



MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER



BEIRUT, LEBANON,

MARCH, 1949

Evangelism — Giving the Judgment-hour Message

W. H. Branson

DURING the lifetime of the Lord's messenger many stirring and startling messages came to this people regarding their responsibility in giving the mighty judgment-hour message to the world through public evangelism. These messages apply definitely and directly to our time and work. They are to us—the workers and members of the Advent church. To fail to heed them would be perilous both to the church and to the world.

The following are a few of the appeals the Lord has sent to us :

“If our ministers realize how soon the inhabitants of world are to be arraigned before the judgment-seat of God, to answer for the deeds done in the body, how earnestly they would work together with God to present the truth ! How untiring they would labor to advance God's cause in the world, proclaiming in word and deed, ‘The end of all things is at hand !’ 1 Peter 4:7.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 149.

“Work with all your might to save your own souls and the souls of others. It is no time now to cry peace and safety. It is not silver-tongued orators that are needed to give this message. The truth in all its pointed severity must be spoken. Men of action are needed,—men who will labor with earnest, ceaseless energy for the purifying of the church and the warning of the world.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 5, p. 187.

“We have no time for dwelling on matters that are of no importance. Our time should be given to proclaiming the last message of mercy to a guilty world.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 8, p. 36.

“God has called this people to give to the world the message of Christ's soon coming. We are to give to men the last call to the gospel feast, the last invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Thousands of places that have not heard the call are yet to hear it. Many who have not given the message are yet to proclaim it. Again I appeal to our young men : Has not God called upon you to sound this message ?”—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 412.

“A great work is to be accomplished; broader plans must be laid; a voice must go forth to arouse the nations.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 5, p. 187.

“I deeply feel the necessity of our making more thorough and earnest efforts to bring the truth before the world. In the last vision given me, I was shown that we were not doing one twentieth part of the work we should for the salvation of souls.”—*Life Sketches*, p. 211.

— *China Division Reporter*

"NOT BY MIGHT... BUT BY MY SPIRIT"

By B. J. MONDICS

President, Turkey Mission

Verbatim report of a Devotional talk given by Elder Mondics at the Annual Union Committee Meetings, 1949.

"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years." Judges 6:1.

With these few words are recorded the history of the rise and fall of the Children of Israel. Before this time they were servants, and God delivered them and promised them a land in which to dwell. There were certain conditions upon which the prosperity of the Children of Israel depended. They were to prepare themselves for God that they might establish a nation that would rightly represent Him among the leading nations of the world.

When they were entering the land, God told them that they must drive out the inhabitants thereof, that they should all be destroyed. The Children of Israel did drive out many of the inhabitants of the people of Canaan. But there is a sad record here which says that the Children of Israel were strong, then they placed these peoples under tribute, and instead of driving them out, they merely used them as a source of income. Now that was a temporary income, for a little later, we find as in the case of the Midianites that they grew stronger than the Children of Israel, and when Israel did evil "in the sight of the Lord," the Lord "delivered them into the hand of Midian." At this particular time, it was only seven years. Before this time, there were periods of ten years, more or less, when Israel was in bondage.

Now, Israel faced this problem which they had with these heathen nations, but there was nothing that they could do, with their physical strength to drive them out, because they did evil, and God delivered them into the hands of the Midianites. As long as their relationship to God was of this nature, in which they worshipped other gods and false gods then the Lord their God could not deliver them from the enemy. And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites. When the harvest was ready to be reaped the Midianites would come down from the hill and raid the fields and take all of the harvest, so that the Children of Israel had neither cattle nor sheep nor the harvest of their own fields.

"And the Children of Israel cried unto the Lord". Now that is not strange. When

a person is in difficulty he generally cries to somebody. In this particular instance the Children of Israel remembered that the Lord was their helper, and so as a last resort they called upon Him. The Children of Israel continually warred against the Midianites, but to no avail.

There was a man by the name of Joash who already had sacrificed or lost several of his sons in this struggle. There was a son, whose name was Gideon. "And the angel of the Lord appeared and said unto him, The Lord is with thee thou mighty man of valor." With these words, the Lord chose Gideon to go forth and deliver Israel from the Midianites.

Now Gideon knew that he had a great problem, for the Midianites, we are told, were as grasshoppers for multitude, and their camels were without number as the sand by the seaside for multitude. And Gideon was a man who was courageous. He believed in going after the problem immediately. But before he did that he asked the Lord for Divine guidance and direction. And the Lord gave him that guidance.

The record says that the Lord appeared to him, and Gideon, being very hospitable prepared food for Him, and it was a sacrifice which the Lord accepted. Now Gideon attempted to call the people together to war against the Midianites, but he had one task which he was to accomplish before he went forth to battle. That is recorded in verse 25 of chapter 6. "And it came to pass the same night that the Lord said unto him, that is unto Gideon, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of 7 years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it."

