

Messenger

VOLUME IX

FIRST QUARTER 1960

NUMBER 1

THEY DEDICATED THE HOUSE OF GOD WITH JOY

PASTOR ANEES HADDAD, *Acting President*
SDA Church in Lebanon

"And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy." Ezra 6:16. It was not with any lesser joy that the children of God dedicated a house for Him on the morning of the last Sabbath of 1959 in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Musseitbe church is one of the oldest Seventh-day Adventist church organizations in the entire Middle East. Its membership had outgrown its capacity, and plans to build a larger church got underway three years ago. However, due to two major unforeseen crises, the building was delayed. Consequently the delay only helped to add to the joy of its members when they were able to dedicate it to God the day after Christmas.

For a number of weeks the choir worked on two dedicatory numbers especially for the occasion. Excellent new benches were ordered that could be the pride of any congregation. Despite illness, the Ghazal brothers did their best to get the church ready. And the electrician with his men climbed up and down ladders installing the lights and public address system and putting the finishing touches of switch panels. Dr. Farid Awdi was contacted and invited to give the dedicatory address. The maroon colored curtain was installed. The flower pots were put in place. The janitor washed it as he had never washed a building before. Invitation cards were distributed, and the dedicatory program was printed. And the whole air was electrified with the expectancy and anticipation of the great day.

On Sabbath, December 26, Sabbath school was started fifteen minutes earlier than usual. By 10:15 the church was packed to its capacity and some were standing near the walls. The two front benches on the left side were reserved for ministers of other denominations with their families. The two front

benches on the right were occupied by the choir. Bouquets of roses added charm to the already attractive temple. At 10:15 sharp the vestry door opened and a line of six ministers came onto the platform. The dedication program had started!

Pastor R. H. Hartwell, secretary of the Middle East Division, offered the invocation after the congregation sang the doxology with noticeable fervor. Since Salim Noujaim, president of the SDA Church in Lebanon, is on a short leave to the United States, the acting president welcomed the guests and the members, and especially Dr. Farid Awdi, president of the Supreme Council of Evangelical Churches in Lebanon and Syria. "To the Christ we come this morning with our gifts, like the Wise Men from the East came with theirs," he said. "We do not come with gold, frankincense and myrrh, but instead—

We consecrate ourselves servants of the King!

We offer our hearts' thrones for the King!

And we dedicate our church a temple to the King."

One of the first national Seventh-day Adventist ministers in the Middle East, Pastor Shukri Nowfel, read a psalm and gave a brief history of the beginnings of the work in this area of the world and how he, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ghafary, Mr. Ibrahim Shaghoury, Mr. Bashir Hasso and others were among the first who accepted the truth in this section of the world field. A number of overseas missionaries were mentioned with their contribution in bringing the message to the national. Inspiring glimpses of walking long hours, of persecution, of ridicule, of victory were flashed by Pastor Nowfel to the audience. He thanked the President of the Supreme Council of Evangelical Churches for his personal assistance as well as the aid of other ministers and their stand for the right on behalf of God's cause. He expressed his deep gratitude to God and to the overseas missionaries in helping to build this new edifice—this glorious memorial to God's truth. It was a sincere word, indeed, enriched by a sincere heart that had accompanied the progress of God's movement here for the past half-a-century and more.

After the choir rendered the first anthem, Pastor Wilcox, president of the Middle East Division, introduced the speaker of the morning, Dr. Farid Awdi. The words of Pastor Wilcox were very kind and well-chosen, thus preparing the atmosphere for Dr. Awdi's excellent message that followed immediately.

"I count it a great privilege," said Pastor Awdi, "to have the honor of sharing with you this moment of supreme joy." The rest of his sermon is found elsewhere in this issue.

After Dr. Awdi presented his thrill-



*Beirut Musseitbe Arabic Church
Dedicated December 26, 1959.*

ing message, the church pastor, Elder Maurice Katrib, gave a talk on the hopes and plans of the church for the future in its new era. He expressed the desire of the entire church to receive the unction of the Holy Spirit like the apostolic church of old so that the necessary power can be received to take the gospel message to those who have not yet received it.

The Act of Dedication was carried out while all the congregation stood. Pastor Anees A. Haddad was leading out in the responsive reading. This was a very impressive ceremony that was especially liked by the ministers of other denominations present. Pastor Katrib led the whole church in the dedicatory prayer.

At this time, the church choir rendered the second anthem which they had prepared, and a memorable occasion was brought to a close with the benediction of the church pastor. Another lighthouse for God's truth had been established and dedicated. It is our wish to see many more similar lighthouses established to diffuse the light of Heaven's truth in every corner of the Middle East. It is our wish also that the new Beirut Arabic church of Musseitbe may be a center where the lost and the suffering of every class will find a perfect reflection of God's love.

