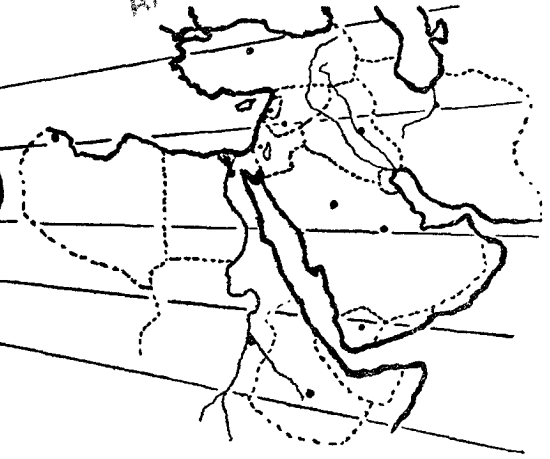
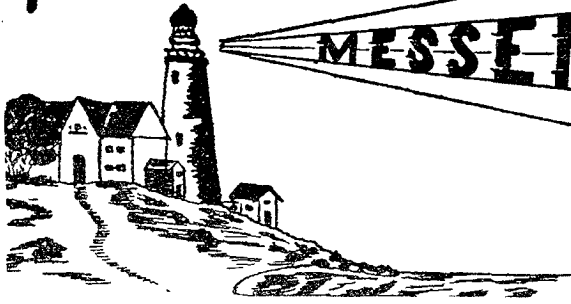


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MIDDLE EAST

MESSENGER



VOLUME III

SECOND QUARTER 1954

NUMBER 2

Our Sabbath Schools— Retrospect and Prospect

By GEORGE J. APPEL S. S. Secretary, Middle East Division

A brief backward glance is necessary if we as Sabbath school officers and members are to plan efficiently to meet the challenge in soul saving in our Sabbath schools during 1954. The following is a brief summary of the progress made in the Middle East Division during the past three years :

	1951	1952	1953
Number of Schools	42	46	53
Membership	1813	2166	2524
Attendance	1604	1974	2196
Yearly offerings U.S.\$	7,763.05	8,718.00	9,718.38

The yearly per cent of gain has been about the same in all phases of the Sabbath school work. Besides the 53 regular Sabbath schools, there are 51 branch and family Sabbath schools. This is proving an effective agency in evangelism, and is also creating a deeper Christian experience for those who are taking part in explaining the message to others. New interests are opening up in and around Jerusalem. There are now branch or family Sabbath schools in Bethlehem and in near-by Beit-Jallah. The Division Sabbath school membership of 2,524 is 141 per cent of the church membership.

The Sabbath schools of the Middle East strongly promoted the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the second quarter of 1952, helping to do their share in making the splendid amount of \$ 39,847.10 available for special projects in Iran, Beirut, and Libya. Another Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow offering is to come to the Middle East the first quarter of 1955. Shall not all of our Sabbath school officers plan early to make this the largest offering ever received from this field ?

Let us make our Sabbath schools the most interesting meetings of the week. Trying to carry on a Sabbath school without a well-planned and carefully directed program is like trying to drive

through a thick fog. Then signal lights are easily mistaken, and it is difficult to ascertain what is being accomplished. The traffic officer is not so much after the speedy driver, but is more concerned about the reckless, careless driver. It is not the leader who does things in the Sabbath school who is on dangerous ground, but the one who does not abide by time-tried plans and known rules.

Every Sabbath school leader and member should not only memorize but also live out the following seven standards in his planning for advancement in the soul saving work of the Sabbath school.

1. Every believer an enrolled member of the Sabbath school.
2. Every member studying the Sabbath school lessons daily.
3. Every teacher studying to become more efficient in methods of teaching.

Continued, page 7

Recently organized Branch Sabbath School in Beit-Jallah, Jordan





By M. L. RICE

We had been flying most of the night over the Atlantic Ocean. Hour after hour the four giant motors had been propelling our plane through the darkness at a speed of three hundred miles per hour. No music was ever written that sounds sweeter than the steady purr of those great motors as hour after hour they bite their way through the thin air at an elevation of 18,000 feet.