Here Israel had wandered so far from God that its leading citizens had altars to Baal and worshipped in the groves. And before God would be with them, God said they must prepare the way by throwing down these false altars, and cut down the grove. Now as long as the false altar remained, the Lord could do nothing for them, for they formerly trusted in these false Gods. Now God said, "And build an altar unto the Lord thy God on the top of this rock in the ordered place, and take the second bullock and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down." "And Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord had said unto him. And so it was. Because he feared his father's household

and the men of the city that he could not do it by day, but he did it by night."

Now Gideon displayed wisdom. He knew that if he went to this altar of Baal in the daytime and just began to throw it down, that there would be trouble, and the men of the village would want to take his life. And so he went by night, and he tore down the altar of Baal, and built an altar to God. And then it was that God could go forth with him to lead the armies of victory against the Midianites. Now as I said, "The Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the East lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude. And their camels were without number as the sand by the seaside for multitude."

When Gideon called his troops together together, there were 32,000 men who responded from approximately 5 tribes. These 32,000 men looked like a mere handful among the countless peoples in the valley, the Midianites and the Amalekites. But the Lord told Gideon that he was to go forth and to lead those men to victory. And so Gideon went and he took His troops and as he began to march toward the brook the Lord said to him, "Tell the people, proclaim it to them, that if there are any here who are afraid they had better go back home." "You have too many people."

Now that was a strange thing for Gideon. He was already frightened. It was already a law that any man who built a home and did not live in it was automatically dismissed from the army, or any man who had married, just married, he must go home, or any man who had planted a vineyard and had not tasted the fruit of it, he was dismissed from the army. That was a law. But Gideon did not announce that law nor proclaim it, because he felt that 32,000 men were already a mere handful. And so as Gideon went forth, he did as the Lord had said, and 22,000 men turned back. Now he had 10,000 against a multitude that were like grasshoppers.

Gideon then decided that he would march, and he began. He came by the side of the little brook and the Lord said, Gideon, you still have too many men. I will tell you whom you shall choose. And Gideon gave the order to march. And to all intents and purposes the army was to go forth against the Midianites, but as they came to the water many of the men knelt down and began to drink from the brook. But only a small group of those men took up the water and lapped it in their mouths as they were going along without stopping. And the Lord said, This little group of 300, they will be the ones that I will use. The others may go home.

I suppose that military speaking that was a hard decision for Gideon to make. 300

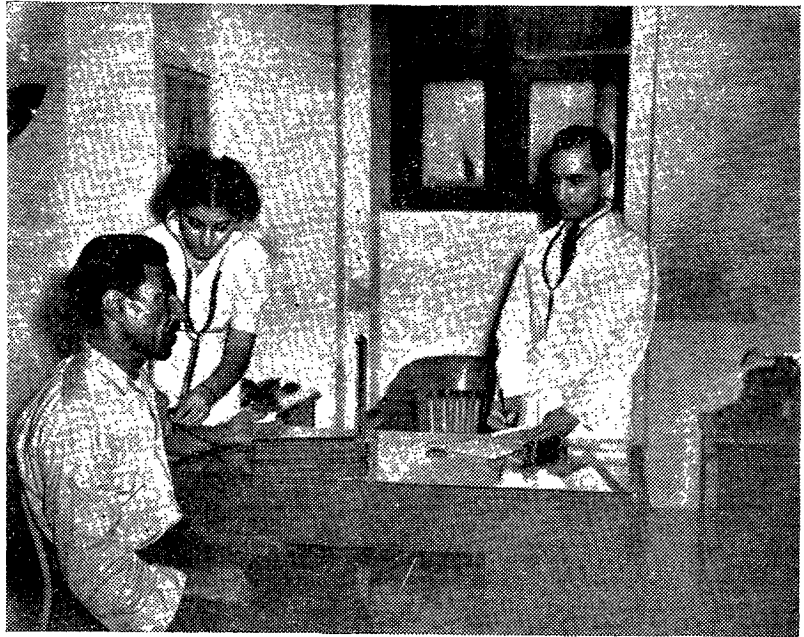
EXTRACTS FROM THE DAR-ES-SALAAM HOSPITAL REPORT — 1948

During the year 1948 we admitted 347 patients to the in-patient department of the hospital. There were 83 major operations, and 34 minor operations.

In the out-patient department 3,281 new patients were admitted, and a total of 7,685 patient visits made. On a six day week we saw an average of 22 patients per day.

The physiotherapy department is under the regulation of Brother and Sister B. Farnstrom. They have done an excellent work in building it up to its present completeness.

