East College Miss Ghazala Khalil

was preparing for teaching. Somewhere in the United States Elder J. S. Russell and family were trying a second time to reach Palestine.

As the time to open the school a second year approached the Mission had no Superintendent. The buildings were not completed and there was only one teacher in sight. However, in the Lord's providence, Elder J. S. Russell arrived about two weeks before our opening day. His first days and nights were spent in gathering supplies and equipment from Palestine and laying plans for the School. Under Fareed's leadership, with Miss Wadad and her sister as teachers, the school opened on time. Then Miss Ghazala came, warming our hearts with her big sisterly help from the Iraq mission. We had about 55 children in five grades. When Fareed had to leave for the States the Lord sent Brother and Sister Shafeek Farag to fill his place and more besides.

Now our enrolment has grown to 90. We are happy the Lord opened the way for another of our Amman girls, Tamam, to join us. We are thankful for what the Lord has done for us and pray we will co-operate with Him to become bigger and better. The need of properly qualified Christian schools is great in Trans-Jordan. Many parents are looking for just the education God has planned for our schools. We would ask our sister missions everywhere that we will pray and press together that God can perform His will in His schools in these lands. Then the glorious pattern He has given will shine from these our primary schools guiding little feet safely on the path to heaven.

COLLEGE SUMMER SCHOOL

Elder G. M. Krick, who is in charge of the Summer School at Middle East College, announces that the dates of the summer school this year are July 4 to September 13. Academy subjects offered are : English Drill (for English I, II, and III students); Arabic (Grades II, and 12, Autumn Quarter programme); Biology (Autumn Quarter); Bible Doctrines (full unit of work); Modern History (Autumn Quarter); Matriculation Mathematics (Autumn Quarter); Medical Cadet. College subjects offered are : *Education* : Bible Methods; Child Psychology. *Bible* : Life and teachings of Jesus (Autumn Quarter); Daniel; Revelation; Church Polity. *History* : History of the Arabs (Autumn Quarter). *Arabic* : Sophomore Arabic. *Typing* : Beginner's class for teachers; Typing 1 (Third Quarter). *Miscellaneous* : Nutrition Chemistry; Home Relations; Health Principles; Medical Cadet. The fees are the regular College fees for a quarter. cf. College Bulletin, 1948.

We were very happy to welcome Elder R. A. Anderson to Beirut on April 2. He led out in the College Week of Prayer, April 2-10, and conducted special meetings for the Lebanon-Syria workers on Sunday, April 11. He was able to spend some time in counsel with the Union Committee and on Monday, April 12, he left for workers' meetings in Baghdad. From there he proceeded to Egypt to spend a few days with our workers before pursuing his itinerary in Africa. Everywhere his meetings were highly appreciated and we were happy he was able to fit in this visit to the Middle East in spite of a very heavy programme of visiting.

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It was our privilege to have the brief visit and counsel of Dr. T. R. Flaiz of the Medical Department of the General Conference.



MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE

OFFICERS FOR THE NEW QUARTER

SABBATH SCHOOL :

Adviser—Mrs. Branson
 Superintendent—Adil
 Ass. Superintendent—Manoug
 Ass. Superintendent—Mareen Saaty
 Secretary—Rose Bedelian
 Ass. Secretary—Benjamin Zaia
 Music Director—Mrs. Krick
 Ass. Music Director—Mrs. Seitz
 Ass. Pianist—Phoebe Beythoun
 Children's Department—Miss Davis

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER SOCIETY :

Leader—Shahine Ouzounian
 Ass. Leader—Philip Srou
 Ass. Leader—Mousa Deeb
 Secretary—Ghazala
 Ass. Secretary—Mary Nasimian
 Pianist—Mrs. Harder
 Ass. Pianist—Samira Hasso
 Chorister—Manoug Nazirian

CHURCH OFFICERS :

Ushers—George Yared
 Michel Kabbas
 Children's Church Leader
 Mrs. Johnson

WEEK OF PRAYER

MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

One of the weeks of my life that I will ever remember and for which I will ever be thankful to the Lord is the week of prayer that has just passed by.