IRAN TRAINING SCHOOL

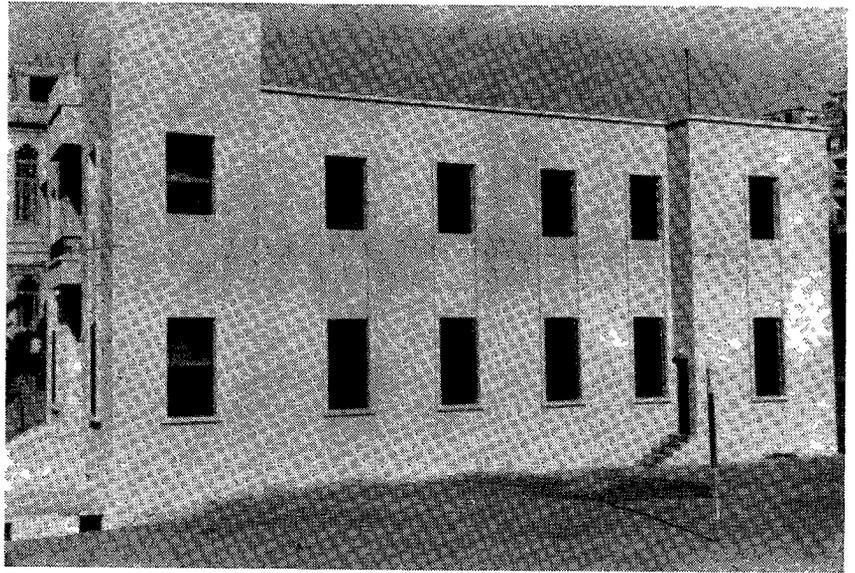
J. L. SPROUT, *Secretary*
Educational Department
Iran Section.

The Iran Training School started the school year of 1959-60 in a big and wonderful way. Previous to this year there were always many badly needed facilities missing. This year, thanks to the generous help of the Middle East Division, physical facilities were much improved.

The first Sabbath of the year was reserved for the dedication of the newly completed chapel. The president of the Middle East Division was present in Tehran, making the time doubly opportune. The Iran Mission president and office staff and the two downtown churches were invited to the school for Sabbath services.

On Sabbath morning the sun broke bright and clear on the Alborze mountains overlooking the school property. All were ready for a long, happy day. Transportation from town was a problem for our members, but the Naderi Avenue church solved the problem by chartering a special bus which brought them directly to the school property.

After Sabbath school, and before the church service, Elder Wilcox, our principal speaker for the day, walked into the room where the participants in the preaching service were gathered, and declared in a very solemn voice,



Newly Dedicated Musseitbe Church in Beirut

"Brethren, you are in trouble". He was referring to the chapel designed for a maximum of 60 people, filled or "packed" with 106 persons. Of course it is the kind of trouble we like to see.

The dedication service was started with normal church opening activities. Then Brother Morovati recalled briefly the history of the facilities of the Iran Training School. Our mission president, Elder Skinner, said a few words and introduced the division president. Elder Wilcox's talk concerned the spiritual building of each individual, the foundation upon it was built and the

constant need of building upon Christ. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Brother Morovati.

After the service the campus truly looked like a great picnic ground, with nearly all the members taking advantage of the lovely late summer day. All had been fed spiritually, now was the time for physical renewing. It was also an occasion for social pleasure and over all a day of encouragement for the members to note the improvement and advancement in this center of Christian education.

Beirut Arabic Church Dedicatory Address

DR. FARID AWDI, *President*

Supreme Council of Evangelical Churches in Lebanon and Syria

As I stand in this pulpit a current of joy runs in my veins and moves my soul, as it runs in your veins and moves your souls. A very precious desire, the building of this church, has been attained. Therefore, we join the psalmist in saying, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Ps. 118: 24. Undoubtedly the ones who are most joyful among us are those who first conceived of the blessed project and who struggled to see it through.

I count it truly a duty to remember, not only in gratitude and thanks, but also in examples to be followed, to remember with thankfulness the Adventist Mission and the members and pastor of this church for the efforts they have put forth to build this church. We remember with thanks to God the mighty men whose hearts are filled with faith and who have given much

of their valuable time and health, comfort and money, to accomplish this worthy project. In this connection we cannot forget the widow's mite. Yes, this day is a day of happiness and rejoicing.

But this is also a day of humbling ourselves, a day of confession. When Solomon completed the building of the great temple he said, "Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" 1 Kings 8: 27. In spite of the greatness that enshrouded Solomon's temple, he felt great humility and contrition before the greatness and glory of God. The great temple was so contemptible as compared with the Almighty God. What is earth compared with heaven! What are man-made temples as compared with the temple of this universe filled with the glory of God! What is the effect of

what is called eternal art as compared with what is found of beauty and majesty, of art and perfection in God's nature! What are fortresses and skyscrapers when compared with rock stratas and mighty mountains!

We stand today in awe and humility. And as we dedicate this house, we present it with great contrition, repeating the words of Solomon, the wise: "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee." 1 Chronicles 29:14.