Miss Evelyn Welch is doing an excellent work of heading up the nursing services. We need more foreign nurses for teaching and to supervise the work in the hospital.



against the multitude of people. But God was the Captain and so Gideon listened to His voice. And the Lord comforted Gideon by telling him that he should go down and he would hear something that would give him courage even in the camp of Midian. And he did. And as he returned, he said to his 300 men, "Arise, for the Lord hath delivered into your hands the hosts of Midian." So they went, and Gideon gave them a trumpet, and an earthen vessel, with a torch in it. Then they went forth, and Gideon displayed his military wisdom by putting them at different sections surrounding the camp of Midian. He said, "When I blow the trumpet and break my pitcher all of you do the same." And as they went down there, and Gideon placed his 300 men in three groups in different sections of the camp of Midian, then it was at night that he gave the command, and broke their pitchers revealing the light, and shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

Now the Bible doesn't say that they had swords in their hands, does it? It says that in one hand they had a trumpet and in the other, an earthen vessel in which was a light or a torch. They were not prepared for battle, for military war but the Lord delivered them, and as soon as that happened the Midianites arose and began to shout and cry for their lives, and they fled, they killed each other on the way. And the Bible tells us that in that one battle 120,000 troops of the Midianites lost their lives. That is 400 who lost their lives for every one of Gideon's men who had not even a sword, but merely a trumpet, and a little torch. It was because the Lord was with them.

And I have sometimes thought that we here in the Middle East have a similar situation. We are only a handful, but there is

a great multitude here in the Middle East for whom we must work to win. We are told that "the Lord can work most effectually through those who are most sensible to their insufficiency, and who will rely upon Him as their Leader and source of strength. He will make them strong by uniting their weakness to His might, and wise, by connecting their ignorance with His wisdom."

That is the source of Gideon's strength. That is the source of our strength. "The simple act of blowing a blast upon the trumpet by the army of Joshua around Jericho and by leading a little band about the host of Midian was made effectual by the power of God, to overthrow the might of His enemies. The most complete systems that men have ever devised apart from the power and wisdom of God will prove a failure, while the most unpromising will succeed when divinely appointed and entered upon with humility and faith. Trusting in God and obedience to His will are as essential to the Christian in his warfare as it was to Gideon, to Joshua in their warfare. By His repeated manifestations of His power in behalf of Israel, God would lead them to have faith in Him. He is just as willing to work in the efforts of His people now and to accomplish great things through them."

So we find here that Gideon conquered because the Lord was with him. We are told the same thing. We don't need cannons or bombers in our work, for the weapons of our warfare are not human, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Our warfare is a spiritual warfare, and God Himself has promised that in the last days He is going to call a second time a people out of the Middle East.

Now, God is going to set His hand again the second time in these lands. And it is our

task so to relate ourselves to God that He can use in this work which He is accomplishing here. There are victories to be gained here in the Middle East, and I believe that we too, will do well, if before this meeting closes that we have a special meeting, in which we can get together and ask the Lord for Divine leading and for help and for understanding to know how He can accomplish this work in these lands, and that we should encourage and help one another and cooperate in the work which we have to do.

We have this work to do, and we must work together. We must cooperate together and do the work as Gideon and his band of men accomplished a great work for God in his day. It is "not by might nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." And I believe that we are living in the last days, that in a little while we may not be able to hold meetings, that the end is right upon us, and that the work which we have to do must be done now. Years ago, I remember when I was a little boy, I read the book *Early Writings*, and remember reading it several times, and every time I read it I thought I would never grow up to go to school, to college, because I felt that the end was near. But it is so much nearer now than it was then, and our work is yet unfinished.

And so I feel that we are to meet together and pray together that the Lord will help us in our own individual lives that we may take away everything that will hinder us in accomplishing the task that we have to do. This work will go forth and will triumph gloriously in these difficult lands. We shall have all eternity to celebrate our victories, but we have only a few more moments before sunset to win them, for "the night cometh when no man can work."

VOICE OF PROPHECY LESSONS

SILENT PREACHERS ACCOMPLISHING

A GREAT WORK FOR GOD



By **SELIM NOUJEIME**



I count it a privilege to be working in this branch of the Lord's Service. Without question the Voice of Prophecy is one of the most efficient agencies ordained of God for the finishing of this Glorious Message.

From the Mission House in Mousseitbeh, where the Voice of Prophecy is located, we are daily sending messengers to every Arabic speaking part of the Middle East Union. These messengers can mingle among friends and foes without being hindered in fulfilling their task. It is where one of our workers was once denied the right to preach the gospel that the Voice of Prophecy messengers are now taking the gospel. We have in that district many students who are showing much interest. They are sending in their lessons regularly and we hope that many of them will step forward and accept the truth.

These messengers are silent preachers ready to be called upon at any time. Sometimes the person is not in the mood of receiving the message either from lack of time or a feeling of indisposition. These Voice of Prophecy lessons are read in the time when the person is willing and happy to find out what they contain of sound principles and Biblical Doctrines. They excel in that they are dynamic in effect yet inoffensive in presentation. A religious talk is oftentimes in the nature of a debate and whatever good and strong proofs you bring to your debater, he will never acknowledge defeat, but rather assumes an antagonistic spirit towards the truth presented.

I am not trying to minimize the work of evangelists in this talk but rather trying to show the importance of this new scheme of preaching the gospel to all parts of the world in a very simple, inexpensive, yet sure way.