This week was conducted by Elder R. A. Anderson of the General Conference. He is a man of real experience and consecration. And God used him mightily to bring on a revival and a reformation in our college.

The week of prayer was just wonderful for me. I learned the importance of many things which I hope, by the grace of God, to live out in my life. One of these lessons is the fact that we should not live for some selfish aim and ambition but to live like Jesus—to live to bless others. Oh how much I found myself far from this principle. How much I found myself guilty of loving myself and not trying to love others.

The other great principle that I learned is that our eyes cannot see more than one object clearly at a time nor can our minds think clearly on more than one thing. So that if our eyes are always stayed on Jesus and His life and love all the other things in life will be dimmed. Also, if our thoughts are filled with Jesus, His life and love, all other things in life will take second place.

The third lesson that I learned was that if I wanted my eyes and mind ever to be on Jesus I should study His word daily every morning.

My prayer to God is that He will help me and give me the power ever to be true to the decisions and promises I have made during this week so that I can ever be true to Him and walk closer to Him. This is my prayer not only for myself but for all who made any decisions for the Lord's side during this past week.

—Sabah Hasso—

IMPRESSIONS AND LESSONS

The students as well as the church members enjoyed a very interesting week of prayer that was conducted by Elder R. A. Anderson. Elder Anderson thrilled us with his experiences in the evangelistic work. His enthusiasm for winning souls inspired courage and zeal in the hearts of the students and workers.

In this week of prayer I came to know my Heavenly Father better, and to give Him my all. I came to feel his love to me wherever I go and wherever I am. In this week I began to understand better that the young man who comes to College to train for the service of God needs to follow in the steps of the Master of whom it was written that He went about doing good. The most important lesson for him to learn is that before he can do good he must be good, before he can do any work of reform he must be himself reformed. The young man who has learned to see to it that, by the grace of God, he himself is at all times without sin, is well on the road to preaching a message of reform which will be given with power because, as a clean vessel, he may be used of God mightily to accomplish His purposes.

Another important characteristic of this week of prayer is that I came to understand the word "unselfishness" better than before. Unselfishness is the greatest of all the characteristics a man needs in order to fit him for the service of God and man, whether in this life or in the life to come. Unselfishness is the very foundation of Christianity. It is the basis of all acceptable and successful service. God says "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me".

The word "Fellowship" impressed me very much in this week of prayer. It is the hardest

of all lessons to learn, and no one is entitled to graduate till he has learned it. But it cannot be learned in school only. It is a life study, and the text-book for it is the life of Jesus, the Son of God.

God can keep a child of His amidst corruption as He kept Moses in the universities of Egypt and Daniel and his companions in the schools and palaces of Babylon.

What are you doing brother? Are you busy in the right things? Are you faithful to the charge that God has given you? If you are in the College, beware lest you fritter away your time. If you are not in the College, remember that the College is meant for you, and can help you develop your talents and fulfil God's purposes and plans for you.

—George Yared—

COLLEGE NEWS

Everyone at the College appreciated the Spring vacation at Easter time, after having week of exams of the quarter first.

Mr. and Mrs. Fakhry Nagib, of Egypt are new faces on the campus now. Brother Nagib is attending school this quarter.

One more young man has joined the ranks of the Men's Dormitory. Malcolm Bruce Russell, born April 17, promises to be a real "Man of Might", having a start of eight pounds.

The enrolment of Middle East College is not alone in students, for last week there arrived at school two fine, rugged looking cows with their calves. The dairy is now in the kindergarten stage, but like every other branch of the college, we shall see it expand rapidly

Four future members of the college church, recently added to our church family here, were dedicated to the Lord and His service on Sabbath, April 10. This marked a nice conclusion to the Week of Prayer. The little ones who were thus given to the Lord were, Roberta Mole, Donald Johnson, Sameer Srour, and Alger Keough. May they grow up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

The Junior College Class made its appearance recently by a special chapel program. With Mr. Salim Majeed as president and Mr. Krick as Advisor, it promises to be an aspiring group of young people. Their program comprised a series of cheery little excerpts of a biographical nature about the class members.