This day is also a day of prayer. We stretch forth our arms to heaven today in prayer, so that God might make of this house a house of prayer. The Lord of glory says, "My house shall be called the house of prayer."

In this place we feel as Jacob felt when he said, "How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Genesis 28:17. This is none other but the house of God. Yes, the whole earth is the house of God, but special places have been set apart to confirm the great truth that there is that connection between heaven and earth, and that we live now in a spiritual world. This visible house helps us to see the invisible. This church testifies to the spiritual world—the immortal world. This church helps us to penetrate the wall of materialism and behold eternal things. The church is the house of God. The church is the gate of heaven. It certifies to the fact of man's ability to communicate with God. "And behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it." Genesis 28:12. This is the vision which Jacob saw in the wilderness of Haran.

The Hebrews used to call the house of God "The tabernacle of the congregation." The church is the meeting place of the congregation, the meeting of God with man, and the meeting of man with God. What a glorious thought that inspires the mind, that sets the heart and the emotions on fire, and that fills the soul with reverence and awe!

When we enter the house of God, we are constrained to say as did Jacob, "How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." It is here that God descends in His glory and blesses the worshippers. It is here that the Heavenly Father meets with His believing children. It is here that Jesus feeds us with the bread of life and fills us with the living water. Here we leave the world and enter into communion with God. Here we rise from earth and ascend into heaven. Here the soul is freed from the fetters of materialism and rises to the spiritual world, and presents itself before God Almighty,



BROTHER THEODOROS ANTONY AND PASTOR ZADOUR BAHARIAN

Picture supplied by the kindness of Brother A. N. Barlas. Brother Antony was a Greek shoemaker. He accepted the Adventist message in the U. S. A., and brought the truth to Turkey. Pastor Baharian was our pioneer ordained worker in Turkey. He gave his life for the cause of truth.

and beholds the glories of heaven and what God has prepared for those that fear Him, that which "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man." I Cor. 2:9. "This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Then the purpose of this house is to proclaim Jesus Christ to mankind. (The story was told of the preacher who philosophied until one Sunday he saw on the pulpit a slip of paper on which was written, "Sir, we would see Jesus." He announced that Sunday that he had no message for them, but that he would next week. On the following Sunday he presented many wonderful messages that made the Christ live. One Sunday he found another slip in the same handwriting saying, "And the disciples saw and rejoiced.")

Lastly, this is a day of dedication. As we consecrate this house to the worship of God, we should consecrate our own selves to the service of God. For the true church is not the building, but the congregation of believers who have dedicated their lives to the spreading of Christ's kingdom in these lands.

The meaning of consecration is separation from the world and becoming a temple for the dwelling of God. It is the dedication of our lives to Him. It is becoming His own. Unfortunately, most Christians have a partial consecration, and the words of Isaiah the prophet are true of them: "O Lord our God, other lords beside thee have

had dominion over us." Isaiah 26:13. Yes, in the lives of some of us other lords besides God have had dominion over us and have sat upon the thrones of our hearts. These other lords have dominion over our thinking, over our doing, over our talents and feelings and money and attitudes. But God would remind us in this great and happy event of the words of the Lord Jesus; "ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. 6:24. God would remind us of the first commandment: Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." He would remind us of the great commandment: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:37.

We have tried to live a life of compromise. We have tried to satisfy God and the world. Consequently we find in our lives a struggle between the powers of good and evil. In our lives there is waging a spiritual warfare. But in the Christian religion there is no compromise. Jesus Christ declares with a loud voice, "He that is not with Me is against Me."

(The story was told of the bat when there was a war between the bird kingdom and the animal kingdom. The first battle was won by the birds, so the bat flapped its wings and gloried in the fact that it was a bird. But in the second battle the animals won. Then the bat folded its wings and trotted, glorying in the fact that it was an animal.)

Beloved, upon this occasion of ded-

ication we are challenged to search our lives with sincerity, and if we should find a lord or lords other than God, let us be sure that these lords have caused us so much trouble, perplexity, decay, unhappiness, and spiritual paralysis.

In the Bible we find examples of partial consecration. Demas, about whom Paul writes, "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." II Timothy 4:10. Demas used to love Christ, but at the same time he loved the world. He was attempting to worship both Christ and the world and to please Christ and the world. He accompanied Paul, but not all the way. At last, the time came when the love of the world had dominion over his entire life, so he forsook Paul and Christ—and followed the world. His consecration was not like that of Paul—a complete unreserved consecration.

The lives of some of us might be like that of the young man who came to Jesus and said, "Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house." Jesus answered him, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:61,62. So many times we have the same experience—we determine to consecrate our lives to God and we say, "I will follow thee; but. . ." This "but" is the cause of the spiritual struggle. It is the cause of our weakness and defeat before the powers of evil. This "but" is the breach in the fortifications of the soul against Satan.

(The story was told of an officer who, when being baptized, wanted to keep his hand out of the water. The minister told him that ALL should be God's.)

