



Messenger

VOLUME X

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NUMBER 1

A MESSAGE TO THE ADVENT FAMILY AROUND THE WORLD

Dear! Beloved:

From the headquarters of the Advent Movement we send to you Christian greetings. For the past week we have been here attending the biennial Autumn Council. This Council held midway between General Conference sessions, is a most important meeting. We have been listening to reports from the leaders of our ten divisions, which represent every continent and myriad islands of the sea. We have heard of problems and perplexities, but, thank God, we have also heard of progress and pioneering victories. We have been sobered by the recital of the almost insuperable obstacles that our troublous times have placed in the way of mission work in some areas. But we have rejoiced at the stories of audacious faith that has hurdled the obstacles and won new advances for the kingdom. God is going before His people. This cheering fact stands out as we survey the world field. It is gloriously evident that hitherto hath the Lord led us.

We have also been impressed with this joyous truth: In a world torn with suspicion and filled with dire forebodings, we can have peace of heart, a sense of spiritual direction, and a feeling of quiet fellowship with the family of the Advent Movement. As our late, revered Elder Spicer loved to say, "It is a good family to belong to." And the more troubled the times, the more meaningful should the Advent Movement become to us. Let us never forget that this Movement began, not by accident, but by the will of God. Divinely launched, divinely directed, it is God's agency to bring to men a final message of life in the last great hour of earth's history.

We have not followed cunningly devised fables. Fulfilling prophecies give us stronger and ever stronger reason to believe that the Advent Movement is of God. If the devil could succeed, by suspicions and criticism, to break our ranks he would exultantly gain a major victory. But that victory he will not gain. The messenger of God comforts us with the promise: "The church, enfeebled and defective, needing to be

reproved, warned and counseled, is the only object on earth upon which Christ bestows His supreme regard." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 49. "God has a church upon the earth, who are His chosen people, who keep His command-

ments. He is leading, not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people." —*Ibid.*, p. 61.

Great is the work that we must do—a world work for God. We can do it only as we stand united. Let us find no room in our hearts for the corrosive acids of doubt or discord. In union there is strength, the strength so vital to the successful completion of our heaven-appointed task.

As we have studied the world field for 1961, we are impressed anew that the opportunities for expansion greatly exceed our present and anticipated receipts. A spirit of sacrifice launched the Movement—poverty and patched clothes were its hallmark. There is no substitute for sacrifice if we are to measure up to our opportunities. God opens the doors. We walk in on sacrificial tread. Greater faithfulness in tithe, greater liberality in offerings, these are two solemn challenges to us today.

In these tumultuous times you are much in our thoughts. You live in many lands and under many different governments. While our hearts are bound as one in holy allegiance to our God above, we must never forget that we each owe a very real and continuing loyalty to the country in which we dwell. Adventists should be the best citizens of the land—no matter what land—dedicated to law-obedience, and high citizenship. The Holy Scriptures command us to honor dignitaries, to pray for them and for the peace of the land. Let none have occasion to question us, unless it be in the matter of relationship to our God.

The hour is late, the last, last hour of earth's history. And the night is dark, for darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. But, thank God, the morning is near at hand, and through the darkness shine the bright rays of the day-star that betoken the soon return of our Lord. To be ready for that great day is the hope of every true Adventist, the goal of his living, the reason for his ardor, devotion and sacrifice. And so we commend to you,

FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

"On us, great God, on us are come
The ends of rolling time;
We would begin this opening year
With gratitude sublime.
Men after men have come and gone,
Myriads have passed away;
But Thou hast lived unchanged, O
God,
And brought us to this day.

The past, an ocean under Thee,
Bore onward Thy great plan,
And every billow, as it broke,
Was fraught with good to man.
The dispensations under which
Our fathers lived and died
Were only, as composed with ours,
Dim daybreak to noontide.

"A goodly heritage" have we,
Ages of choicest lore;
What "kings and prophets long'd
to see
Are ours for evermore.
The great men of the past are ours,
To help us on life's way;
The Sun of Righteousness we have
To flood our hearts with day.

All that past times have given us
May we employ aright,
And live a grand and godly life
Full worthy of our light.
We follow in the awful march
Of all the mighty dead;
Eternal Father succour us
When all our years have fled."