—J. S. Russell—

The next issue of Middle East Messenger will be devoted to the interests of Middle East College. Be sure not to miss it!

* * *

"The watchful Christian is a working Christian, seeking zealously to do all in his power for the advancement of the gospel. As love for his Redeemer increases, so also does love for his fellowmen. He has severe trials, as had his Master; but he does not allow affliction to sour his temper or destroy his peace of mind. He knows that trial, if well borne, will refine and purify him, and bring him into closer fellowship with Christ. Those who are partakers of Christ's sufferings will also be partakers of His consolation and at last sharers of His glory." A. A. 261.

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IRAQ MISSION

Elder E. L. Branson sends us the following news notes after a recent visit to Iraq.

BELIEVERS IN BASRAH

Brother Salim Majeed who is attending Middle East College this year started a fine work in Basrah and several were baptized there as a result of his devoted efforts. Now Brother Behnam Arshat, who was in Middle East College last year, is continuing the work in Basrah in a strong way.

The little chapel over Hasso Brothers' store has been very attractively redecorated and there is a good attendance at the meetings held there. On Sabbath March twenty seventh, Brethren Jacobson, Schilt and the writer had the privilege of meeting with this earnest and active group of believers. The ordinances were celebrated and five candidates were baptized, bringing the membership of the Basrah company to 22. It is planned that these faithful believers will be organized into a regular church in the near future.

IN THE OPERATING THEATRE

There were two major surgical cases arranged for the next morning and I gladly accepted the invitation of the doctors to join them and the nurses at an early hour as an observer. At six thirty there was considerable activity as last minute preparations were made. The adjustable surgical table was ready with the very large cluster of lights just overhead. At one side the equipment for the anaesthetic was ready. On another, all the various sterilized towels, pads and gauze were available in their circular containers. But most impressive was the array of forceps, clamps, scissors and

scores of surgical instruments all laid out on long tables and adjustable trays. These had been chosen for this specific operation by Nurse Naima Guirguis a former student of Middle East College already standing by the table in her sterile gown and surgical gloves ready to hand the doctors these various instruments in rapid succession just when needed.

Doctor Saaty was preparing to give the anaesthetic and Doctors Karmy and Schilt were "scrubbing up." This was quite a procedure requiring an elaborate ritual of washing their hands several times with soap and brush, applying disinfectant, then putting on rubber surgical gloves.

Nurse Joyce Henderson said she was going to "circulate". I discovered that meant that she would not scrub as the others had, but would be working away from the operating table, supplying disinfectants, hot water, or handling anything that had not been sterilized. She decided that I should be arrayed as the others so provided me with a white gown, cap, and face mask.

In less time than it would take to tell about it, everything was ready for the patient who was brought in and placed on the operating table. Then, as the doctors stood on either side of the patient and the nurses were ready, the patient was told, "Now before we operate we will pray that God will give you strength and that the operation may be successful." We bowed our heads and as Doctor Karmy offered an earnest prayer for skill and guidance, I said to myself, "If I ever have to have an operation, I hope it can be in a Seventh-day Adventist Hospital where the doctors and nurses are not only well trained in their professions but they have confidence in the help and strength which only God alone can give and they are not ashamed to pray to Him."

NEW HOSPITAL SITE

"The medical Missionary work is to be connected with the third angel's message, as the hand is connected with the body." *Counsels on Health* p 557.

Men and women who are in severe physical distress cannot adequately appreciate God's great plan of redemption. The mind needs a clear brain in which to function efficiently. That is why Jesus healed the sick and that is why Seventh-day Adventists have been so active in medical missionary work.

It was the privilege of Dar El Salaam Hospital to have as a guest, Brother F. Brennwald, one of the auditors of the General Conference. He met with the available members of the Hospital Board to make a final decision as to permanent location of the hospital. Many sites were visited and after considerable negotiation with the parties concerned, it was agreed that the new hospital will be built on a plot of 35000 square meters in New Baghdad.

New Baghdad, is a new superb laid out with wide avenues, parks, and all modern facilities South-East of Baghdad on the main highway toward Khanakin and Tehran.