Christ did not tell his disciples more of truth than they could accept, and these lessons are set up in such a way that they bring the truth gradually to the enrollees. Every lesson adds new light to the seeker of truth. Many people like to know what we

believe, but are content with a superficial knowledge. They do not want to spend time finding the bases of our truth; they are content to know the differences between us and other denominations. Tithing and Sabbath keeping, for example, are not practical duties in the eyes of the people. Our silent preachers tell the enrollees all about these convincing truths, and they in turn, once they are convinced are proud to speak about the new Doctrines they have discovered as a result of their own efforts. We are daily receiving testimonies which show the interest of hundreds of these students. It is cheering to read such testimonies.

Let me give you an example of such testimonies, received from a high school student: "Since I began to read your lessons, I felt as if the Holy Spirit was working in me. But on the other hand the devil is tempting my soul. Please pray for me that I may be firm in the truth of the Bible."

The Voice of Prophecy lessons are arranged in such a simple way that even non-Bible readers can easily understand them, and at the end of every lesson there are questions which are easy to answer and which cover a summary of the lesson. The student who finishes the course of thirty six lessons has a wide knowledge of our truth.

We are sending our lessons to the hills and valleys, to the mountains and plateaus, to the plains and forests overland and overseas and we are confident that God will take care of the success. We are confident that the Nazarene who ordered Peter to cast his net and it was full of fishes will doubtless see that our net catches many souls for the Lord. Did He not promise in Isa. 55:11 that His word would not return void? "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

The silent preachers are sent everywhere to do what the Lord wants. They will break

the prejudice of fanatics, open the eyes which are closed to the truth, soften the hard hearts and render them hearts of flesh. They will attract many who would not otherwise give attentive ears to the gospel message.

I would like to appeal to the superintendents of the different fields and organizations to help us in this work and to send us the names of those who are desirous of reading the word of God and understanding it. We want you to pray for the students.

OUR SCHOOL IN BEIT-MERY, LEBANON, PROVES A BLESSING TO ALL IN THE VILLAGE

"Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel but on a candlestick."

The world around us is in need of light; not a light generated by a dynamo or produced by a kerosene lamp. All around us is a darkness caused by a lack of the knowledge of God. People are born, reach maturity, and at last die, without hearing our Truth. However, the year that our college moved to Beit-Mery light was brought to the villages around. Since that time more and more people have turned to the light.

Two years ago an elementary school was started in Beit-Mery. It was welcomed by the people and had a splendid enrolment. We as teachers with these children who come out of homes that are spiritually blind labor with them to try to change the bad habits which they have inherited. We see much difference in their conduct after a short time in the school and the parents are appreciative. We are working with the juniors along the lines of the Missionary Volunteer work, and by spring we hope to have twelve Busy Bees and eight Sunbeams and Helping Hands complete their requirements and take part in an investiture service.

We are happy to say that although the majority of our students are not Christians, they study their Bibles well, and learn their memory verses. As for fees we have doubled our income over last year, although our enrolment is considerably less. There are two of us teaching six grades.

We hope that some day the eyes of all in Beit-Mery will be opened to see the light which is shining forth from our elementary school set up high on a hill.

— Elias Yusef,



READ YOUR BIBLE

During the war Field Marshall Montgomery, when he was face to face with danger and sorrow and big responsibility, said to his men, "Gentlemen, I read my Bible every day, and I advise you to do the same."



PEACE of MIND AND BODY ~

HOW TO ATTAIN IT

By DR. CLARENCE SCHILT

Medical Director, Dar es-Salaam Hospital



Text: "Great peace have they that love Thy law and nothing shall offend them." Psalms 119:165. Great peace is almost an unknown experience in the lives of most people today. Nations as well as individuals are often offended, and in an anxious state of mind through all the world. Our text teaches that this would not be if we loved God's law. God's law is an expression of God's character for mankind on earth. Thus if we really love the law of God, it means we love God Himself, and will do His will in all things. And then we will have great peace.

There is a very close relationship between the mind and the body. This is experienced following a scare, when due to our mental attitudes, we become pale, our heart pounds, our muscles tense. Change also take place in the opposite direction, for illness will often cause untoward mental reactions as irritability. Mrs. E. G. White writes that nine tenths of all diseases originates in the mind. Thus the majority of physical ill-health that most of us experience is due to disobeying some of God's natural law. We dwell in harmony with the Creator only so long as we obey the laws that he has established for our well being.

Even accidental disobedience of the physical laws results in harm to the body. For example, accidental contact with extremes of heat or cold cause damage to the body. Laws of gravity and acceleration cause injury when one falls from a height. It would appear that much of the ill health experienced in the world is due to disregard of laws affecting the mind. So we see that there are certain mental attitudes that cause good health. Some of these are hope, faith, sympathy, generosity, courage, and love. These qualities promote good health, and are positive antidotes for much of the illness in the world. They can only be fully realized as we dwell in peace with God. And this is accomplished by knowing God, and following His leading.