Then came the dawn of a new day. The golden glow on the eastern horizon; little streaks of light from the rising sun were announcing the arrival of a new day. A sunrise as seen from about three and one-half miles above the earth is most brilliant and beautiful. Just as day began to break we passed the "Point of no return". By this we mean that so much of the fuel in our plane had been used during our flight, that we could not turn around and go back to the place from which we started. The only thing left for us to do was to keep on going on. Whether the flying conditions ahead were good or bad, our only hope was to keep going on. To stop or go back would be disastrous.

In the journey of life upon which Christians have embarked there are no stopping places. There are no places where we can in safety turn around and go back to the ways of the world. Every day is to be a battle with sin, and a march forward. There is no point at which we can with safety forsake our journey and go back to the place from which we started. But, if for some reason, those who have started should stumble and fall, God's plan of salvation is so broad and deep that man can make a new start. God

The Point of No Return

offers all who fall a second chance. He says that "him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."

While God is longsuffering and anxious to see all saved, yet it is possible for man to grieve away the Spirit of God and thereby reach a point where his probation is closed and he is forever lost.

Christ promised His disciples that upon His return to heaven He would send the Comforter, or the Holy Spirit, to be with them. "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8. There are very definite things that the Holy Spirit does when He comes into a man's life. One of His works is to point out sin. The Holy Spirit shows a man his sinful condition, and the need of salvation. As long as the Holy Spirit pleads with man there is hope for his salvation. But if the Holy Spirit is grieved away, then the only agency God has given to point out sin is gone. The one who grieves away the Spirit of God has committed the sin for which there is no forgiveness. The Holy Spirit has reached the point of no return.

"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption". Eph. 4:30. This text warns us against turning a deaf ear to the pleadings of the Holy Spirit. If men fail to heed the Spirit of God, the time will come when the Holy Spirit will make His departure, never to return again. This leaves man in a lost condition.

People sometimes take the position that they can live as they please, and God, who is merciful, will forgive them when they decide to give their hearts to Him. Those who take this attitude make a great mistake. To live in sin with the intention of some day calling upon God for forgiveness is a step in the direction of the unpardonable sin. To presume upon God's mercy to forgive sin, to take deliberately a course that we know is wrong, grieves the Spirit of God from us. "Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression." Ps. 19:13.

"But My people would not hearken to My voice; and Israel would none of Me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels". Ps. 81:11,12.

When God's people in ancient times, "would not hearken to My voice;" when they were determined to walk "in their own counsels", the Spirit of God withdrew and "gave them up unto their own hearts' lust." When people today turn a deaf ear to the repeated pleadings of the Lord; when they like ancient Israel would have "none of Me," there is nothing more God can do but withdraw His Spirit from them.

"We are living in the time of the end. The fast-filling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

"The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones." — "Testimonies," Vol. IX, page 11.

OUR SPRINGTIME THANKS

Dear God, our world's so beautiful,
So bursting with color and song.
You've made it so gorgeous for us,
Such beauty You've scattered
along, —
You must have dipped Your paintbrush
In some sunset's rosy hue
And splashed it with rampant, Master
hand
To make our old world new.
A touch of green on the rounding hills,
And crimson on a tree,
The bursting buds on the slender twigs,
A wildflower's smile at me;
The melting snow on the mountain
tops,
A mockingbird's throaty trill,
And a dainty bouquet of red and white
That You set 'neath my window sill;
The crisp, fresh air of the evening,
The stars of our springtime night,
Then the radiant burst of glory
That comes with each new day's
light.
The warm, tender feel of the sunshine,
And color where'er we go —
Oh, You've made our world so
beautiful,
Dear God, we thank Thee so.
M.B.

TREMENDOUS EXPANSION MARKS ADVENTIST TV EVANGELISM'S FOURTH YEAR

Tremendous of expansion of Faith For Today's television network marks the opening of Seventh-day Adventists' fourth year of continuous telecasting. The original twelve paid TV stations, located in strategic population centers, seemed destined by finances to limit forever the boundary of Faith For Today's network. But God miraculously wrenched the bonds asunder when He impressed, one, then another, and still another television station manager, to show our program free of charge. It is an amazing fact, that of the 54 stations now telecasting the Adventist program, publicly announced as Seventh-day Adventist, 42 present it as public service !

Just what is this newest evangelistic endeavour that has so deeply impressed realistic TV station executives ? Basically, it is a half hour weekly telecast, presenting a modern day parable, a sermon summary, favorite hymn selections, and Mrs. W.A. Fagal's compelling invitations to viewers to enroll in the Bible Correspondence Course.