More than one million Iraqi Dinars have been invested in the project by the New Baghdad Company in building paved roads, gardens etc. .. and it is expected that this area will develop very much like Heliopolis or "New Cairo" after which it was patterned.

May the Lord guide and direct each step which is taken in the development of this our major medical institution in the Middle East.

WELCOME DR. SCHILT!

On Friday March 12 Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Schilt and their four fine children arrived in

Baghdad where Doctor Schilt will serve as medical director of the Dar El Salaam Hospital. Dr. Schilt is a graduate of the College of Medical Evangelists, Los Angeles, California and Mrs. Schilt is a graduate nurse of the White Memorial Hospital, also of Los Angeles.

Dr. Schilt practised in California for a time and then moved to Twin Falls, Idaho where he built up a fine practice during the past few years. They were active in local church work and liberal supporters of the cause of Foreign Missions. When the call came to join personally in helping to bring to the people of Iraq and the Middle East a knowledge of God's love and his plans for those who accept his Message, they unhesitatingly accepted the invitation, sold their home, and have now joined with the staff of Dar El Salaam Hospital.

DR. ABDEL KARIM

We regret to report that Dr. Abdel Karim of Basrah has been critically ill. He underwent an operation at the Maud Memorial Hospital in Basrah and is now much better. The surgeon said, "I am not the one that has helped you, but God has heard and answered the prayers of your people." Doctors Schilt and Karmy were called to Basrah to consult with the doctors there and it was arranged for Doctor Abdel Karim to spend some time at our Dar El Salaam Hospital just as soon as he is able to travel. We pray earnestly that he may have a complete recovery so that he may be able to carry out his desire to serve the Lord by telling others of his personal experience and glorious hope in the soon return of Jesus.

VOICE OF PROPHECY

The enrolment in the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School keeps growing. But not as we would like, nor as we had anticipated. We have not yet reached the two hundred mark, and we hope to number them, in the near future, by the thousands.

There must be a good many honest people, known to our church members in every city, who desire to know more about the Bible, and who would benefit greatly from taking this course of studies, and we hope that the church members and workers will let us have their names and addresses. If you do not have a registration card, you can send a list of names, and we will make out the cards, or mail them, so that they can be registered and begin their studies. We need and desire the cooperation of every one. In fact, we are depending on you.

Voice of Prophecy Staff.

SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

The General Conference Sabbath School Department has a plan whereby our Sabbath Schools can be graded. The objective of this grading is to encourage our Sabbath Schools to strive even harder, if that is at all possible, to reach the major objectives of our Sabbath schools :

1. Every Member of the Church enrolled in the Sabbath School.
2. Every member present and on time.
3. Daily study of the Sabbath School lesson.
4. Personal work for every pupil.
5. Liberal gifts for missions.



The grading of a Sabbath School is based on three important phases of Sabbath School work :

1. *The Membership.* It is the ideal of the Sabbath School to have all church members, as well as their children and as many friends as it is possible to gather in, as members of the Sabbath School. This is the membership goal, and the basis for membership grading is 90% of this goal.

2. *Daily study.* There is no need to emphasize the importance of daily study of the Word of God in the life of the Christian. However, it is recognized that the human tendency is to fail in carrying out a regular daily programme, so that the basis for grading a sabbath school is daily lesson study of one-half of the Sabbath School membership goal.

3. *Mission offerings.* The mission offerings of the Sabbath school have in the past been more than half of all mission offerings. It is obvious therefore the great part the Sabbath school and its members have in advancing the church's supreme task of carrying the Gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In the Middle East Union the basis for grading a Sabbath school on mission offerings is a 10% increase in one quarter's offerings over the amount raised in the same quarter of the previous year.

Grading certificates are issued each quarter to every Sabbath school that reaches any one or more of these goals. An "A" grade is given if the school reaches the standards for all three—membership, daily study, and offerings. If only two of the grading standards are reached, then the grade granted is "B". If only one is reached, then a "C" certificate is given.

