



MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER



BEIRUT, LEBANON,

JANUARY, 1949

“ARISE, SHINE!”[☆]

By E. E. ROENFELT

ASSOCIATE SECRETARY, GENERAL CONFERENCE

Since my visit here last year, I have taken a much more intelligent interest in the Middle East than before, for the simple reason that I have had a personal acquaintance with the workers here, and of the work which I did not have before. And I want to say that I am personally very interested in the work in this Middle East Union.

I recognize that in this field you have a task that is a stupendous one; and that if it is proper for us to compare one field with another, I suppose there are few fields, if any in the world, that are so difficult in which to work, as is this one. But brethren, I do not think that this fact should in any way discourage us, for I believe that difficulties are made to be overcome, and there is no difficulty with God. I am satisfied that if we address ourselves to the task here, to which God has called us, in His own good time He will honor our efforts and stretch forth His hand here to accomplish great things.

I have again expressed myself, since coming back to this Union, that I believe the day is coming when God will do some great things in this field that He is doing in some

of the other fields of this world. I can't make myself believe that these many millions of people here in these Middle East countries, though they are Moslems, are not going to hear this message. The Scriptures tell us that the Advent message must go to every nation, and not only to every nation, but to every kindred, and every tongue, and every people. And that surely includes these Moslem peoples of these Middle Eastern countries. I believe the day will come when God will somehow stir these peoples and make them dissatisfied with what they have, and cause them to reach out for better things. And that will be the great day of our opportunity here.

But I do not believe, fellow-workers, that while we are waiting for that day we should mark time and take a casual attitude to our task. We must take our task seriously and work with an ever-increasing intensity and devotion. It is only as we do this, that God will be able to use us for the accomplishment of His purpose.

This morning there comes to my mind a text of Scripture that we have often read. It is found in the 60th chapter of Isaiah, in the first three verses of the chapter. Here the Lord through the prophet says, “Arise, shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people. But the Lord shall rise

upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”

This prophecy, which we all understand is addressed to the church of God especially in these last days mentions the fact that the time would come when darkness; gross darkness; would cover the earth and the people. Today we are living in such a time. Possibly with only the antediluvian days excepted there has never been a period in the history of this world when there has been such spiritual darkness as there is in the world today. This is a time when men and women have turned their backs on God. They do not want to recognize that they are responsible to any Being outside of themselves. The law of God is being trampled underfoot, and every thing that heretofore was recognized as upright and proper and decent and pure, is regarded today as old-fashioned, while the obscene and the impure and the indecent is being flaunted before the world as the things that are proper.

From the minds of many the thought of God has been completely obliterated and in the thoughts of others God is being entirely misrepresented. The result of this is that this is a day of great spiritual gloom and darkness. But it is in a day such as this that God has called His remnant church to pro-

* Verbatim report of the opening devotional meeting of the annual Union Committee Session held in the Union Offices, Beirut, January 20, 1949.

claim to men and women His last message, and to cause light to shine upon the universal darkness.

In this passage from Isaiah's prophecy, God speaks to the church of which you and I are the representatives. He says: "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

Of all the peoples in the world today, Seventh-day Adventists are the most privileged and the most favoured. God has given us great light, Never has there been a people upon whom so much light has been shed as has been given to us. We know and understand that which prophets and other inspired writers desired to understand. We stand today in an hour upon which the unfolding revelation of God's truth is shedding an unprecedented radiance.

This fact brings to us a tremendous responsibility. For God never favours men and women with a blessing but what with that blessing comes the responsibility of sharing it with others. And so this great Truth which God has given to us His remnant people we must share with our fellowmen.

I want to say, fellow-workers, that I believe that the time has come when the message that God has given us to proclaim must become the greatest thing in all this world. It must become the most prominent thing. It must become the most arresting thing. And I believe too, that the time has come when of all the people in this world Seventh-day Adventists should stand out before their fellowmen as the most prominent of all people, not because of what they are in themselves, but because of what they are under God in the preaching of the message. We must become a people upon whom the eyes of the world are turned, and to whom the attention of men and women everywhere must be directed. We have to become the gazing-stock of the world. God wants to make us, in this hour, a spectacle to nations and to men everywhere; not because of what we are in ourselves, but because of the message that God has put into our hands to proclaim.

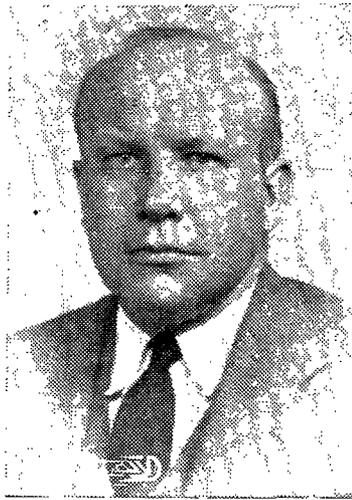
It is because of this that God addresses this message to us; "Arise, shine, for thy light is come." Now this word **ARISE**, suggests activity. It suggests service. Of course we have been engaged in the service of God these many years; but I believe that the time has come when God is calling us to greater activity, and to greater intensity in our efforts to do the work that He has called us to do.