Other mental attitudes are very harmful. Their frequent or continued indulgence produces disease in the body, as well as the mind. Some of these are worry, anxiety, guilt, discontent, and sorrow. Much of the physical pain we suffer, tired feelings, and other symptoms are due to our unwise mental attitudes. Over a period of years they give rise to what are usually thought of as

mostly physical diseases. Persisted in they may even cause definite changes in the body, of a more permanent nature. So many become invalids with symptoms such as heart pains, dyspepsia, and diarrhea, and abdominal distress. While these can be due entirely to bodily disorders, yet too often we overlook the fact that they are frequently caused by wrong thinking.

God in His wisdom and love for fallen mankind has granted us the possibility of growing by His grace in body, soul and spirit. As we dwell on heavenly themes that He has presented to us in His Holy word, in Nature, and in inspired writings, we find that He will fill our minds with that peace that passeth understanding. From day to day as God's truth is revealed to us, let us walk in the new light, obey all of His requirements, and receive great peace.

ELDER & MRS. L. J. NORRIS SEND GREETINGS FROM THE NORTH CELEBES MISSION

All those who know Elder and Mrs. L. J. Norris will be glad to know that word has been received from them indicating that they have arrived in their field of labour in the North Celebes Mission and are very happy. We quote parts of two letters sent to Elder and Mrs. Branson:

December 19

---- Our first delay was at Damascus. Just as we were taxiing to the end of the runway for the take-off we had a flat tire, so we had to wait till the next day.

We had a very pleasant trip. Stopped at Karachi and New Delhi about an hour in each place. Spent a night in Calcutta. By being a day late we missed connections at Bangkok and had to wait there almost a week. When we arrived in Singapore we found that they had not yet applied for our visas to the Netherlands East Indies. So we had to wait in Singapore for ten and a half weeks.

The day we arrived in Singapore I came down with jaundice so stayed in bed most

of the time for eight weeks. We stayed with the Forest Pratts. He said he knew you folks and also the Russells. Almost everyone there knows someone in the Middle East and all wanted to be remembered to you when we wrote. The Pogues know the Olsens. He had an appendectomy while we were there. Paul and Annie Coleman knew the Harders and Cubleys. Of course the Emmersons know about everyone who ever lived in College Place. Elder Kime and Harry Johnson went to Singapore while we were there. Johnson knew Cubleys and Olsens and Wines! ----

January 8, 1949. We had a very nice trip by boat from Singapore to Menado. Stopped three days in Batavia and four days in Makassar. Changed boats both times. We spent Christmas on the equator at Dorangalla. The ship anchored out in the bay while loading and unloading cargo. It was hot and damp and did not really seem like Christmas at all.

We arrived in Menado December 27 and spent a week with the Winklers while looking for a house. On January 4 we moved into our own house, just four months less two days from the time we left Cyprus. Needless to say we are glad we are here at last. We are up in the mountains at Tondano and it is quite cool-----

February 11, 1949

We often think of the work in the Middle East and wonder how things are coming there and what appropriations were received this year. We miss all our good friends there although we have made some new ones here.

At last we are settled in an old house made of boards, standing up and down with cracks through to the outside. We are quite comfortable however. The work here is surely going, over seven hundred baptisms this year. We believe that with some re-organization of workers and introduction of a few methods that we can improve on that for 1949. The present membership is over 4,500 with over 90 churches. Every little village has its Adventist church. The work is about four-fifths supporting this year with a tithe income of seventy six thousand gilders. The gilder is about the same value as a Lebanese pound----

Last week I had the prayer meeting here in Tondano. The people did not know that I had been asked to conduct it, so it was the regular attendance. The church membership is around two hundred, and about a hundred and fifty were in attendance. I think that most of the young people in the church were at the prayer meeting. I have no trouble keeping busy with so many churches to visit.

Give our best wishes to all of our friends."

ON TO KABUL!

THIRD INSTALMENT of *PUSHTU PUSH*
THE STORY of THE PIONEER TRIP of
MESSRS. KENNETH OSTER AND
G. C. WINSLOW INTO AFGHANISTAN

The bus is quite comfortable, a Chevrolet with a General Motors body built in Bombay. Our seatmate turns out to be the nephew of the governor of one of Afghanistan's largest and most prosperous provinces. He is also descended from one of the royal family of two or three generations back. He is very friendly, and, unsolicited, voices a note of tolerance and willingness to have the foreign missionary come in and work, at least in medical and educational lines. We find this the attitude of the new generation and the educated people throughout the country. Now we realize that God delayed us in Herat in order that we might meet this man. Who knows how God will use that contact in later plans for Afghanistan?

The road heading south from Herat is lined with thousands of young pine trees for many miles. This stretch of future beauty ends in a pretty little hillside park, which is having a struggle for existence, because of the lack of water. We are told that there has been no rain for four years. We understand more fully why Jesus termed Himself the water of life. Out here water is life. These Afghans are very particular about having their five daily prayers, and so as the bus stops each time (at dawn, at sunrise, at noon, at sunset and at dusk) we take the opportunity to go off to one side where we earnestly ask God to make this trip somehow fruitful in the advancement of His work.