The reports are coming in very regularly

from practically all of our Sabbath Schools in the Middle East Union. Not all the data are in every case available for grading our Sabbath Schools, but it has been a source of satisfaction and a matter for congratulation that three of our Sabbath schools qualified for an "A" certificate :

Beirut Arabic Church Sabbath School
Heliopolis Church Sabbath School
Mosul Church Sabbath School

To these we send our hearty congratulations with the prayer that the good example they are setting they may continue to set for our Sabbath schools everywhere.

IRAN MISSION

Brother K. Oster flew up to Teheran in the Shah's private plane recently. He had a good talk with His Imperial Majesty and gave him a copy of *Bible Made Plain* in Pharsee.

Brother K. Oster plans to visit Afghanistan in the near future. He will be back in time to give a report to the Iran summer camp meetings.

The Iran Training School under the leadership of Paul Boyton is doing very well. Junior Missionary Volunteer progressive class work is being done with marked success.

Brother Salakian is holding meetings in Teheran that are proving successful. A number are being prepared for baptism.

The Sultanabad hospital is quite full with patients now and there is an encouraging interest in the town.

Dr. H. E. Hargreaves has recently moved to Isfahan and has located his clinic in one of the houses in the main street of the city.

In the *Review and Herald* for April 1, 1948, pp. 15, 16, there is a thrilling account of the way Brother Grover C. Winslow, Jr. and family were robbed while on their way to their post of duty in Iran. Brother Winslow sums up: "But this is all in the life of a missionary". Paul lists the "perils of robbers" among the experiences that he passed through as a missionary in these Bible lands. Conditions have not changed very much in some parts of the Middle East in spite of the lapse of centuries. But, thank God, the same Spirit that worked through the Apostle to do a mighty work in the days of Paul is the same Spirit that will motivate God's people in these days to bring the work to a triumphant finish.

PREACHING IN THE LEBANON AND SYRIA

The work in Syria is progressing in a wonderful way. God is working upon the hearts of the people, and many have accepted the truth, and been baptized. In the last two years, over 50 people were added to the remnant church in the Tartous area. We organized two churches there. Elders E. L. Branson, B. J. Mondics and myself were present. This year we baptized 4 persons, and in a few days 5 more will follow. Our goal for this year is 25 persons. I hope and pray that we may reach our goal, by the grace of God.

The Adventists in the Tartous Area have a high reputation. The government officials and the people recognize us as the best people of the country. Everywhere you may hear people speak of the high ideals of the Ad-

ventists. At first the government was against us because the newspapers said we were connected with the Zionist movement, and once seven policemen came to my home to search my home to see if that were true. But when the government knew that we did not belong to that organization it gave us a permit to preach freely. The local government sent a report to Damascus, capital of Syria, that the Adventists were the best people in the country, and that they were needed and that there was no danger in having them in Syria.

Our members in the Tartous area are doing a good work. Every one is trying to win others to the Truth, and they are successful in this work. The daughter of the priest was recently baptized in Tartous.

Now let me tell you about our work in Beit Mery. A few months ago, I was asked by our Superintendent, Elder B. J. Mondics to hold an effort in Beit Mery, Lebanon. I was glad to accept the call, and immediately, I began to hold meetings. As a result five people have decided on baptism. One of the candidates stole a lip-stick box from a shop in Beirut. She came to me and confessed her sin, and of course I told her, she ought to go to the man and confess her sin and make restitution. She gladly accepted the advice. She gave to the church 10 Lebanese pounds for a few things she had stolen from a European family who had gone back to their country and to whom restitution was impossible.

Not being satisfied with working in Beit Mery alone, I bought a Jeep by the help of the Union, and began to hold meetings in other villages. I visit six villages. I hold meetings in the homes of the people. In one village over 150 people attend the meetings. In another place the teacher of the village asked me to hold the meetings in his home, because the place where we held our meetings was

small. It cheers the heart to sit down and hear these good people ask questions. I use my projector and my charts in my meetings. Our teacher in Beit Mery school, Brother Elias Hannah, is helping me in these meetings. As a rule, after the meetings I ask the people about the Voice of Prophecy. I take the names, and send them to the Director of the Voice of Prophecy in Beirut.