I recognize that possibly there is no people in the world today who are so busy as are Seventh-day Adventist workers. Wherever one goes one finds our workers exceedingly busy. But while that is true, I believe that God is calling us today to be busier than

ever before about the thing that we are primarily charged to do.

It is so easy to become busy about secondary and less essential things. You remember the experience of the man mentioned in the Old Testament who was given charge of a prisoner. He permitted the prisoner to escape, and his excuse was: "While I was busy about this and that, he was gone." Now that man was busy, but he was not busy about the thing that he was supposed to be busy about. His business was to keep that prisoner, but he forgot about that, and he became busy about other things.

Brethren, our first responsibility in this world is to give men and women the light of Truth; to make them know the salvation



J. F. Cummins, Assistant Treasurer of the General Conference who attended the Annual Union Committee Session and rendered invaluable help in working out budgetary and financial problems.

of God. Our first business is to win men and women for God; to salvage souls from eternal ruin. It is in this connection that God tells us to "arise".

In the little book entitled, *A Little Time of Peace*, p. 32, there is this statement: "When the charge of indolence and slothfulness shall have been wiped away from the church, the Spirit of God will be graciously manifest" Now, as I said before, we are all busy men. But, brethren, the fact that today we do not see in the church the Spirit of God manifest in all the fullness of His power, as we should see, is an indication that we are not as active and as earnest and as intense as we should be about the things that we are in the world to do. "When the charge of indolence and slothfulness shall have been wiped away from the church, the Spirit of God will be graciously

manifested. Divine power will be revealed." This, brethren, is our greatest need today. It is not more brilliant personalities that we need in our work. It is not greater resources, material and physical, that we need. It is not a better perfected organization, or more ornate buildings and institutions that we need. What we need, first of all, is the power of God. And we are told here that when indolence and slothfulness shall have been wiped out of the church, then divine power will be revealed. "The church will see the providential working of the Lord of Hosts. The light of truth will shine forth in clear strong rays, and as in the time of the apostles, many, many souls will turn from error to truth. The earth will be lighted with the glory of the Lord. Heavenly angels have long been waiting for human agents, the members of the church, to co-operate with them in the great work to be done. We are waiting for you. So vast is the field, so comprehensive the design, that every sanctified heart will be pressed into the service as an instrument of divine power."

We are workers in the cause of God; we are leaders, and it is our responsibility, not only ourselves to be as intense and earnest as we should be about the one thing that we are in this world to do, but also to see to it that every soul in the church "is pressed into service and becomes an instrument of divine power." That is our responsibility.

In *Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 126, I read: "The judgments of God are in the earth." And how true that is. "Under the influence of the Holy Spirit we must give the message of warning that He has intrusted to us. We must give this message quickly; line upon line, precept upon precept. Men will soon be forced to great decisions, and it is our duty to see that they are given an opportunity to understand the truth, that they may take their stand intelligently on the right side. I am sure that we recognize that this is true today. Everywhere in the world questions and problems have arisen that compel men and women to make decisions. These decisions will determine their eternal destiny, and you and I and our fellow-believers the world over have been called of God to give His message quickly in order that men and women might be led to make right decisions.

The prophet Joel speaks of a time when "multitudes" would be in "the valley of decision". That is where men and women are today. It is a most solemnizing thought that we have a message to give to the people that will help them make the right decisions.

"The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers,

(continued on page 7)

PROGRESS

AND PERSECUTION

REPORTED BY MARY JO MITCHELL-HASSO

Invariably visitors like Mosul. Pastor Hilal came intending to stay a week or two; however, his visit terminated after a month. Mosul needed him. Each night he held a meeting, and sometimes he held an additional one in the afternoon. Beginning with four or five, the meetings grew to an attendance of twenty-three, each person an active participant in the discussion. As a result, ten young men requested baptism, and the baptism class is still growing steadily. Several young men were Catholic, two were Moslem, and one was Yazidi. The devil is the most tireless worker in the world, so he got busy when Truth seemed to be advancing too rapidly.

A Catholic young man decided to change to the Adventist school when he learned of the Sabbath. He was so enthusiastic over his new-found faith that he lectured to everyone he knew, with some rather surprising results. As he was having a hair cut one day he began enlightening his Catholic brother on the Sabbath question. The barber was definitely not interested, and as the young man kept talking, he became very much annoyed. Finally he brandished the razor and became so angry that he cut the young man on the upper part of his nose, just between the eyes.