(The story was told of an evangelist who rented a big hall. The owner of the hall, however, wanted to keep a corner "to offer drinks for those that come to the meetings." The evangelist refused, saying that ALL should be God's.)

This church has been dedicated to God, and we want it all to be God's. You will remember when Jesus entered Jerusalem how He entered into the temple—the house of God. When He discovered that the powers of Satan had occupied a section of it for trade, He took ropes and made a whip out of them, and drove out the animals, the pigeon salesman, the money changers, and then with a loud voice He shouted in their faces saying, "My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."

This same Jesus is not satisfied in this dedicatory service with the consecration of the building to God, but He wants the consecration of the true church—the congregation of believers—to God.

Dear Church, In the name of the Supreme Council of Evangelical Churches in Lebanon and Syria I heartily congratulate you and share with you the joys of this great day.

You do not need to be reminded that the dedication of this church bears with it new responsibilities. Carry to the inhabitants of this city—

The light of salvation and sincerity
The light of righteousness and reformation

The light of truth and liberty
The light of true education and culture
The light of pure worship
The light of the principles of heaven.

Through your schools, and your sermons, and your institutions, and your publications, and the lives of your sons and daughters in the sacrifices and love and service and uprightness, work to accomplish this lofty purpose.

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER

Quotations selected from the writings of Ellen G. White by R. E. ANDERSON

Manager, Middle East Press

"At a meeting held in Dorchester, Massachusetts, November 1848, I had been given a view of the proclamation of the sealing message, and of the duty of the brethren to publish the light that was shining upon our pathway.

"After coming out of vision, I said to my husband: 'I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first: but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world.'" —*Life Sketches*, 125.

"Our publications have a most sacred work to do in making clear, simple, and plain the spiritual basis of our faith. Everywhere the people are taking sides; all are ranging themselves either under the banner of truth and righteousness or under the banner of the apostate powers that are contending for the supremacy. At this time God's message to the world is to be given with such prominence and power that the people will be brought face to face, mind to mind, heart to heart, with truth. They must be brought to see its superiority over the multitudinous errors that are pushing their way into notice, to supplant, if possible, the word of God for this solemn time." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, 151

"The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare a people to meet God. Throughout the world they are to do the same work that was done by John the Baptist for the Jewish nation. By startling messages of warning, God's prophet awakened men from worldly dreaming. Through him God called backsliding Israel to repentance. By his presentation of truth he exposed popular delusions. In contrast with the false theories of his time, truth in his teaching stood forth as an eternal certainty. 'Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,' was John's message, Matthew 3:2. This same mes-

sage, through the publications from our printing houses, is to be given to the world today." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, 139, 140.

"There are many places in which the voice of the minister cannot be heard, places which can be reached only by our publications,—the books, papers, and tracts filled with the Bible truths that the people need. Our literature is to be distributed everywhere. The truth is to be sown beside all waters; for we know not which will prosper, this or that. In our erring judgment we may think it unwise to give literature to the very ones who would accept the truth the most readily. We know not what may be the results of giving away a leaflet containing present truth." —*Manuscript* 127, 1909.

"When church members realize the importance of the circulation of our literature, they will devote more time to this work. Papers, tracts, and books will be placed in the homes of the people, to preach the gospel in their several lines. . . The church must give her attention to the canvassing work. This is one way in which she is to shine in the world. Then will she go forth 'fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.'" —*Manuscript* 113, 1901.

"If we only knew what is before us we would not be so dilatory in the work of the Lord.

"We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands. If we make no effort to win souls to Christ we shall be held responsible for the work we might have done, but did not do because of our spiritual indolence. Those who belong to the Lord's kingdom must work earnestly for the saving of souls. They must do their part to bind up the law and seal it among the disciples." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 331, 332.

"The new year is just before us, and plans should be laid for earnest, persevering effort in the Master's service. There is much to be done to advance the work of God. I have been instructed that the canvassing work is to be revived, and that it is to be carried forward with increasing success. It is the Lord's work, and a blessing will attend those who engage in it with earnestness and diligence." —*Review and Herald*, January 20, 1903.

"The Lord calls for many more to engage in the canvassing work. . . For Christ's sake, my brethren and sisters, make the most of the hours of the new year to place the precious light of present truth before the people. The Angel of the covenant is empowering His servants to carry the truth to all parts of the world. He has sent forth His angels with the message of mercy; but, as if they did not speed on their way fast enough to satisfy His heart of yearning love, He lays on every member of His church the responsibility of proclaiming this message. 'Let him that heareth say, Come.' Every member of the church is to show his loyalty by inviting the thirsty to drink of the water of life. A chain of living witnesses is to carry the invitation to the world. Will you act your part in this great work?"

"Jesus is calling for many missionaries, for men and women who will consecrate themselves to God, willing to spend and be spent in His service. Oh, can we not remember that here is a world to labor for? Shall we not move forward step by step, letting God use us as His helping hand? Shall we not place ourselves on the altar of service? Then the love of Christ will touch and transform us, make us willing for His sake to do and dare." —*Review and Herald*, January 7, 1903.