This New Year's poem was composed by the preacher for the occasion and sung after the sermon on Sunday morning January 2, 1870.

Printed in the "Homilist" by David Thomas, D. D., Simpkin, Marshall and Company, London, 1870.

even as we accept for our own hearts, the appeal of Holy Writ: "Seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." 2 Peter 3:14.

May the blessing of God be upon you in sustaining grace and overcoming victory. And may the benediction of Heaven be upon your children, your little ones. Let us make ready to go to Heaven as united families.

YOURS IN THE BLESSED HOPE,
THE AUTUMN COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE,
(Oct. 25 - Nov. 1, 1960)



Pastor Hilal Dose, newly elected president of the Egypt Section SDA.



Brother Habib Ghali, newly elected secretary-treasurer of the Egypt Section SDA.

"According To All That I Show THEE "

G. R. NASH, *Secretary*
Sabbath School Department
General Conference of SDA

The building of the sanctuary to be the dwellingplace of God on earth was a very sacred task. The plan for this structure was not left to man, but detailed instruction was given by God Himself concerning it. God is particular regarding things that have to do with His work. When God asks His people to do a sacred task He wants them to carry the work out according to His divine pattern.

Our Sabbath School work was heaven-born. It is vital to the church. God Himself, through His chosen messenger, declares it to be "one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10. We must be sure that we clearly understand God's requirements, and we must be diligent in following the blueprint. What a tragedy it would be if we were to fail to follow the instruction God has clearly given us relative to this divine institution of the church.

In a few places there is a new and strange innovation creeping into our Sabbath Schools that is definitely not according to the pattern. Some schools, because of crowded conditions, have tried plans of their own human devisings, and introduced a one-class system for the adult division of our Sabbath Schools. This is foreign to God's plan and is not in the blueprint. How thankful we should be that in our Sabbath School work there has been given to us a very clear and detailed outline of procedure.

In all the counsel given to us in the Spirit of Prophecy the multiple-class plan is taken for granted. References to teachers and classes appear on page after page of Sister White's book, *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*. We copy only a few sample statements.

"Teachers and pupils should awake to the importance of manifesting industry and perseverance in the study of God's Word."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 94.

"Every teacher, before he stands at the head of his class, should have his plans distinctly laid."—*Ibid.*, p. 118

"Teachers, meet with your classes. Pray with them."—*Ibid.*, p. 125.

"Every teacher in the Sabbath school be a follower of Christ."—*Ibid.*, p. 93.

"Those whose duty it is to select teachers should be guarded, and not urge those into the school who are not fitted to exert a good influence."—*Ibid.*, p. 92.

"When Sabbath school teachers have taught the lessons . . . their work is but just begun."—*Ibid.*, p. 37.

"In all true teaching the personal element is essential. Christ in His teaching dealt with men individually. It was by personal contact and association that He trained the twelve. It was in private, often to but one listener, that He gave His most precious instruction. . . . The same personal interest, the same attention to individual development, are needed in educational work today."—*Ibid.*, pp. 73,74.

Someone has written as follows: "Perhaps there are not many people like me in this. I simply cannot stand the terrible jangle of sounds that results when they try to hold classes in the main auditorium."

I would answer that the pattern for our Sabbath School work is of divine origin, and we are only safe as we carefully follow it. Perhaps our large churches should divide and start new churches in order to control the congested condition. Perhaps new facilities should be added. Wherever there is a will, there will be a way to carry out God's plan.

A teacher in a small class can know each individual as a friend. He is down on his level, living in his world, conscious of his problems, alive to his needs, rejoicing in his victories. In a small class, the teacher, himself, also gains from these personal contacts. He may not be the best student or the best qualified person to teach. If he has people in the class who have more ability, education, knowledge, experience, his personal association with them will be mutually helpful.

People today are in need of the personal touch. None of us is so iron-clad that he can ignore his need of human sympathy and personal contacts. We deceive ourselves when we think we are so tough we can get along without notice and commendation and help of others. A Sabbath School class puts us in a little world of a dozen or so people, each of whom can know and understand and help the others.