His family remonstrated with him in vain, and soon his mother refused to wash his clothes for him, and went so far as to hide his Bible. He searched and searched for it, and when he found it, he read it and returned it to its hiding place so he would be able to find it there again. However, his mother thought she better try harder to teach him a lesson. He came home one day only to discover that she had sold all his clothes; all he had now was what he was wearing. Yet the devil wasn't satisfied. Policemen came to take him to be questioned concerning his "disturbing the peace" by preaching his new doctrine. After a warning they let him go. The priests continue to try to "correct" this young man's thinking by offering bribes as well as advice and doctrines. They offered to send him to Baghdad to discuss this problem with the bishop.

Another Catholic left his job with the bank when he learned the Truth, because he could not continue working there and keep the Sabbath. He came to our training school and has been there ever since, working and studying, because his family will not allow him to live at home or even come home to get his clothes as long as he believes his new religion. Anytime he wishes to return to his

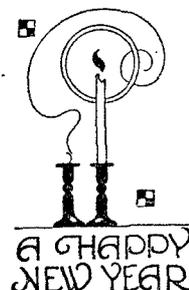
previous belief he will be welcomed home.

A Moslem became interested in the Truth through two channels—the influence of the formerly Catholic youngman, and his piano lessons at the school where he was learning hymns. He and one of his friends decided to accept Christ, realizing the importance of their step. This led them to transfer to the academy so they could keep the Sabbath. Recently one of the girls at the school told the young man's family that he was now a Christian, so his folks investigated his room and found Bibles, pamphlets, hymnals, and other books on Christianity. These they collected and burned in the *tenuur*—a circular earthen oven. On days that young man wished to attend prayer meeting in the afternoon or a Bible study in the evening, he did not return home from the time he left for school in the morning until after the meeting; for he knew that should he do so, he would not be allowed to leave the house for the rest of the day. He is a very gifted young artist, and since his conversion he has been spending considerable time drawing Christ in pastels.

The ex-Yezidi, Towfik, has excited much opposition in his village since his turn to Christianity. There are a number of Catholic boys in the training school from Bahshika, so when their people from that village learned of Towfik's change, they tried to talk the boys out of coming to the Adventist school. They went so far as to devote a whole Catholic church service to criticising the Adventists. Passing a *chaikana*—a coffee house one day, Mr. Hasso was warned by one of the men not to go out to Bahshika because the Yezidis had sworn vengeance on him. Towfik is now in the army and has been having trouble because of his refusal to work on the Sabbath. He is the first one to keep the Sabbath in the army. So far, they have taken one third of month's salary from him, and have promised him a *jelda* if he persists in his way. A *jelda* is a lash with a heavy whip across a naked body in the presence of the other men of the company. The purpose is to humiliate and shame. Before receiving a *jelda*, one must pass a physical examination by the army doctor to see if the body is able to stand it. Each succeeding time, another *jelda* is added until six are given at once. This is the maximum for a human being to bear. After Towfik returns to the camp after Sabbath, he never waits for the officer in charge to check up on him, but he goes right away and reports that he has been absent during the day. By now they are quite certain that it is hopeless to try to bend his will, and

they told him that as long as he keeps quiet, someone will mark him present so that he will not have another punishment. This arrangement does not satisfy Towfik. Next Sabbath he plans to go to the superior officer and request that a ruling be made for boys like Adventists so as to allow them their religious privileges. This is inviting trouble for himself, but he says he doesn't want any other boy to have to go through what he has. When one is determined to keep God's law no matter what hardships may come, nothing can change one's mind; and God gives strength to endure anything necessary in order to keep that vow.

God is waking Mosul up. One of the greatest dangers of the church today is that its members will limit God and underestimate what He is waiting to do. Often we pray and even accompany our prayers with fasting; then when our prayers are answered, we are surprised. Something is wrong with our faith. God is giving us here in Mosul not only everything we ask for, but also He is giving us more. We solicit the prayers of everyone in the Middle East Union that the work begun will not slacken, but will increase and grow to the glory of God.



May your Sabbath School achieve its goals in soul-winning endeavour, the study of the Word of God, and the financial support of our mission programme.

May your Missionary Volunteer Society be a hive of busyness in spiritual growth and sharing faith.

May your home missionary efforts be crowned with success.

May your Dorcas society experience an ever increasing joy in service.

May your school prove a refuge for children, a place for growth in sweetness and light.

May your medical institution tread in the footsteps of the Great Physician.

May you achieve that closer walk with God which will bring you comfort in sorrow, guidance in dilemma, and renewed strength for every day.

GOOD NEWS from IRAN

REPORTED By Mrs. C. C. CRIDER

DORCAS SOCIETY ACTIVE

During the Christmas Season the students from the Tehran Church School gave a program in the Mission building. After the program the Tehran Dorcas sold a number of things that they had been preparing for some time. The proceeds of this sale amounted to over three hundred toman. Due to the many calls we are having during this very cold season, the proceeds of the sale can be very well spent in providing more clothing for the destitute.

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VISIT of J. F. CUMMINS APPRECIATED

Elder James Cummins of the General Conference and Brother E. Cubley of the Union have spent a week with us recently, and we have greatly enjoyed the messages brought to us by these men. It is indeed an encouragement to us in this "far corner" to be visited by different ones of our brethren as they arrange to be with us and give us reports of work in other parts of the world.