"... A great and important work is before us. The enemy of souls realizes this, and he is using every means in his power to lead the canvasser to take up some other line of work. This order of things should be changed. God calls the canvassers back to their work. He calls for volunteers who will put all their energies and enlightenment into the work, helping wherever there is opportunity. . ."

"The Lord imparts a fitness for the work to every man and woman who will cooperate with divine power. All the requisite talent, courage, perseverance, faith, and tact will come as they put the armor on. A great work is to be done in our world, and human agencies will surely respond to the demand. The world must hear the warning. When the call comes, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' send back the answer clear and distinct, 'Here am I; send me.'" —*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 332, 333.



Mr. Garbis Bedelian was married to Miss Berjuhi Zinetian on October 26, 1959. The wedding took place in the old Beirut Arabic church with Pastor Maurice Katrib in charge and Brother Aram Aghassian translating into Armenian. Pastors assisting in the service were A. A. Haddad, and R. H. Hartwell. Brother Bedelian is a worker in the division office.



Brother and Sister Ivan C. Peacock reached Tehran in the late spring of 1959 where they have been studying the Farsee language in preparation to opening the new physiotherapy unit in Tehran. Previous experience included service in the Glendale, Madison College, and Loma Linda Sanitariums. Iran has looked forward to the opening of such treatment rooms for a long time.

FROM HERE AND THERE

MIDDLE EAST DIVISION

* Miss Nora Atkins left December 22 for a very short furlough in America.

* Brother A. W. Fund has been asked to serve as acting treasurer and auditor for the division, in addition to his duties in the East Mediterranean Union. This has been caused by the call of the General Conference for Pastor R. E. Osborn to serve as treasurer for the South American Division. Brother Osborn left Beirut immediately after the division committee meetings in November. His family has remained until he returns to move them early in 1960. This call came very unexpectedly, and the division is still waiting for a replacement. The Osborns are surely wished every blessing of God in their new assignment. It has been fortunate that we had a man like Brother Fund to step into this emergency situation so gracefully.

* The eucalyptus trees on the division compound have been undergoing major surgery. They have been trimmed rather drastically, but it makes for safety, and in the end for beauty also. Elder R. A. Wilcox gave the order for the operation to be made.

* Word from Dr. William Wagner,

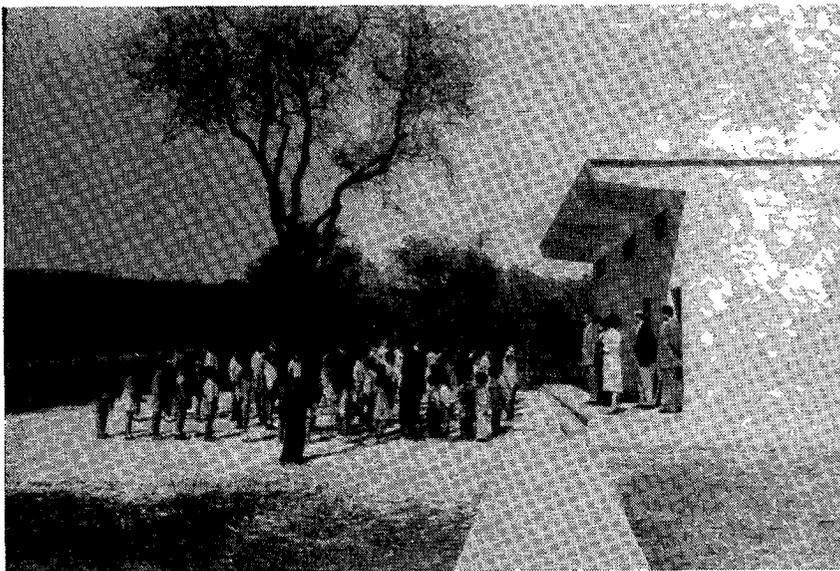
division medical secretary, indicates that he is taking a surgical residency in California.

* On January 4 Mrs. R. H. Hartwell played several marimba numbers for the Christmas program of the Beirut, Ashrafia Armenian (Protestant) church. (Their Christmas is on January 6). Miss June Soper, head of the music department of Middle East College, accompanied at the piano. Several hundred people were present to enjoy the program.

EAST MEDITERRANEAN UNION

* The physiotherapy equipment that was ordered for the Beirut unit, to be opened above the Center near the museum, arrived before the end of the year. Brother Leif Jensen was jubilant with happiness as he began to uncrate this equipment on the last day of 1959. No doubt 1960 will see this physiotherapy unit doing a wonderful service for the people of Lebanon.

* Pastor Wayne Olson has no doubt felt well rewarded as he has seen the attendance at his lectures in the Beirut Cultural Center hold up strongly during the holiday season. His corps of workers have stood by him faithfully in this effort.