Pastor W.A. Fagal, director of Faith For Today, leads out in the 12 to 14 minute problem discussion period, pointing those who are troubled and confused to the Bible as offering God's solution to every day problems. In the 4 to 6 minute sermon, he emphasizes and sums up the particular Bible truth brought out earlier in the story. Only Seventh-day Adventists take part on the program; there are no hired "actors".

Favorite hymns play an important part in providing a reverent atmosphere. The quartet members are all faithful ministers of music, spending every moment, whether on the telecast or in the office, in advancing the television ministry.

Every word uttered on this vital program is carefully weighed in advance. Dr. Elaine Giddings, formerly head of the English department of Southern Missionary College, early joined the organization as script writer and producer. For the past year, Miss Grace Fields, of the General Conference Home Missionary Department, has collaborated with her in writing and producing the programs.

Vital Bible truths are presented, varying our distinctive doctrines with practical topics such as tithing or temperance and devotional studies on prayer, forgiveness, etc. Letters by the hundreds of thousands witness to the practicality of this problem discussion format. Its down to earth approach holds the attention of old and young, the unsophisticated as well as the educated and the cultured classes.

Faith For Today also operates an ever-growing Bible Correspondence School with courses for both adults and children. Books of the month add their witness to the TV message, and to help increase viewer offerings, *Tele-Notes*, a behind-the-scenes news monthly is sent to correspondents.

The program's influence does not expire at the close of the telecast, for several film recordings are made each week. These are sent on long circuits serving the free TV stations and are then circulated among workers to help in their evangelistic efforts. Ministers of other denominations have asked for the privilege of showing these films in their churches.

At present all world Divisions have been supplied with at least one film for free circulation. It is hoped that as time goes on a pool of these

evangelistic aids will become available to the world field.

Overseas evangelists express warm appreciation for this service. One worker who had used Faith For Today films in the homeland requested that some be sent to show in his new field. Two were sent, but the call from new TV stations for current films suddenly became so urgent that for the time being all overseas film shipments were suspended. He wrote back, "I am asking today for more films, hoping and praying that we will 'find favor in your sight.' The ones we used drew wide comment; they are very impressive in giving the truth. I would rather have any of your old, beaten up, or obsolete films, those you are not circulating any more, than none at all. However, we will be glad to use the best that you have available". Needless to say, his appeal was irresistible and the films were sent.

Thus Faith For Today's fourth year promises to be its most fruitful in evangelistic endeavor, not only in America but reaching out into fields abroad. As this global influence continues to increase, the television program and office staff wish to join you in pledging themselves anew to unstinted service in God's cause.



Earnest prayer is offered before the "Faith For Today" program begins.

EAST MEDITERRANEAN UNION PROGRESS 1953 VERSION

The third year of the East Mediterranean Union Mission, formerly known as the Middle East Union Mission, has vanished into the past. While our thoughts are centered on what the new year has to offer, there are still a few items of interest that can be found underneath the statistics and accomplishments of the old year. Let me offer a few :

(1) The first issue of a number of tracts and books were printed in our Division press this last year, which will vitally affect our work in this Union in the future.

(2) The first Master Guide Camp in our Union was held to train our leaders for future Junior Camp responsibilities.

(3) The largest colporteur group responded to a scholarship appeal and earned valuable experiences and credits toward their college education. They were sowing the seeds of truth on good ground.

(4) The largest need has arisen for well trained ministerial students and related office help to become laborers in the Master's vineyard.

(5) The greatest emphasis has been placed on soul-winning by our leaders and workers, for the time is short to finish the task entrusted to us.

Yes, each year we find new obstacles to surmount, new opportunities to grasp, new ideas to promote, and new souls to be won. This year has been a good year. What has our Union been doing in 1953 ?

As a Union with a church membership of 847 we have had a total of 110 baptisms, during 1953. We have had an increase in church membership of 105.

By A.W. FUND
Secretary-Treasurer

We have had an increase in tithes throughout the field of L.L. 11,679.20, as compared with our 1952 totals.