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VISITORS TO TEHRAN

Several of our workers spent a short time in Tehran recently to meet with the visiting brethren. Doctor Hargreaves and his family spent about four days in the city, but had to hurry back to his clinic in Isfahan, which he reports as progressing very nicely. Pastor and Mrs. Oster and Donny also spent about a week in Tehran, and the former spoke in the churches on the Sabbath day. Pastor Sangarloo from Arak plans to spend about one week here. We are always happy to see these folk when they are able to come in.

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TRAINING SCHOOL NEWS

During the time that Elder Boynton was attending the Educational meeting in Beirut Elder Kubrock taught his classes in the Training School.

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INGATHERING GOAL REACHED

We reached our Union Harvest Ingathering goal by the first of December, and with the help of God expect considerably more before the end of the year.

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D. V. KUBROCK RECUPERATES

Elder Kubrock is very cheerfully recuperating from his illness, and feels that God is truly blessing in his recovery after being ill such a long time.

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REZIAH APPEALS for WORKER

Sister Nanajan Badal writes from Rezieh where she is spending the winter, that there is a great interest in that area in our Truth, and once again appeals that a permanent worker be sent there.

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BLESSINGS of WEEK of PRAYER

Our Annual Week of Prayer was held from Dec. 11-18. On Sabbath December 18 our Sacrifice offering was taken. We do not have reports in from our churches in other cities yet, but the Week of Prayer services in Tehran were very well attended by our different language groups met together. The reading each evening was given in Farsee. Let us pray that the Spirit of prayer which has blessed us during this week might continue on throughout the New Year.

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IRAN STUDENTS ARRIVE SAFELY

A group of young people left by plane for Beirut a few days ago, where they hope to take a boat to America. Saveh and Anjel Shirvanian, David Khanoian, Luba and Zina Beitzakhar were among the number. Their departure brought both joy and sadness. It was hard to see them go so far away, but they had waited many months for the time when it would be possible to go.

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K. OSTER CREATES OPENINGS

Brother Oster writes from Shiraz of an interesting experiment that he has been trying lately. He and several others have determined not to let a single day pass that they do not ask someone to read to them a portion of Scripture. Usually, he says they have no difficulty in making an opening because they carry a small Bible with them constantly, and that in itself awakens comment among those they meet, thus opening the way for many interesting and beneficial discussions of the Word of God. He has also been planning experiments for the local schools illustrating the effect of nicotine on the body. Please remember in your prayers these folk who are working so diligently for the Lord in isolated areas.

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ELDER C. C. CRIDER,
PRESIDENT of the
IRAN MISSION

VOICE of PROPHECY

Baghdad, Feb. 22, 1949.

To the Director of the Voice of Prophecy School, — Greetings.

I was in the Dar-as-Salam Hospital in Baghdad, and during my stay there, I received every care and kindness from the doctors and nurses, for which my tongue fails to find the proper expressions of appreciation and thanks.

I was astonished at the high and noble spirit shown by the hospital staff, and what pleased me most, and many others of my country-men also, was the magnificent efforts put forth to save the sick.

Before going to the hospital, I held many mistaken ideas of the Seventh-day Adventists, due, of course, to my ignorance of them, and to my listening to false insinuations against you. But now I have been enlightened, and have learned something of the truth about Adventists, through the nursing staff of the hospital, and my reading while I was there. I want to know more of the Truth through your Society, that I might hold back the stream of propaganda against you put out by other Societies. I must not forget, in this connection, to mention my thanks and admiration of our Brother, Mr. Hilmy Barba- wy, for his good dealings and fine services rendered in the hospital.

I enclose a request for registration as a student in your school, and please accept my best respects.

Your sincere servant,

(Signed)

Antranik Ousikian,
Ashar, Bagdad.

BLESSINGS of the WEEK of PRAYER

BEIRUT JUNIOR ACADEMY

REPORTED BY Miss E. DAVIES,
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION, MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE

"Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus."

This was the theme song of the week of prayer in the Beirut school. Each morning these words in the Arabic translation started the service of the morning program. The program for the week of prayer had been well organized by the headmaster, Mr. Adeeb Fargo. At eight o'clock all of the children from the fourth grade through the eighth met in the church. The smaller children were having their own worship in their rooms, with a different teacher in charge each morning. At the end of the morning devotional service the children separated for prayer bands. Two students from the college, Miss Alice Zaitoon and Mr. Riad Bitar, and Miss Sarah Ghazal and Miss Angel Dicran of Beirut assisted the teachers in leading out in these bands.

On Monday and Tuesday mornings we discussed what prayer was and the conditions of answered prayer. The band leaders reported a very good response in the bands. Nearly every child took part in the prayer service. To realize the full importance of this one must know, that from about eighty children in these four grades, we have six Adventist children. The rest are Druses, Moslems, and Christians from various sects.