NEW SCHOOL BUILDING AT BISHMAZZINE IN NORTH LEBANON INCLUDES TWO ADDITIONAL SCHOOL ROOMS AND THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. (Part of the pupil group stand for morning inspection.)

* Brother Philip Srour, director of the VOP office in Beirut, informs us that the work of the Bible correspondence school has increased of late, and that lessons have been coming in nicely from Iraq. The greatest activity in this commendable work comes from Jordan.

CYPRUS

* Pastor R. A. Wilcox visited the church in Nicosia over the first week end of the New Year. The brethren there are not many, but they have a very encouraging Ingathering report. One member raised over thirty Cyprus pounds.

* A goal of twenty baptisms has been set for the year 1960, and with God's blessing it will be reached. Baptisms in 1959 were heartening.

* Plans are being laid to dedicate the Nicosia church building in the near future, and also to open new work in the Famagusta district in the eastern part of the island.

IRAQ

* It was a joyful time when Pastor Behnam Arshat visited Beirut and attended the East Mediterranean Union year-end committee meetings. His optimism brought cheer to his brethren at the office, and the students at Middle East College.

* Brother Philip Saaty is principal of the secondary school in Baghdad, and Miss Shemiram Yousif is principal of the elementary school. Miss Fawzia Khalil is also teaching in Baghdad.

* Miss Emelia Feddo is principal of the school in Mosul, in northern Iraq.

Mosul is still awaiting the arrival of a new pastor.

JORDAN

* Miss Hanna Jubran reports 114 pupils enrolled in the Amman School. More than thirty children are being taught by Miss Siham Kusous in Kerak. Pastor Mousa Azar is the responsible principal of the El Husn School, where three teachers working under his direction instruct nearly forty pupils. Pastor R. H. Hartwell, acting educational secretary for the East Mediterranean Union inspected the three schools in Jordan in December.

* A piece of land has been purchased in old Jerusalem. It is near the Rockefeller Museum and faces the Mount of Olives. It is hoped to secure funds from the 1961 Sabbath School Thirtieth Sabbath offering to erect a school and church in this strategic spot.

* Elder R. A. Wilcox attended the year-end committee meeting of the Jordan Section in December.

LEBANON

* Lebanon has exceeded its 1959 Ingathering goal of LL. 12,000 by nearly LL. 1,000 more. The Arabic Church in Beirut deserves special credit for exceeding its goal of LL. 2,400.

* Special credit is due to the children of our four mission schools who raised at least LL. 1,000. One Armenian girl, about twelve years old, brought LL. 80 to help with the Lord's work.

* New school boards have been chosen for each mission school in Lebanon, and

they are expecting to meet once each month at the individual schools.

* The Beirut Arabic church was dedicated Sabbath morning, December 26. Pastor Farid Awdi, president of the Supreme Council of Evangelical Churches in Lebanon and Syria gave the dedicatory address. He was introduced by Pastor R. A. Wilcox, president of the Middle East Division. Pastor Shukri Nowfel presented a history of the church from the time it was organized up to the present date. Others taking part in the dedication were: Pastors A. A. Haddad, Maurice Katrib, and R. H. Hartwell.

* Pastor Manoug Nazirian, after spending a number of months in Milan, Italy, in association with Elder Walter Schubert, in his evangelistic effort, returned about Christmas time to resume his activities in Beirut. It is good to have him back again, and to see the enthusiastic way he is planning to promote the work among the Armenians.

* It is interesting to note that of all the schools in Lebanon, with some 12,000 young people taking Civil Defense courses outlined by the government, the Adventist School in Aramoun was placed first on the list as having met the requirements better than all the rest.

* Brother George Khoury, secretary of the Publishing Department for Lebanon, as well as assistant publishing secretary for the East Mediterranean Union reports that eight colporteurs in November worked 735 hours as reported on 23 weekly reports. They sold LL. 1,096.25 worth of books, and LL. 310.00 worth of magazines, making their total sales LL. 1,406.25 for the month. This is only a part of the picture. Their evangelistic activities were astounding: Bible studies 233, prayers offered 290, SDAs visited 94, Bible Course enrollments 636, other pieces of literature distributed 1,262. In addition to all this 81 decisions were made during their visits. Surely this department needs the prayers of every child of God.

SYRIA

* Pastor Zaki Hannawy reports that in western Syria nine were baptised after the annual week of prayer had been held.

* Pastor Towfic Issa recently visited friends in Lebanon, and it was a joy to hear of the faith of our brethren in Syria, and of their consecration to the work of God in their homeland.

TURKEY

* Word has been received that Elder B. J. Mondics is steadily improving after a period of severe sickness.

* Brother Manuk Benzatian is also re-

ported to be much improved after his illness.

* God is still answering prayer for our work in this field, and encouraging forward steps are being taken as a result of this divine help.