Now let me take you on a little trip around our Union to visit some of our missions. A little boat trip across the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea brings us to the land of Cyprus. Last year this somewhat isolated island was organized into what is now known as the Cyprus Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, with Elder R.H. Hartwell as the first mission president. Although we could not send Paul of old to Cyprus again, yet we did send two of our good brethren to work in this field. This year Brother Veltman was ordained, and during the fall committee sessions he was appointed as the second president of the Cyprus Mission.

And now a quick flight to Turkey for a visit. Turkey is a field that remains to be explored. We lack workers to really enter this large territory. Most of our work centers around Istanbul, although we have interests established in two other sections of this territory. Several students are in training at the college who will be prospective workers upon the completion of their education. Then there are those Turkish tracts just beginning to come off the Press, and I am sure, with our earnest prayers and the Lord's blessing, we may well expect results as they reach out to a new language area.

Returning to Beirut, we will board a Nairn bus to ride overnight to Iraq and listen to the year-end returns in that area. Elder Hartwell also for a

short time had to hold down the mission presidency until Elder Crider arrived. Elder Crider is carrying on the definite plans of Elder Fiedler for the immediate building of a church and school in Mosul, barring any further red tape. Although they are busy looking for land sites, etc., yet they still find time to bring in a generous sum of Ingathering. The Iraq Mission schools are perhaps better equipped scholastically than ever before, and our three newly ordained ministers have definite baptismal goals in view. Let us pray for our workers who are out in the field.

Now for a taxi or bus trip to the borders of the Jordania Mission and their headquarters in Amman. This is the land of the branch Sabbath schools, the pioneer of the Vacation Bible Schools, and the land of the Arabic language. They say if you wish to learn the Arabic language, try it in Jordania. Our Union Bible worker, Mrs. Wainer, has been engrossed in this type of a project, and we hear that she is doing very well. There is still a challenge today for every one to know the national language well. This field, as well as several others, is on the right track of getting regular colporteurs started. Jordania also has several building projects in Amman and El Husn in the planning stage.

But now we must return to Lebanon-Syria Mission and the location of our Union headquarters. Our president of both these organizations, with his workers, is making every effort to obtain land for several building projects. This last year we have been held up in various ways from finalizing on certain projects, usually due to plain red tape. The future looks a little brighter in this respect.

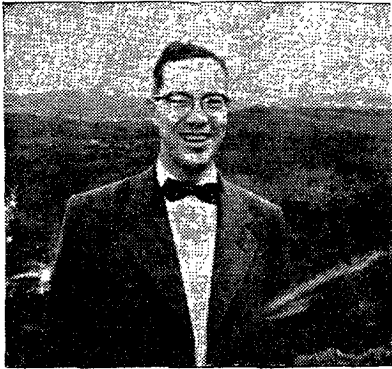
Last year we were fortunate in organizing a new church organization in North Lebanon, and we expect to build a permanent building for them in Bishmazine. For these fields this truly has been a forward step, and we wish more of these church organizations occurred. Plans have been made in several of our missions to obtain legal status in order that we might be recognized as a denomination for building purposes. This step will fill a great lack in our previous growth, for people wish to join a permanent thing. New work is being started in several places, but most of the results will be showing in 1954. A definite effort has been made to try to get a worker into Aleppo, into Karak, into Kirkuk, and other places, but we need workers who are trained to answer the call to work in the harvest field.



East Mediterranean Union Mission Staff and Voice of Prophecy Workers

Continued on page 6

Fruits from The Voice of Prophecy



By KENNETH S. OSTER

harvest; and assuredly, signs of ripening grain are being seen in many localities — the seed having been sown several years ago.

For example: One of our early enrollees, let us call him Ali Akbar (for obvious reasons we will withhold his real name), the nineteen-year-old son of the "Eman Jom'eh," or chief priest of a large city in the northern part of our field, began studying the V.O.P. lessons very ardently. The obvious interest and enthusiasm shown by Ali Akbar pleased us greatly — until one day about two years ago accompanying lesson 17 was a letter in which he said that he had considered Christianity very carefully now for several months and had finally come to the conclusion that it was a false religion. He then invited us to accept his religion of Islam and asked us please to refrain from sending him any more V.O.P. lessons!

This was a shock to us — but we were not long in discovering the reason for the apparent reversal in his attitude. In another letter he explained that his father had heard that he was in correspondence with a Christian organization, and after beating him up unmercifully he threatened to kill him if he continued, and then he dictated the former letter. In the latter letter the boy expressed his sincere determination to be a Christian, though it might cost him his life. At the same time he asked us to withhold sending him further correspondence — except through the medium of prayer.