—*Chafik Srou*—

FROM HERE AND THERE

From England comes news of Adventists and a branch Sabbath School in Benghazi! Writing in the *Progressive Volunteer*, organ of the M. V. Department of the British Union Conference, a Mrs. Gladys Mather writes of her experiences in Benghazi: "We started our married life together as we intended to go on and our first Sabbath held our own Sabbath-school, even to the singing of the hymns." She tells of attending some Salvation Army meetings: "It was then that we made the thrilling discovery—a brother in the truth! I could hardly believe my ears when the P. O. W. I was chatting to, said his friend was an Adventist. 'Not a Seventh-Day Adventist,' I said to myself. But he was! His name is Werner Hennig. It was a wonderful moment. And so our Sabbath-school membership doubled—for Hans, a P.O.W. working for us in the flat here, also joined our study group.

The next rung of the ladder was taken at a Christmas festival given by the P.O.W.'s. It was in the form of a service organized by the Y.M.C.A. The English padre and his wife were present and the script, spoken in German, was typed in English for our benefit. It was a delightful service and the Advent message sang loud and clear—for Werner had

got the script from our people in Switzerland!

The next step was the announcement of a Bible class. We felt there was so much to teach. God just opened up the way for us. We hold them here in the flat on Sabbath evenings and we have had an average attendance of twelve each week. God has blessed these evenings to each one of us. The Spirit has been wonderful and His teaching clear (for which I am so grateful to the Voice of Prophecy course)."

Here was work being done in the Middle East Union of which the officers were not aware until now by way of this report from England!

* * *

Besides going to every English reading member in the Middle East Union, the *East Messenger* is being sent to students from the Middle East studying in the States, a number of friends and relatives of missionaries, and the following Division and Union offices:

Australasian Division
China Division
Southern Asia Division
Southern European Division
Far Eastern Division
Southern African Division
Atlantic Union Conference
British Union Conference
Canadian Union Conference

MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER

*Organ of the Middle East Union
Mission of Seventh-day Adventists*

P.O.B. 1011, Beirut, Lebanon

EDITOR: G. ARTHUR KEOUGH

Annual Subscription: \$1.00

Central Union Conferencē
 Columbia Union Conference
 Lake Union Conference
 North Pacific Union Conference
 Northern Union Conference
 Pacific Union Conference
 Southern Union Conference

* * *

We may well be proud of our Middle East students in the United States. The *Sligonian*, organ of the Students' Association of Washington Missionary College, announces that it has nominated Thomas Saaty as the young man most worthy of the title "the most courteous young man". The east is noted for its courtesy and hospitality and it is gratifying to know that our students are maintaining these ideals of social conduct.

* * *

A special Senior Issue of the *Sligonian* has reached the office. Constantine Christofides, one of the Middle East students, is the Editor. He is also one of the June graduates majoring in history and French with minors in English and education. Camille Nowfel is another June graduate, who is presented in the *Sligonian* as follows: "From the sandy beaches of Beirut and the snow-capped, cedar-clad mountains of Lebanon comes Camille Nowfel, who, after completing his education, plans to take up publishing work in his homeland." We are looking forward to welcoming Camille Nowfel to the band of workers in the Middle East in the very near future.

* * *

The Review and Herald, March 25, 1948, gives the Middle East welcome publicity. In the section, "Reports from all Lands", there appears an article by Elder B. J. Mondics entitled: "At Work in the Lebanon-Syria

Mission". The holding of a successful camp-meeting, the opening of two new schools, and the organization of two new churches are just a few of the activities mentioned.

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CHURCH CALENDAR

May 1—*Home Missionary Day*.

May 15—*Sabbath School Rally Day*.

June 5—*Mission Extension Day*.



CONGRATUATIONS!

To Mr. and Mrs. Ghanem Fargo for the birth of a son, Wissam, on April 3, 1948.

To Mr. and Mrs. Naim Awais for a daughter born April 29 called Aida.

To Mr. Hanna Watson and Miss Narguis Farag—engaged.

To Mr. Camille Nowfel and "Dixie"—likewise engaged.

To Mr. and Mrs. Shehata Wehbe for the birth of son.

To elder and Mrs. J. S. Russell for the birth of a son, Malcolm Bruce, born April 17, 1948.