NILE UNION

* The Nile Union annual year-end committee meeting was held at the Union office in Heliopolis, November 23 to 25. Meeting with the committee were the General Conference secretary W. R. Beach, and treasurer, C. L. Torrey; the Middle East Division president, R. A. Wilcox, and acting treasurer, A. W. Fund. The help of these visiting brethren was greatly appreciated as the committee dealt with several complicated issues affecting the future of the work in the Nile Union.

* At the recent year-end committee plans were laid for the enlarging of the work in the Sudan. Pastor A. G. Zytoskee, Nile Union president, reported on the results of the recent visit to the Sudan. Although it is felt that the time has come for the Sudan to hear the "message of a soon coming Saviour," it is recognized that the problems are such that only through prayer and God's power can this great and vast territory be opened.

* On November 8, Brother Wadie Farag opened an evangelistic effort in the Heliopolis church. Meetings are being held twice weekly throughout the winter and spring of 1960. The interest is growing and several have begun keeping the Sabbath.

* Pastor Hilmy Berbawy and Brother Leon Magressey began a series of meetings on December 6 in Luxor. Four meetings are being held each week and the interest is good. Pastor Hilmy, Nile Union Publishing and Home Missionary secretary, is setting a good example to other departmental secretaries by engaging in public evangelism in addition to his departmental work.

* Pastor William Gayed has been conducting an evangelistic effort in Tanta and several from the better classes have taken their stand for the message. Pastor C. V. Brauer, recently, spoke on ten successive Sunday evenings as assistance to Pastor William in his effort. * The greatest interest in the truth to appear in 1959 developed in Abu Quorqas, a city near Minia, Upper Egypt. An old Adventist, William Fakhry Naguib, Minia district pastor, was our only believer there. When Fakhry Naguib, Minia district pastor, started meetings in Abu Quorqas and opened a club for youth, Brother William returned to the church and began to work with great zeal. Brother William, a lawyer, is also a capable speaker and has great influence in the city. Soon large numbers of young men and older ones showed an interest in the message.



BEIRUT CENTER OF CULTURE AND DIFFUSION OF LIGHT

Pastor Fakhry began an evangelistic campaign in Abu Quorqas last autumn with attendance of over two hundred.

Up to now eleven have been baptized and several others are enrolled in baptismal classes. Actually the persecution encountered has helped many to make their decision for the truth.

* At the time of the summer camps in Port Said, our church there was closed. The closing of the church was not related to the summer camps, but the good impression and contacts made with officials who visited the camps have helped in re-opening the church. Brother Farris Bishai is well and favorably known in Port Said, and during the past few months has been holding public meetings.

* In the Assiut district, Pastor Fikry Mikhail has his forces well organized for evangelism. During the fall months a major effort has been held in the Assiut church, now our own denominational property. Pastor Fikry has baptized, at last count, 36 in 1959 with the report of the fourth quarter not yet in.

* Pastor Abadir A. Messih has been holding meetings in Souhag, Zewak, Akhmim, and Dahsa. Also in the same district, Daniel Doss has been conducting an effort in Tahta.

Last October a district meeting was held in Souhag. The union officers, A. G. Zytoskee, and R. W. Wilmot, together with several other pastors and workers attended the week-end meetings. A large number of non-Adventists attended the evening services and a goodly number of our own believers living in the Souhag district were present for the entire three days.

* Other efforts are being conducted by Pastor Nashed Yacoub in Fayoum and

Senures, and Pastor Nassif Butros in Monsura. The film "One in Twenty Thousand" was shown in Monsura to a large audience.

* The six students of the "overseas worker's children's school" together with the six students of the special "eighth grade school" joined to put on a Christmas program in the Heliopolis church. Mrs. A. G. Zytoskee, and Mrs. Aziza Habib, are the teachers of the two schools, respectively.

* Recent visitors to the office were: R. L. Osmunson and family, from East Africa; J. O. Iverson, Public Relations secretary for the Pacific Union; Charles Seitz, M. V. secretary for Northern California Conference; Herbert Hanson, from Ethiopia; D. L. Ringering and family, from East Africa; Dr. Genevieve McWilliams, visiting her sister Evelyn Zytoskee; and from Beirut, the E. W. Warnings, Mrs. R. E. Osborn and sons Dicky and Kenny, and Miss June Soper and her mother.

* The enrollment at the Nile Union Academy this year is 46, of whom 17 are new students. A new face at the academy since January 1, is that of Sidhom Anees, employed to help in the office and drive the truck.

* Several students, under the direction of Samaan Fungary, are carrying on missionary activities in nearby villages. Every Sabbath afternoon branch Sabbath schools or cottage meetings are being conducted in Khanka, Gebel Asfat, and Abu Zabal. Some of the students have also conducted the Sabbath school services in neighboring churches.

* During the Christmas season a number of students under the direction of Hanna Malaka presented Christmas programs in the Heliopolis and the Fayoum churches.