In the middle of the night we stop in Sebsavar, where the baggage of every native is searched. Two carpets and a samovar have been stolen somewhere up the line, and all travelers are being stopped and having their luggage searched. Quite different from Iran! Four o'clock Sunday morning finds us in Farah, roughly one-fourth of the way to Kabul. Not wishing to avail ourselves of the expensive hospitality of another government hotel, we hire a small, smelly empty room inside the garage compound. It is too hot to travel in the daytime, so we sleep during the day and journey on at night. We set up our cots and nets and get a little sleep. We mailed our first letters from here. We are thankful for the shelter of the room, for it is terribly hot outside. We are thankful for our nets, for the flies seem as thick as in Cairo, where they appear still to be suffering from the plague that Moses called down

upon the Pharaoh.

At about five o'clock in the afternoon, we are off for Kandahar, halfway point on our Kabul road. The city is the center of perhaps Afghanistan's richest valley. A large American construction company has a good-sized camp here. They are building dams, roads and a railroad for this progressive Afghan government. We hope to have time to look around a bit and perhaps visit the camp of these rough construction men, who do not have the benefit of any religious help out here so far from home. Our bus pulls into Kandahar early in the morning, just as another bus is preparing to leave on the last leg of the trip to Kabul. It is an opportunity too good to miss, so within the hour we have obtained the last two seats on latter, the last seat on the last row. We plan to swap off from time to time, but after the first few miles, a second seat is found up front, and we are spared the dustiness of the back seats. We only have time to get pictures of the public square, from which the king makes frequent speeches, and of the mosque which supposedly contains Mohammed's robe. This picture-taking is done while the bus is picking up the mail at the post office, for this is the Afghan Mail, almost the sole organized bus line in this country.

This time our seat companions (each seat holds four passengers) are the manager of the bus company and a teacher from Habibieh College in Kabul. So this is why God arranged for us to just catch this bus. The teacher is a loquacious chap, volunteering much helpful information, voicing the same opinions as our former travelling companion. He promises to show us the college when we get to Kabul. At teatime we wander about, waiting for the others to finish drinking their tannic acid. We meet a Mrs. Stanley of the construction company, traveling with her young son and the native chauffeur from Kandahar to Kabul. The road security must be good in this country and in sharp contrast to Iran. The doughnuts Mrs. Stanley gave us are a welcome change from our present diet. The bus stops at a small hotel in Ghazni at about midnight, where the bus is to remain until morning. The bus does not go to the garage, so we are forced to stay at the hotel. Fortunately, the hotel is full, so we obtain cot space in the dining-room for

a lower fee. It is a fair and very welcome rest. On to Kabul at seven-thirty this Tuesday morning, almost a week since leaving Meshed. From Ghazni to Kabul, the terrain begins to get mountainous and, consequently more interesting, so we are happy to be travelling in the daytime. Some hillsides are covered with pretty yellow flowers, interspersed with delicate lavender blossoms. Snow-capped mountains appear in the distance, part of the great Himalaya range. Kabul is located at almost 6000 feet, in a valley at the foothills of these great snow-capped heights. Two converging hills, upon upon which are the old walls of the city's fortifications of Afghan War days (but still manned), make a bottle-neck which separates the large estates and parks from the city. Kabul! Capital of long-closed Afghanistan! Could God use us at least to oil the hinges of that old, rusty, long-shut gate, that the Gospel might soon go there as in the other parts of the world? We pray to that end.

(To be continued)

WORD FROM MISS ZAKIA FARGO

Miss Zakia Fargo is studying Anesthesiology in one of the best schools in the United States. She writes of some of her experiences as follows:

"In Washington it felt like home in America, with Ellen and her husband, Tom Saaty and his wife and all the other young men. I am enjoying the snow here in Chicago. It is cold for me, and they say this is spring yet, and it is going to be much colder. We do not feel it inside, but every now and then I feel like going out for fresh air, as there is not very much of it in Chicago.

I wrote Miss Holmes, superintendent of this institution to send someone to the station to meet me if possible, because in these big cities and the large train stations, I just get lost. So there was a man at the station, and he is an Adventist boy taking this anasthesia course here. He is a few months ahead of me. His wife is a nurse, and she works around here too. There is another Adventist girl taking this course, and although she is in the year ahead of me, she is always around and tries to help me. They take me to church Friday evenings and Miss Holmes has been very kind to let us go to church on Sabbath. There are no classes and we are free all afternoon.

I met Hazim Wakil over here. He comes sometimes to church Friday evenings. We had a good visit.

Please give my greetings to the brethren for me, also the students at the College, and I hope to hear about the progress of the work in Baghdad.

PREACHING THE TRUTH IN TURKEY

REPORT BY ELDER B. J. MONDICS

Turkey is a great nation. Turkey has a great people. Turkey has a fine group of Adventists, and from that fine group, they have sent greetings to you all.