We complied; we neither wrote to, nor heard from him — except as we presented him to the care and keeping of our heavenly Father from time to time.

You can imagine our surprise and joy about a fortnight ago when Ali Akbar, beaming with joy, entered our office "after many days"! What had happened during the two years? Listen to him tell the story:

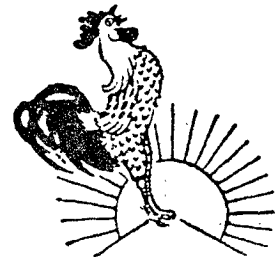
"Having been forced to stop correspondence with you, I felt constrained to seek fellowship with some Christians, so went to a near-by city where there is a Christian church, and began attending their meetings as often as I could. About a week ago," he continued, "my father discovered that I was a Christian, and threw me out

of my house bodily, disclaiming me as his son, and disinheriting me completely. I went to stay with one of my married sisters. A few days later, early in the morning before any in the house were stirring, my little sister ran breathlessly to me and pleaded with me to flee for my life, 'For,' she said, 'they are planning to poison you. Last night all your brothers and several uncles laid final plans.'

"I had never faced such a definite threat before," he said, "so I immediately prepared to leave town." Thereupon he sold out his store to a friend, deposited his earnings in the bank, and before leaving for the capital, went to see his parents and bid them good-bye! He told them that he was their son and loved and honored them, but that he was leaving so that he could have liberty — freedom to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

Another example of the ripening grain is the young newspaper editor who has found Christ and accepted Him as his personal Saviour from sin. Although he was offered huge sums of bribe money to enter politically controversial articles in his paper, he refused it and has dedicated himself as well as his literary talents to his Master.

Yes, although we wish experiences like these could be repeated a hundred-fold "after a few days," we have every reason for going FORWARD IN FAITH — and also in tears, for "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." (Ps. 126:5,6)



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"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater; 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." (Isaiah 55:10,11)

What a wonderful assurance the good Lord has given us of an abundant harvest. "My word," we are told, "shall prosper." Let us "preach the word;" let us circulate truth-filled literature; let us, in the words of Malachi 4:10 "prove" the Lord and "sow beside all waters," (Isaiah 32:20) for it will surely accomplish that which pleases the Lord of the harvest.

"The words of the Preacher" are "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days." (Eccl. 1:1;11:1) The trouble with so many of us is that we come short of this instruction on two counts. The first is that we don't cast our bread—the Bread of Life — upon *all* waters. Remember, the waters referred to here "are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." (Rev. 17:15). We are all too often prone to pick out certain groups or nations, or nationalities to the exclusion of others. That was verily the trouble with many of the early apostles, and God allowed severe persecution to come before they changed their minds and turned to the Gentiles, or peoples of another race than themselves.

The second is that we too often expect to find it after a *few* days, rather than after *many* days. Having done our part with the Lord's help, sooner or later we can be certain of a

IN OTHER LANDS

A VISIT UP THE ARAGUAIA

F. C. WEBSTER, JR.
President, Rio Grande do Sul
Conference, Brazil

We had traveled for more than 400 miles down the broad waters of the Araguaia River in the very heart of Brazil. Our destination was Fronteira, our mission post among the Caraja Indians. For several years Antônio Gomez and his wife had been working among this tribe of Indians. The work was hard and results were few. One can stand the ever-present insects and jungle pests and the scarcity of good food if he can see results of his work, but work among these Indians was discouraging. Perhaps the misery and lack of education that the Indians observed in the white man's villages that lay not too far away, contributed to his lack of interest in schools, hygiene or the white man's religion. The work in this area was truly most trying but Brother Gomez was faithful in scattering the seed. He was a true missionary and located in a mission station in the true sense of the word.

It was Friday afternoon when we sighted the thatched-roof buildings on a rather high bank above the river. Our guide exclaimed, "There is Fronteira". The hymn of praise that our group burst forth singing, coupled with the sound of our motor called forth eager watchers at the mission post. They were not expecting our arrival; we could not send them word; there was no way to receive communications with the outside world except to depend on the goodwill of a chance fisherman or trader, and they were few in this far away jungle.