MIDDLE EAST PRESS

* Krikor Yessayan of Beirut was recently added to the staff of the Middle East Press to serve an apprenticeship in the art of bookbinding. Brother Krikor has for three years been a faithful member of the Beirut Armenian church. Since uniting with the church he has been very active in missionary activities. Before joining the press staff Brother Krikor was operating a fine tailoring business. We appreciate men who will leave their own businesses to answer the call of God and work for Him. We welcome Brother Krikor, his wife and little girl into our press family.

* The new book in Arabic entitled "The Lord's Day" described in the fourth quarter 1959 "Messenger" is now ready for sale. Our prayer is that God will use this book mightily throughout the Middle East to help the millions to learn and obey the truth. Make sure that every person who has

heard of the true Bible Sabbath has this book in his hand. Contact your Book and Periodical House for the price in your field.

* God has richly blessed this year in the annual "Hope" campaign. Although all the reports have not yet reached us from the field, what we have received are most encouraging. We thank each one of you for the part you had in placing this magazine in the hands of your friends and neighbors. Any who have not made their pledge yet, please do so at once so that this magazine may go to as many as possible, telling them of the soon return of our Lord.

* Translation of the book "Desire of Ages" is now actually under way. The translation of "Patriarchs and Prophets" has been completed in an excellent way, and is now in the process of publication. It will be a thrilling day when these two wonderful books can be placed in many homes in the beautiful Arab language.

* The College Band, directed by Mr. E. D. McGhee, was featured at the Beirut Cultural Center during a special program celebrating Lebanese Independence day. The program was given twice to accommodate the large number who attended.

* Mr. S. Arnita, the head of the Music Department of the University of Beirut, brought musical artists from the city, and presented two of his advanced piano students, in giving a concert at Middle East College on November 28. The artists included a vocal soloist, two oboe players, a flute player, and an English horn player. Mr. Arnita also played two piano compositions of his own.

CHURCH CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

Feb.	6	Home Missionary Day
Feb.	13	Christian Education Day
Feb.	27	Temperance Commitment Day
March	5	Home Missionary Day
March	12-19	MV Week of Prayer
March	26	Thirteenth Sabbath
April	2	Home Visitation and VOP
April	23	Sabbath School Rally Day
April	30	Tithe Promotion Day
May	7	Home Missionary Day
May	14	Medical Missionary Day
May	21	Spirit of Prophecy Day

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Feb.	6	HOPE Magazine Subscriptions
Feb.	13	Middle East College
March	5	Church Missionary
March	12	Missions' Advance
April	2	VOP Bible Schools
April	23	Sabbath School Expense

DIVISION DIRECTORY

President	R. A. Wilcox
Secretary	R. H. Hartwell
Acting Treasurer and Auditor	A. W. Fund

DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARIES

Educational, Religious Liberty, and Public Relations	G. A. Keough
Home Missionary	R. H. Hartwell
Medical	Wm. Wagner, M. D.
Ministerial	W. E. Olson
Publishing & Radio	R. C. Darnell
Sabbath & Y. P. M. V.	A. A. Haddad
Temperance	

* The Autumn Quarter examinations were completed on December 23, and the students began a brief Christmas recess. Classes started on January 5 for the Winter Quarter. The following students made the Honor Roll:

College Students

- Lotfy Abadir
- Camille Abdel Kerim
- Mumtaz Fargo
- Asrat Gabremariam
- Ellen Ghazal
- Janet Marcarian
- Johnny Minassian
- Nabih Nabti
- Samir Shaheen
- Ahed Siman
- Varoujan Vartanian

Secondary Students

- Gabriel Manougian
- Wadie Marcos

* On Christmas Eve faculty members and students who were remaining on the campus for the holidays enjoyed a Christmas banquet. Following the banquet there was a short program at the end of which Mr. R. E. Anderson as Santa Claus appeared from the fire place chimney and distributed gifts to the students.

* Middle East College industrial program is expanding. The terraces west of the administration building are being planted under the direction of Ibrahim Hanna, the farm manager. Soon there will be flowers for sale from these terraces. The bakery also has greatly increased its production under the management of Herbert Faimann. At the

present time, in addition to supplying all our cafeteria and store needs, bakery products are being sold in Beirut through a number of stores. A completely new industry was started a few weeks ago. Legumes and grains are being purchased wholesale, cleaned, and packed in plastic bags. Already we have the promise of twelve stores in Beirut which will carry these products. Through this department more work can be provided for the young ladies.

* The construction on the laundry expansion has been completed and new machinery has been purchased. This will increase the efficiency of our laundry work.

* Early in the year the MV Council met and decided to sponsor the following bands in the society this year: Missionary band, MV classwork band, Music Hour. The Missionary band has been active in distributing literature, making visits, and otherwise helping Elder Olson in his effort in the new Cultural Center. To help prospective Master Guides meet their requirements, a Leadercraft class and a Pathfinder Counselor class have been organized. Members of the Pathfinder Counselor class are directing the Arabic Pathfinder Club.

MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER

R. H. Hartwell Editor

Published quarterly as the official Organ of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Middle East Division, P. O. Box 2020, Beirut, Lebanon.