On Wednesday the subject was obedience. At the end of the service a call was made for those who would promise to obey God to stand. All of the children stood. In one of the bands that morning the leader asked the children if they would obey God if their parents didn't want them to. These children replied, "Even if our parents beat us we will do what God wants us to do."

Thursday the subject was faith. The stress was laid most fully on faith strong enough to enable us to do the will of God in spite of obstacles. The children were told that I would be at the school all of that day,



and that any, who wished to, could come to Mr. Fargo's office to talk to me. It was fully pointed out that this was only for those who really wanted to come. Both Mr. Fargo and I were surprised at the response. Over sixty children came to the office before the day was over.

I wish that all of the readers of the Messenger could have talks with those children. The requests and the responses were varied. The report cards for the mid-term had just come out. Many of the children asked us to pray that they would do better in their school work. I suggested that they pray each evening before starting their studies. One girl told me that she had never done that until the night before, and that she had known her lesson that morning. There were many who asked for prayers of sick relatives. We have a large number of refugee children from Palestine. Several of these, with tears running down their faces, asked that we would pray that they might go back home. I tried to point out that it might be that for some reason God wanted them to be in Beirut. Each one was willing to pray that if it was God's will they might go home, but if not that He would bless them where they were. I could not help but believe that God was using this means to bring them in contact with this message. A Druse girl asked us to pray that she might know how to become a Christian, and that God would protect her as she tried to serve Him.

There were a number of answers to the question that I asked them as to how they knew that Jesus had come into their hearts. Some said that they knew by faith. Others said that they knew that Jesus was in their hearts because He wouldn't let them do the bad things that they had been doing. One little boy quite honestly expressed the struggle that he was having by saying, "Jesus came into my heart, but He didn't stay all of the time." I asked him what made him believe that. His reply was that he had said a bad

word once, and that he couldn't have done that with Jesus in his heart.

On Friday there was a call to consecration. All of the children responded. Then we asked all of the children who wished to join a study class, to learn how to obey God, to come forward. Again every child responded. It is of further interest to note that the children are still attending the class. It is not a baptismal class, but we hope that from this group a class can be formed later. At the end of the meeting the children reverently left the church singing the words of their theme song.

I hope that we all will remember these children and their teachers in prayer, that this school may become a real soul winning agency.

AMMAN CHURCH, TRANS-JORDAN

REPORTED BY ELDER G. D. KEOUGH,
DIRECTOR, VOICE of PROPHECY

The Week of Prayer, Dec. 11-18, 1948, was a time of refreshing to the Amman church. The weather was not the best, but the attendance at every meeting was full, in spite of the weather. The main topic of the Readings—Asking for Rain, in The Time of the Latter Rain—was timely, and the response in prayers and testimonies was gratifying. At the Friday evening meeting every one of the members testified. There was confession of faults, and a re-consecration to God, which we hope will bear good fruit.

The last meeting, on Sabbath morning, the church partook of the Lord's Supper. It was a solemn occasion. Br. Najeeb Haddad was chosen and ordained as elder for the coming year, and Br. Yusuf Haddad was elected deacon. Also two deaconesses were chosen, Sisters Miryam Haddad and Miss Tamam. We wish them the Lord's blessing and guidance as they take up their duties.

It was a pleasure to me to visit Amman, after some six years of absence, and to find the brethren well and zealous for God and His truth. When I saw them in the meetings, and heard their prayers and testimonies, I thanked God, and took courage.

The school in Amman was a treat to see. There was order and neatness, and the ninety pupils looked clean and winsome. Miss Hana and her staff of teachers are doing an excellent job, which is sure to bear acceptable fruit in this world and the next.

It was good to meet Br. Musa Azer again, and to visit with him and his wife and son. He is teaching the older boys, and looking after the church services. The work in Transjordan gives promise of expansion, if we can do for it what should be done, without too much delay.

★ PUSHTU PUSH I

THE EXPERIENCES of MESSRS. KENNETH
OSTER AND GROVER C. WINSLOW AS THEY
PIONEERED A TRIP INTO AFGHANISTAN

REPORTED BY GROVER C. WINSLOW

After much work and waiting, our long-sought-for opportunity has come to visit Afghanistan, land of legend and history. We have the necessary visas which will enable us to journey across this country, long closed to the Christian missionary, to join hands at least temporarily with our brethren in Pakistan and perhaps India. This Afghanistan is a land of Sunni Moslems. We have heard and read of their bandits, their fierce opposition to all but Moslems, and many other things, some fantastic and some logical, which lead us to face the trip with mingled feelings of wonder and expectation.