One of the best arguments in favor of the small class is the INDIVIDUAL TOUCH. . . . Any system which allows the individual to be lost is failing in the great objective of the personal touch. The great secret of a contagious, inspiring personal touch belonged in a marked degree to Jesus.

At the time of the Presidents' Council held October 29 - November 2, 1959, a voice was sounded in clear and unmistakable tones. It made me think of the statement found in *Testimonies*, volume 5, page 709:

"God wills that a voice shall be heard arousing His people to action."



On August 11, Fawzia Kolta of Egypt and Bishara Aziz Youssef of Jordan were united in marriage in a very simple but pretty service. Elder Wilcox officiated at the ceremony assisted by Pastors Zytoskee and Lesher. These young people are both nurses employed in the hospital.



Salim Tewfic Hasbany and Sylvia Ann Rice were united in marriage at the College Park church chapel. Pastors officiating were : G. A. Keough, A. A. Haddad, and K. S. Oster. Brother Salim is the secretary-treasurer of the SDA Church in Jordan, and also serves as secretary of the MV, Publishing, and Temperance departments for Jordan.



On September 28, Henry Abdulla Jeba and Faride Kamil Gureib were united in marriage by Pastors K. S. Oster and Ziki Hannawy in Beirut, Lebanon. Brother Henry is the principal of the Middle East College Elementary School.

Officially, the leadership of this movement have sounded a clarion call. It is a call to those few churches who have departed from the pattern as given to us by God, through His chosen messenger.

In summarizing a rather lengthy discussion by the local and union conference presidents and certain officers from the General Conference, Elder R. R. Figuhr, president of the General Conference, made the following statement :

"I think one reason people stay away from Sabbath School is because in some places we don't have classes. There are worse things than a little noise in a Sabbath School. One lady who visited one of our Sabbath Schools and heard all the teachers, expressed it as 'the voice of many waters' and she thought it was wonderful to see and hear all these people joined in the study of the Bible.

"We are all interested in the Sabbath School and we should all be there on Sabbath morning. One of the first things we can do here is to take an action or a vote of some kind, expressing our confidence in and appreciation of the Sabbath School, pledging ourselves to a renewed support of the Sabbath School, and take this action or vote back to our Sabbath School Department. I would like to move, Brother Chairman, that as a body of Administrators, we give our loyal support to the Sabbath School as the 'Church at

Study' and as an effective evangelizing agency, and that we encourage our workers to set a good example to our church members, by attending Sabbath School regularly and faithfully; and further that we adhere to the established practice of class group lesson study rather than the entire Sabbath School comprising one large class."

The above motion was unanimously voted.

In harmony with the above counsel, we appeal to our Sabbath School leadership around the world to carefully follow God's blueprint with respect to the small class plan. May we all find pleasure in following plans according to the pattern given this people.



Fouad Milad Elaimy and Amal Majeed Elias were married in Baghdad, August 29, 1960 by Pastors Salem Majeed and Said Tooma. Brother Fouad is the Home Missionary and Publishing secretary and VOP representative in Iraq.



The six eighth grade graduates of 1960 together with their teacher Mrs. Aziza Habib standing at the right in the picture.

JORDAN SECTION TEACHERS INSTITUTE

G. A. KEOUGH, *Secretary*
Education Department
Middle East Division

The Jordan Section held its teachers' institute in the spacious room of the president's office Sunday and Monday, August 28, 29. Teachers from El Kerak, El Husn, and Amman sat around the table, pencil in hand and notebook before them, ready to take notes on instruction given, to ask questions, and to enter into discussion on topics that vitally affected them. Although only two days were provided for the institute, as much material as possible was packed into the time available.

The schedule for the meetings was worked out by the mission educational superintendent, Brother Naim Mashni, who is also the president of the Jordan Section. He was ably helped by Brother Salim Hasbany, the secretary-treasurer. Visitors to the institute who helped make it a success were Pastor Mousa Azar of El Husn, Miss Izella Stuiwenga of the Beirut English Church School, and the division educational secretary, G. Arthur Keough.

The two days began with a devotional meeting at 6:30 A.M. After breakfast, study was given to the qualifications of Jesus as the Master Teacher with a view to setting a pattern for teachers in Adventist schools. Matters affecting school administration and classroom management were discussed and clarified.