I believe that the first Adventist missionary to enter Turkey, the entry taking place approximately 2,000 years ago, was Paul the Apostle. His work there was very successful, although he had his difficulties and trials. Some of the people in Turkey, who were Christians, have descendants who are the result of Paul's work. Many of them have of course left the country and gone to Greece. But from this great country of Turkey, there comes to us a feeling of need for the Truth as we have it today. Fifty years ago a Greek member returned from the U.S. to Turkey and there he began to preach the Truth of the Second Coming of Christ. His work was very successful. There were many Armenians and Greeks who were baptized as a result of his labors. I believe that we have some of the members here in Beirut who remember those early days. Some of them are in the Armenian church here.

Unfortunate circumstances followed the first World War making it difficult for Christians to remain in Turkey. At the present time those difficulties are being gradually removed. We have a fine group of people in Turkey. They are busy in the work of winning others to this Message. Just a few months ago, Brother Ashod left Turkey, where he has been for 25 years, or so. He went to Cyprus. Brother Ashod had been carrying the responsibilities for many years. We also have Brother Kalustian who is the father of Alpin who is a student here, and some of you know Miss Ibraxie who was the Armenian teacher here in Beirut. She is also there. These workers are busy doing their part in spreading the knowledge of this Message to the people. At the present time, it is becoming increasingly easier, perhaps I should say it is becoming increasingly difficult publicly to carry on the work, but in the homes of the people, it is becoming easier to give the people this Message.

Wherever you go, people are ready and glad to discuss world events, and there conversations lead to a talk about the end of the world, and the coming of Christ. Recently when I was in Konya, I fell into conversation with a very bright and alert young man. When he learned that I was an American he said that his greatest ambition was to go to America. I said,

"That is a shallow aim in life. Why don't you take a higher aim? He said, 'What do you mean?' And I told him

that in a little while from now, America and all the other countries of the world would be in ruins. They will be destroyed, and if he has that aim in life, he will be destroyed also. And then I told him that Christ was coming, and that the Lord wanted him to be among those who would be saved from Turkey. He had never heard that before, and so I studied with him. And he continued to ask questions until 12 o'clock at night.

I thought maybe it was time that we should stop, so I said to him, "Probably that is enough for you to digest just now," and he objected, "No, I want to hear more." So I said, "Well, if you want to hear more, come tomorrow, and I will be here."

And I recently received a letter from him in which he stated, "I have enjoyed those studies in Konya (Iconium) more than anything else in my life. Please send me a Bible, and give me studies every week that I might study what you have started while you were here in Konya. I want to find Christ, and I want you to help me, and I will accept Him."

And so I have been writing to him. I have been underlining certain texts, and I believe that he will be among the people who will be ready when Christ comes.

Now in Turkey, there are many other places where the people are calling for a knowledge of this Truth. At first, they do not care, but after they see what it leads to, then they are anxious to know more about it and they want to accept it.

I like to read here in Matthew, 25th chapter, verses 31-34. "When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations, and He shall separate them one from another, as shepherd divideth the sheep from the goats. He shall set the sheep on the right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom that is prepared for you from the foundations of the world." And I believe that when Christ comes, there will be a firmament of chosen ones from Turkey, who will receive the invitation to come.

And I hope that a number of the young people who have come here from Turkey, as well as others who may be able to come to help us in Turkey, that you will have a part in bringing this closing message to the people of Turkey, that they may hear the Truth and receive this invitation.

FROM HERE & THERE

OUR GREATEST NEED

We have certainly come to the time when we shall have to prosecute and finish our work under the most discouraging circumstances. Time is short, and we should be about our task with feverish haste and with a concentration of purpose and effort such as we have never known. It is tragic that in this critical and tremendous hour so many of our ministry and people are careless and lethargic, and absorbed in so many things that are of no vital importance and do not minister to the speedy completion of our mission. Seeking position, giving undue thought to our personal comforts and conveniences, indulging in the follies of the godless world about us—altogether too much do we see these things among us. My soul is in anguish as I see these things and then the desperate need of men and women everywhere for the message that it is our responsibility to give to them, and which they must be given quickly. May God somehow arouse His people to their privileges and responsibilities at this hour."

E. E. Roenfelt, in *Australasian Record*, January 17, 1949.

GREETINGS FROM POLAND

"We are very thankful for the sending of *Middle East Messenger*. We appreciate this way of the spiritual connection very

MIDDLE EAST

MESSENGER

Official Organ of the

MIDDLE EAST MISSION OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

P.O.B. 1011, Beirut, Lebanon

E. L. BRANSON *President*E. S. CUBLEY . *Secretary-Treasurer*G. ARTHUR KEOUGH *Editor**Annual Subscription L L. 5.00*

All copy for publication in the MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER should be submitted through the mission or institution in which the contributor holds membership

TODAY'S NEED IN ANCIENT PERSIA

BY PAUL BOYNTON

Principal, Iran Training School

much, and we rejoice that you have the liberty of printing such periodicals containing the news of your field.

"We send you our best wishes for the year 1949. May God help you in the finishing of His work.

"We send you hearty greetings from Poland to all the believers in your field.