We know not what different means of conveyance we will have to use before our journey ends, but we pray that God will lead us by His providences as He has in procuring for us our visas. Our first transportation is by bus. And what a bus! The aisles have disappeared, filled with baggage. Our foot-space has disappeared, filled with our own suitcases, partly under our seats and partly where our feet should be. Our "seats" are reserved, so we wait outside where it is cooler. The load of baggage, etc., mounts higher and higher atop the bus until it seems that it will never clear the cross-beams of the station entrance. There is much "shuluk" (confusion) as many of the passengers argue and try to force their way past the "shagert" (flunky) into the bus, but the "shuluk" really begins when they are allowed to board the bus. Such shoving and shouting! The seats are filled, the aisle-filled already with baggage, serves for still others! There must be nearly forty passengers in this bus which is supposed to have a capacity of twenty five. Time for us to seek now-diminished seat space. Forty wiggling people begin to throw off considerable heat, and we become more and more uncomfortable as one thing after another delays our start. But anything for this trip to Afghanistan!

Ab! Our bus is moving! Just four feet, then a stop to allow one more passenger aboard! Once again we are on the move. A glance at our watches tells us that it is seven in the evening already. We get out of the station and across the street. Another stop! Still another passenger! That just has to be the last one! Finally, we are on our way out of Meshed. But no! The bus once more stops. The driver sniffs, then excitedly orders us to get down out of the bus

quickly. Now we can see the flames as the motor has caught fire. But it is extinguished even before we can squirm and wiggle our way out of our seats. God cares for His own and allows no unnecessary delays to those who are on His errands. This time, we are really on our way, with our knees almost up to our chests and our weight consequently concentrated on one small area of our nether extremities. One can easily discover the number of tea houses along the way by counting the number of stops the bus makes, but we are thankful for these frequent opportunities to straighten out the kinks in our bodies.

Torbat-e-Jom is a town two-thirds of the way to the border and we learn that we are to spend the remainder of the night, from two A.M. on, there. The night is clear and cool, almost too cool for our bed rolls, and we settle down for what we think will be at least a four-hour sleep. We have underestimated the religious fervor of our fellow-passengers, pilgrims returning home after their pilgrimage to the important Moslem shrine in Meshed. At four o'clock, shortly after daybreak, they are astir, busy at their ceremonial washings at a water tank a scant thirty feet away from our cots. After a vain attempt at further sleep, we too get up, wash, have worship, then breakfast, and pack up our bedding for the next big leg of our journey. Leaving our baggage trustfully in the care of the "shagert", we set out to see the town's only sight, the tomb of the Sheikh Jom for the town is named. The place is in ill repair and not even worth a picture. On the way back to the garage we see a camel train surrounded by a crowd. Something must be up, so we go over to satisfy our curiosity. We arrive just in time to see them take a camel calf from a saddlebag. It is the size of a cattle calf and just as wobbly. As it drinks hungrily from its mother, a magnificent white camel, we learn that the calf is only a few hours old, born the night before. Then a bearded Afghani steps up and helps himself, milking into his cupped hand. Someone brings him a shallow bowl and he milks a little into it. He offers it to others, but they are either afraid or have tasted camel's milk before, for they all, without exception, refuse. This is worth a picture. A policeman clears the crowd away, and, between sly kicks by mama who hears the bleat of baby as he is forced back to his food supply for the picture, we take a picture as both baby camel and bearded man are busily milking. A boy comes run-

ning to tell us our bus is waiting, and we are once more on our way. Brother Oster is the linguist and finds many opportunities to talk to the passengers of spiritual things. God help us to witness aright for Him on this trip!

Two hours later finds us in the border town of Yusufabad. Other friends from Meshed, journeying to Kabul by private car, have been gone a scant hour and a half before our arrival. Another merchant friend exchanges our money for us and we are ready to enter another country. The customs chief at Yusufabad, a well-educated man who speaks a little English, is our kind and courteous host while we await the evening departure of the mail truck for Herat. How tasty is the palo dinner. Palo is one of the more tasty of Middle East dishes composed of rice, cooked so well that each grain is a separated unit, topped by delicious sauces of various kinds.

These Afghan trucks are unique among motor vehicles. The body and cab are built in one unit as is the case with moving vans, with the full width cab accommodating four or five persons. The unique features is the panelling of the cab exterior and the extremely elaborate decorating on both cab and truck body. The cab doors almost invariably have two crossed Afghan flags painted on them. One feels as if he were travelling within an intricate Mosaic of wood. From here on we will travel mostly at night, as the days are too hot. We do not fully realize this until we arrive in Herat. We start out in the evening, on the leg of our trip that will take us out of Iran and into Afghanistan. We wonder what our fate will be at the hands of these sharply speaking Afghans. Certainly, we have heard enough stories to make us wonder and perhaps even fear. Yet in the past few hours our fellow-passenger, a Herati, has been assuring us of the absolute safety of Afghanistan's roads. Brother Winslow wonders and hopes for the truth of the man's claims, after his hold-up experience in Iran. In the back of the truck is an Iranian woman who is married to an Afghani. She is being escorted to the order by a detachment of troops headed back to their border post. At this post we mount the steps to the second-floor office in an old mud building which is slowly eroding away. We are almost swept off the outside staircase by the fierce desert wind. A few miles further on along a very rough road, which is in reality only a desert track, we come to the concrete marker which indicates the border of Afghanistan, one of the few countries still prohibiting Christian mission work, and into which no Adventist missionary has previously entered. What a thrill we get as we stand there in the night on the border of this long-closed land. How soon will God open it to the entrance of His last-day message?