As the welcoming group gathered on the river bank we saw that Brother Gomez was not among them. "Where is Antonio", we questioned.

His brother-in-law answered us. "He is sick. His wife took him up to Santa Isabella". We had passed the little village that same morning but in our hurry to arrive at Fronteira before the Sabbath we had not stopped.

"What is his sickness", we asked. "I don't know," was the reply. "He is very thin and weak and coughs a great deal." The joy in finally arriving at our destination after our long voyage turned into anxiety for the welfare of our fellow worker. We spent only a few days at Fronteira and then started back up the river to see our stricken brother.

Why had he gone to Santa Isabella? Was there a hospital there? or a doctor? No. There was no hospital nor doctor in all the nearly 2,000 mile expanse of the Araguaia River. But there was a government Indian post and a store that kept a small stock of drugs, and a "pensao" where over-night guests might sleep.

There we found him the next day. Unmistakeably he had tuberculosis. He lay in a tiny room cramped up in a hammock. Our hearts yearned for him and his family. We wanted to take him back up the river with us, but it was too evident that he could not stand the hard 2-week journey in our crowded little boat and then two more days across mountains and plains by truck to Goiana. He was far too weak. We left him medicines, arranged for a bed to replace the hammock so his lungs would have a little better chance to operate freely. We arranged with the owner of the "pensao" to give him milk each day and, when available, green vegetables. We promised to send for him the next month and with an earnest parting prayer we left him in God's care.

Brother Macedo, one of our brethren, came for him the next month. He was some better but still very weak. Carefully Brother Macedo took the little family in the long voyage to Goiana, but the trip was too hard and the body too weak. A few days after their arrival our faithful missionary died. Antônio Gomez gave his life for the people along the banks of the great Araguaia River.

This 13th Sabbath you will have an opportunity to give an offering which will help to place a medical launch on that great river so that the people for whom Antônio Gomez labored will not have to die with tuberculosis, malaria and other tropical diseases. And worst of all without a Savior. What happened to Antônio's widow? and the small children? Oh, they are back at the mission post alone, working and praying for the people of the Araguaia.

EAST MED. UNION

Continued from page 4

Yes, the Union office was moved a short distance to another building in Achraphia this last summer, and such a move and reorganization is good for everyone. We now house the Union Staff, which also includes the Voice of Prophecy staff.

This year was also a good year in allowing us to open a new Voice of Prophecy office in Cyprus, where we are sending out lessons in the Greek and Turkish languages. We are confident that the Lord will bless this method of reaching many in this part of our field. Our schools are bringing in results, and every soul saved is precious in the Lord's sight. Continue to send more names in of those who really wish to take this course.

We were fortunate this last year to obtain the services of Henry Melki, who is our new Publishing and Home Missionary Secretary in the Union. This last summer considerable activity was shown in these departments as well as in the Missionary Volunteer and Sabbath School.

We thank you folk for the pleasant association while traveling around the field. We hope that any past achievements in our local Union field will be merely stepping stones for a better and brighter future in soul winning.

HERE and THERE

Continued from page 8

November 10, 1953. We welcome this family in our midst, and are looking forward to the strength they will bring to the work. Elder Cowles is now busy studying the Arabic language, as well as pastoring the Heliopolis Church.

● We have greatly enjoyed the visit of Elders Hassenpflug and Turner and their families. The members and workers have truly received much benefit from the spiritual stimulus they left during their short stay in Egypt.

● We are glad to report that 72 were baptized on December 26 and 27. It is indeed encouraging to view these results of evangelistic endeavors in Egypt.

● The Egyptian workers and members always look forward with pleasure to the visits of Elder Mazat. His enthusiastic and zealous work for Christ is an inspiration to all.

● Mr. and Mrs. Abadir Abd-el-Messih and son are now located in Luxor, and we are happy for this opening in Egypt.

● We sympathize with Mr. and Mrs. Abadir and Basem in their time of sorrow for the loss of their younger boy, Baher, on Feb. 8, 1954.