Very sincerely your brethren in Christ,
Editor Manager
J. Rosiecki J. Skrzypaczek

Mr. & Mrs. W. OLSON "AT HOME"

On Tuesday March 15, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Olson were at home to a large number of distinguished visitors from Tripoli and the Chekka area. There were present from Beirut: Elder and Mrs. E. L. Branson, Elder and Mrs. E. S. Cubley, President and Mrs. F. E. J. Harder, Elder and Mrs. George Keough, and Elder G. Arthur Keough. It was a source of pleasure to the missionaries to become personally acquainted with the municipal authorities, principals of some of the larger schools in the neighbourhood, the secretary of the government department of education for the North Lebanon, and leading families in the area. One of the guests asked for the privilege to speak and then said that he wished to express the sentiment of the Lebanese in Chekka in that they welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Olson and family into their midst and appreciated the work that they were doing. He hoped that the work that the mission had begun might continue to grow and develop in order to meet the educational and spiritual needs of the people.

WORD FROM NICOSIA, CYPRUS

Word comes from Brother A. E. Ashod, who has recently moved to Nicosia, as follows:

"Sometime in December we paid a visit to Brother and Sister Greaves in Kyrenia. We were glad to see them both again after some twenty years of separation and we had long talks on different things and especially about the work in this island. On January 1, they came to Nicosia, and Pastor Greaves officiated in the service of the Lord's Supper. We are sorry they cannot come to church oftener.

I wish to say a few words regarding our work here. As our membership consists of Armenians and Greeks, on Sabbath I preach in Armenian and Mrs. Ashod translates into Greek. We are glad there are a few visitors coming regularly to church, and it is encouraging to see that the number is increasing.

God willing, beginning Sunday, February 6, we are going to start weekly public meetings. We are printing invitation cards for distribution. If the result is encouraging we plan to have meetings too on week days. We ask for your prayers."

I am writing this morning from the ancient and historic land of the Persian Empire. This is the land where Daniel the prophet stood on the banks of the river Ulai in the province of Elam and saw in vision the mighty events which were to come to pass in our day. It was here that Queen Esther became famous for her trust and dependence in God. It was in this land that great kings of the earth led their mighty armies that shaped the course of the earth's history.

Iran is a large country by any standard you choose. In area it is larger than France, Germany, and the British Isles combined. But the population of only about sixteen millions is much less because of the high, rugged and barren mountain ranges and vast uninhabitable deserts that make up most of the topography of Iran.

The annual rainfall is very low and must be carefully conserved by the village farmers who direct it into the tillable valleys. It is in such valleys that most of the little mud villages are located; and in these the local tribesmen carry on in life just about as those living in the time of Abraham did nearly four thousand years ago. It is a task that challenges the most daring imagination to think of some way to reach these thousands of little Moslem villages with our message.

There are five or six more modern cities where pioneer missionaries began our work several years ago. We have small groups of believers in these cities, but in only two do we own our own property. The necessity of owning our own churches is great anywhere in the world, but especially is this true in these Moslem lands. Indeed, a few years ago our brethren in one place suffered great difficulty and were finally forced to give up meeting together just because we did not have our own place of worship.

Although there are many sore pressing needs in the Iran Mission at the present time in regard to the medical and evangelistic work, it is felt that our most urgent task is the establishing of schools for our young people. In this whole land we have not a single elementary mission school where our Adventist children can obtain even a fifth or sixth grade certificate! We have only one school teaching the first four grades. When the children finish this school they are obliged to go to the Moslem schools which have school six days a week, including Sabbath, and are closed on Friday. It causes great hardship to our children who are faithful in keeping the Sabbath. We have one other elementary school in a Russian village near the border, but it is not qualified to give

a certificate.

We have gone forward in faith and last year began a boarding school for our secondary-age students who had finished the government elementary schools. Our first year we had nearly forty students enrolled. Those who attended will testify that it was one of the best years of their lives. All of us had looked forward and planned for this year in the school again, but for lack of funds we were forced to limit our activities to a day school where only those students living in Teheran, where the school is located, can attend. Our other fine young people living the best years of their lives. All of us had to go back to the Persian schools. The fact is clear that there they cannot be trained for our special work.

We have never ceased to hope and pray and work for a boarding school of our own where we can grow and fulfill the plan of the Lord in the education of our children. We are going forward with such plans at the present time believing that the brethren throughout the world will help us in this need. Our need is desperate for these training facilities where we can train our young people who already know these difficult languages to fill their place in every branch of our work here.

Let me just remind you this morning that it was you who made it possible for the missionaries to be here in these lands to bear the gospel message. We are thankful for this privilege, although, at times difficulties are encountered. The opportunities certainly are present; students are here; begging for a Christian education, the children are thirsting for that which we can give them in the Lord's name.

Let us all this quarter, this week, this very Sabbath take account of our standing and our stewardship before God and consecrate to His work a larger share of the monetary talents that He has left with us that we might have a part in finishing the work begun in Persia by Daniel and his companions in their time so long ago.

Congratulations!

To Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Klein who had a son born to them on February 28. His name is Nelson Daniel.

* * *

To Professor and Mrs. R. L. Mole who also have a son born to them. Date: March 13. Name: Dale Michael.