(To be continued)

* Pushtu is the prevailing language of Eastern and Southern Afghanistan.

ARISE, SHINE!*(continued from page 2)*

of speech the truth of God for this time. That word suggests that God is desirous of giving to this world a revelation of truth in human life and experience. In other words, He is calling upon His people to be the vehicle through which He can give to men and women a living representation of the truth.

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world." Before He left this world, speaking to His disciples, He said: "Ye are the light of the world." You and I as Christians stand in the stead of Christ in this world. As He was the light, so we are to be the light, reflecting and radiating the light of Christ. "Christ has made every provision that His church shall be a transformed body illumined with the Light of the world, possessing the glory of Emmanuel. It is His purpose that every Christian shall be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. He desires that we shall reveal His own joy in our lives." *Prophets and Kings*, p. 720

So you see, brethren, that it is our responsibility not only to go forth to preach; that is a comparatively simple thing to do. It is easy to talk to men and women about the truth that we hold intellectually, but it is an altogether different thing to reveal the truth in our lives. We have been called in this hour to be revelations of the Lord Jesus Christ. The life that men saw lived in Palestine 2,000 years ago they are to see lived again all over this world in the people of God. I wonder whether people see that life lived in us. Do they see Christ revealed in us as we talk to them and endeavour to direct them to the way of salvation? "True character is not shaped from without and put on. It radiates from within. If we wish to direct others in the path of righteousness the principles of righteousness must be enshrined in our hearts. Our profession of faith may proclaim the theory of religion, but it is our practical piety that holds forth the word of truth." *Desire of Ages*, p. 307. I want you to notice that. The world does not need a theory of religion; there are already too many theories. The world today wants to see a practical piety that reveals the truth.

You remember that Jesus said to His disciples: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you. ... By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another." We are apt to think that if we present sound and logical arguments we can convince men and women that we have the truth. But, friends, by that means we may touch their minds, but not their hearts.

I remember reading the story years ago

of a certain Christian minister who had made contacts with him, having in mind to win him to Christ. But this infidel was a very clever man who had the ability to engage in very subtle reasoning, with the result that each time the two men met, the minister retired in defeat. He could not successfully meet the arguments of this man. That happened again and again. Finally the minister determined to study many books on the question and to arm himself with better arguments with which to meet his opponent. For weeks and months he studied. Finally, feeling that he was ready to meet the infidel again, he sought his company and entered into a discussion. But again he was defeated. When he recognized his defeat, tears began to flow down his cheeks, and he said to the infidel: "I am sorry. I came here hoping to win you to Christ, but in this I have failed. When the infidel saw the minister's attitude he said: "I want to become a Christian. I will become a Christian now if you will show me the way." It was not the minister's arguments that won the infidel. It was the revelation of Christ in the minister that touched his heart and led him to accept Jesus.

So it must be with us today. "Our profession of faith may proclaim the theory of religion, but it is our practical piety that holds the word of truth. The consistent life, the holy conversation, the unswerving in-

**NEW TITLE DESIGN**

The new title design for *Middle East Messenger* is the work of Elder S. W. Johnson, Head of the Vocational Education Department of Middle East College, to whom we express our thanks and appreciation.

**MORNING WATCH CALENDARS**

At the beginning of the year the Union M.V. Department received a hundred copies of the Morning Watch Calendar for 1949. Forty of these were taken by students and faculty of the Middle East College and the rest were soon taken by Union Committee members both for personal use and for our young people in different parts of the Union.

The book that provides a commentary for each morning's text in the Calendar is entitled, *My Lord and I*, by H. M. Tippet. It is a book well worth having. It is available in a cloth binding at 90 cents or in a de luxe binding in a special gift box a \$1.35. Why not order a copy right away? You will be glad to have it as an aid in your daily meditations.

tegrity, the active, benevolent spirit, the godly example, these are the mediums through which light is conveyed to the world."

"Not merely in the words you say,
Not only in your deeds confessed,
But in the most unconscious way
Is Christ confessed.

Is it the beaific smile,
The holy light upon your brow?
O no! I felt His presence
While you laughed just now.

God desires that every Christian should be so fully possessed by the Lord Jesus that he reveals the Lord Jesus whether in the church, the prayer meeting, the sabbath school, in Christian service, or out on the playing field enjoying some form of recreation. How is it with us? Are men and women feeling the presence of Christ in our very contact with them?

For me it was not the Truth you taught,
To you so clear, to me so dim;
But when you came, you brought a
sense of Him.

Personally I long for that kind of an experience as a Christian and as a worker in the cause of God. That is the kind of service to which God is calling us today. May the Lord bless you.