COMPARISON REPORT — Middle East Division

1950 — 1953

	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP			SABBATH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP		
	Jan. 1, '50	Dec. 31'53	o/o of Gain	Jan. 1'50	Dec. 31'53	o/o of Gain
East Med. Union:						
Iraq	64	159	148 o/o	267	340	27 o/o
Lebanon-Syria	305	476	56 o/o	519	702	35 o/o
Jordania	77	110	43 o/o	151	321	112 o/o
Turkey	75	71	-05 o/o	49	80	63 o/o
Cyprus		31			38	
Union Total	521	847	62 o/o	986	1,481	50 o/o
Nile Union:						
Egypt	528	730		576	857	49 o/o
Sudan		3			11	
Union Total	528	733	38 o/o	576	868	51 o/o
Iran Mission	316	204	-35 o/o	200	175	-16 o/o
DIVISION TOTALS	1,365	1,784	31 o/o	1,762	2,524	43 o/o

We are very happy indeed to show by the above report the progress that has been made in church and Sabbath school membership during the quadrennial period ending December 31, 1953. In the Middle East Division there are now 39 organized churches, which is a gain or eight during this period. The yearly baptisms also show a steady increase, from 72 in 1950 to 361 in 1953. The net increase might have reached at least 50 o/o of doubling the membership if it had not been for the migration to other lands of so many of the believers from Iran. We thank God for the progress made, and with our fellow-workers and believers in the Middle East we pledge ourselves by the help of God's Spirit to accomplish even greater things for God the coming four years.

CHURCH CALENDER

Second Quarter, 1954

April 3	Colporteur Rally Day
May 1	Home Visitation Day
May 8	Medical Missionary Day
June 5	Home Missionary Day
June 19	Sabbath School Rally Day

OUR SABBATH SCHOOLS

Continued from page 1

- Every teacher a soul winner.
- The needs of the world a part of the program in every school.
- Every school doing its best to reach the goal of offerings to missions.
- Pledging ourselves to higher ground in study, higher ground in experience, and higher ground in service.

The giving of the message to the 100,000,000 people of the Middle East presents a mighty challenge to the Sabbath school. There is also the great problem of how to organize sufficient branch and family Sabbath schools so as to place in the hands of the nearly 2,000 graduates of the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence Schools the truths as found in the Sabbath school lessons. There is no joy like the joy of seeing souls saved in the kingdom. The

opportunity, the need, and the tremendous challenge are all about us.

"There is a broad field in the Sabbath school work, that needs to be diligently cultivated, and that is to inspire our youth to give themselves wholly to the Lord, to be used by Him in His cause. There should be zealous, faithful workers in our Sabbath schools, who will watch and discern upon whom the Spirit of God is moving, and cooperate with the angels of God in winning souls for Christ. There are sacred responsibilities entrusted to Sabbath school workers, and the Sabbath school should be the place where, through a living connection with God, men and women, youth and children, may be so fitted up that they shall be a strength and blessing to the Church..." T.S.S. p. 92.

BEGIN PLANNING NOW FOR SABBATH SCHOOL RALLY DAY, JUNE 19, 1954. PROGRAMS WILL BE ISSUED LATER.

SCHEDULE OF CHURCH OFFERINGS

Regular Monthly Offerings

1st Sabbath...	Local Church Evangelism
2nd Sabbath.....	Church Expense
3rd Sabbath...Education (Local School)	
4th Sabbath.....	Church Expense
5th Sabbath.....	Poor Fund

Special Offerings

April 3.....	S.S. Expense
June 19.....	S.S. Expense

DIVISION DIRECTORY

<i>President</i>	Geo. J. Appel
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	C. C. Morris
DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARIES	
Educational & Y.P.M.V....	T.S. Geraty
Acting Home Missionary.....	
.....	A. G. Zytoskee
Radio & Publishing.....	Wadie Farag
Sabbath School & Ministerial	
.....	Geo. J. Appel
Temperance.....	C. C. Morris

MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER

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HERE and THERE

● In recent weeks our group in Beirut has been favored with visits from many travelers from the Australasian, Southern Asia, Far Eastern, and South African Divisions, as they pass through on their way on furlough or to the General Conference Session.

● Elders Elmer Walde, T. R. Lucas and G. A. Huse from the General Conference offices, have been guests at the division compound recently.

● On April 1 the A. R. Mazat Family left Beirut on furlough and to attend the General Conference Session. We wish for Brother and Sister Mazat, Bruce, and Betty, a profitable and enjoyable stay in the homeland.