MIDDLE EAST
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THE SCHOOL AMONG THE PINES

By Mrs. Ida N. Hasso

Come with me as I walk through pines of various sizes. My path is stony and slippery from the early morning rain, but the air is pure and invigorating. All is quiet until I see the door of the little white house open. It is the time of recess and what a wonderful time the children are having. While I am coming nearer, I hear the laughter increasing and the whole group forming a ring around Roy. He had been caught and has to be "it", which does not happen very often. Friendly Mrs. King invites me in. At first I see the eleven desks in a row. They are large and painted green and have ample space for school articles and lunches. The chairs are of different sizes, suited to the height of the child. My next glance goes to two charts hanging on the wall. One of them has stars in rows. Each star is for a memory verse learned by heart. That reminds me of the beautiful Bible textbooks and workbooks our children had brought home, I wish that every child in our schools would be the happy possessor of such a book. The other chart has little two-page books and my !-some rows are very long. Each booklet stands for a book read by the children. Certainly this is an excellent way to instil in the child a love for reading. I had seen some of these pretty books and would like to suggest that they would be available to all our academy students.

The bell rings and in come the children, rosy-cheeked and eager. Mrs. King holds a paper in her hand and says: Who can hear this dropping to the floor? Classes have

to be given in five different grades which increases the difficulty of teaching. They learn to read and write and spell and do their arithmetic as well. The older ones have science and other subjects while all get a good amount of religious instruction. The kind manner of their teacher with the help of their work-books will instil in their minds correct conceptions of our heavenly Father. They are taught to put it into practice and a happy spirit prevails in the class room. All love their teacher as she is giving herself for this task of doing her share to make them useful in the work of the Lord.

This year Arabic was introduced. There are several students who will receive the Teacher's Training Diploma and Tony says: "They learn on our heads." The Arabic is graded to suit the needs of the children.

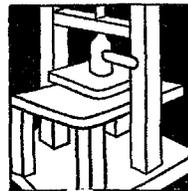
The curriculum in this ideal school is completed with music lessons from Mrs. Cubley. I did not see them at work learning their DO-re-mi, but I have heard them singing several times. At Christmas they presented us with a very well worked-out program. I remember the following lines from their school song:

We have happy times of fun each day
As we go about our play;
Our characters are growing too
As we practise the golden rule.

We love our training school,
We love our training school,
We'll n'er forget thee tho' we roam
The whole world through.

students for the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School Lessons. This will establish them in our Message, and interest still others in preparing for Christ's soon return.

E.L.B.

MIDDLE
EAST
PRESS

"At various points in missionary lands publishing houses must be established. To give character to the work, to be centers of effort and influence, to attract the attention of the people, to develop the talents and capabilities of the believers, to unify the new churches, and to second the efforts of the workers-----"

White, Test. for Church, p. 145

In harmony with the above quotation. the Review & Herald, Pacific Press, and Southern Publishing Associations, have, through the General Conference Committee, allocated to the Middle East, sufficient funds to buy a cylinder press that will print 16 book pages at a time, and also one or two job presses for smaller work.

But we must raise the money to purchase the building site and erect the building to house these presses. This will take approximately:

LL. 15,000.00 for the land
20,000.00 for the building

LL. 35,000.00 Total

Believing that this is a project in which all our people will want to have a part, the Union Committee at a recent session, voted that in all our churches we "present on April 9, the urgent needs for a building to house the printing equipment recently donated by the publishing houses in the United States", and to take a special "offering on April 16" for this purpose.

May the Lord give us all the Spirit of liberality as we give our offering on April 9, so that this press might be built during 1949.

E.L.B.

FROM HERE & THERE

We have received a very interesting letter from Brother T. A. Zachary, of Fresno, California. He says in part:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the Armenian Sabbath School Quarterlies, also the *Middle East Messenger*. Oh, how I enjoyed those items of news about Iran, especially when I noticed that new buildings were going to be erected in Julfa, Isfahan, my birth place; I sigh for not being actively at work in Julfa.

The work of the Armenian Song Book has fallen into my lap, and I am feverishly engaged in completing a very handsome Song book, which will be very profitable to all who can possess a copy.

The progress of God's work in the Middle East is wonderful, and I wish all of you a marvellous success for 1949.

Certainly it is very noticeable that the angels of God are holding the four corners of the earth till His children are Sealed by the everlasting Seal of God.

May God bless you all. Salams to all the folk who know me.

Yours very sincerely,

T. A. Zachary



"E" DAY



Realizing that in a concerted effort there is inspiration and encouragement to all who participate, it was voted at our recent annual Union Committee Meeting that we designate March 27 as a day on which to begin our Spring Evangelistic effort. We will call it "E" Day for EVANGELISM. Of course a number of meetings are already in progress but this day, we shall especially pray for their success and do all that we possibly can to cooperate in sounding the Loud Cry of the Third Angel's Message.

Let every series of public meetings serve as an opportunity to sign up more and more