● The Division staff extends a hearty welcome to Elder and Mrs. A. G. Zytoskee and Cherrie who recently joined our group. Elder Zytoskee is taking over the Home Missionary Department during the absence of Brother Mazat.

EAST MED. UNION

● The Union Sabbath School and M.V. secretary, Brother Anees Haddad was married to one of the Beirut Arabic school teachers, Miss Nellie Nehmi, on Feb. 3. We wish for them the Lord's blessing in their united service for Him.

● Brother Y. E. Berbawy is assisting Brother Henry Melki in visiting our churches in the interest of the Hope campaign. We hope to reach the goal of 3,000 subscriptions this year.

IRAQ

● Baby boys have very recently been born in the Said Tooma and Philip Saaty families. Congratulations are extended to the happy parents.

● The property which has been rented for many years in Mosul for our school and church has now been purchased by the mission, and building operations are beginning in earnest.

● The Iraq mission has more than doubled its membership in the past four years.

JORDANIA

● Brother Mousa Azar and his family have moved to Ramalla, and he is caring for the growing interest there as well as in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and other nearby places.

● Pastor Darnell and Brother Najeeb Azar recently spent a week in Kerak, south of Amman, and found a very promising interest developing there.

● The Jordan mission has more than doubled its Sabbath school membership in the past four years.

● Departmental secretaries have been appointed in Jordania this year for the first time. Iraq did it about a year ago.

LEBANON-SYRIA
● Brother Henry Melki is happy that three colporteurs have now been able to start work here.

● Pastor Manoug and Brother Aram report a promising interest in their evangelistic effort in Beirut. A baptismal service will be held soon.

● Definite plans are now made for conducting a new effort in Marjeyoun. Brother and Sister Mousa Ghazal, and Brother Alfred Akar have the work in hand. The first-fruits were gathered on Dec. 12 when Pastor Hartwell baptised two young men in the Litany River. This was the first in South Lebanon.

● Brother and Sister Zickey Hannawi are hopeful in their prospects for work in their new field. Pray for them, please.

● Brother Hanna Kabbas and his sister are caring for the work that Zickey was in charge of before.

TURKEY

● Courage is the note that comes from that northern part of our field. Lay workers are helping very much there.

CYPRUS

● Brother Barlas has moved to Nicosia with his family. The Greek VOP Bible Correspondence School is gaining momentum under his care.

● Pastor Veltman has been supervising the building of a one room cottage near Paphos for a widow who is an earthquake victim. We wish we could do much more for the earthquake sufferers in Cyprus.

● Several Greek tracts are being prepared and are greatly appreciated.

IRAN

● Y. O. Sangarloo and Melcom Gasparian, left Tehran by train on January 21 for Abadan to visit our isolated believers there and to organize them into a Sabbath school. Upon their return February 9 they reported that we

have twenty-two baptized believers living in Abadan and three others in nearby Ahwaz, and that in addition forty-nine potential church members are made up of the rest of the individuals in the families represented. We have felt for several months that we must accept the challenge and send a worker there. On February 22 the Committee voted to transfer Brother Melcom Gasparian to Abadan. He will be leaving about the 21st of March, the date of the beginning of the Persian New Year.

Please pray for Brother and Sister Gasparian as they accept the call of God to this new field of labor for Him.

● The Iran Committee voted to ask Elder R. C. Skinner, in addition to his other duties, to pastor the Tehran Armenian church, beginning March 21.

A series of evangelistic meetings is being planned for this church to begin the first part of April. Please intercede before the Throne of Grace for us.

● Sabbath morning, Jan. 16, twin girls were born to Brother and Sister M. H. Morovati. May God's richest blessings rest upon these young parents as they endeavor to train these little ones for Him.

● Mrs. Robert C. Skinner, R.N., has recently organized some Home Nursing Classes. Sister Skinner reports that twenty have enrolled and that the interest is growing. Child and Mother Care and Nutrition Classes are planned for a later date. We believe these classes are filling a great need.

● Elder K. S. Oster left Tehran for Beirut on Tuesday, February 23, to produce tape recordings of the remainder of the first year's Farsi Voice of Prophecy Broadcasts.

NILE UNION

● Elder and Mrs. L. H. Cowles, Geneva and Brenda arrived in Cairo on

Continued, page 6

Recently organized Church group at Bishmazine, North Lebanon.