An important part of the institute was getting acquainted with the program of Bible teaching in grades one to eight and on secondary levels and work on the new Arabic Workbooks. It was felt that these workbooks will greatly enhance the teaching of Bible in the schools and the teachers appreciated the opportunity

of getting acquainted with them. It is strongly to be hoped that the quality of Bible teaching will improve as the years go by.

The institute was not only a time of study and work, it was a time of spiritual refreshment and social intercourse. The teachers coming from outside Amman were entertained in the home of Brother and Sister Naim Mashni. This must have caused much extra work to the Mashni family, but the spirit of kindness and hospitality was very much appreciated. The teachers decided to stay on and complete the work that had been started in the institute.

TITHE SQUARE-UP MONTH

December was set apart as Tithe Square-Up month. Any who did not fully pay their debts to God during that month will do well to consider the following quotations on "The Origin and Purpose of the Tithing System": "The tithing system did not originate with the Hebrews. From the earliest times the Lord claimed a tithe as His; and this claim was recognized and honored. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God. Jacob, when at Bethel, an exile and a wanderer, promised the Lord, 'Of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee.' " —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 525.

"The system of tithes and offerings was intended to impress the minds of men with a great truth,—that God is the source of every blessing to His creatures, and that to Him man's gratitude is due for the good gifts of His providence. . . . As an acknowledgement that all things came from Him, the Lord directed that a portion of His bounty should be returned to Him in gifts and offerings to sustain His worship." *Ibid.*

"God has not changed; the tithe is still to be used for the support of the ministry." —*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 250

"This tithing system, I saw, would develop character, and manifest the true state of the heart." —*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 237.

THE NEW MV ARABIC LEAFLET SERIES

A. A. HADDAD, *Secretary*
MV Department
Middle East Division

As a result of complete cooperation between the division committee, the division MV department, and the press, a new attractive MV Arabic leaflet series is being published currently. This is the first time Arabic MV leaflets are published, and the reports from the field are most encouraging.

These leaflets contain messages from the Spirit of Prophecy.

This series is certainly filling a long-felt need to put in print in Arabic God's standards and ideals for His young people.

We trust that every worker will see to it that every youth in his care gets these messages as they come off the press. The plan is for every youth within our gates to receive a free set of the new Arabic MV leaflet series. We especially plead with our ministers and teachers to insure that not one youth is passed by. Remember, one leaflet might change the life of a young person and make him heir of God's kingdom. And that young person might be your child, your brother, your student. Jesus said: "Feed my Lambs." We believe the new Arabic leaflets are very nutritious and necessary in the diet we present to the Arabic speaking youth of our division.

DEATH OF ELDER E. L. BRANSON

* On December 15 Elder Wilcox received the following cable:

"ERNEST L. BRANSON DIED SUDDENLY THIS MORNING DECEMBER FIFTEEN HEART ATTACK LOS ANGELES. DUNBAR"

A wire was sent to Sister Ernest Branson which stated:

"A PRINCE HAS FALLEN ASLEEP IN JESUS YOUR FRIENDS IN MIDDLE EAST MOURN WITH YOU OUR COMFORT THESSALONIANS FOUR. WILCOX HARTWELL."

Elder E. L. Branson was in the Middle East from 1938 to 1950. At first he was the president of the Egypt Mission, and in 1942 he was chosen to be president of Middle East Union Mission. He continued in that office until 1950 when he requested a replacement and R. H. Hartwell was called to the Middle East for that purpose. Surely Sister Branson and her sons, as well as Elder W. H. Branson, have the deep sympathy of a host of old friends in the Middle East Division.

FROM HERE AND THERE

MIDDLE EAST DIVISION

* Pastor R. A. Wilcox visited Iran near the end of 1960, during which time he helped to make arrangements for locating Pastor and Mrs. J. Lyndon DeWitt and aiding them in getting started with the study of the Farsee language.

* On December 15, 1960 Pastor and Mrs. R. C. Darnell gladly welcomed young Tunis Allan Darnell as the fourth member of their happy family.

* From the Andrews University comes a message indicating that Pastor Olson has had the joy of seeing a young man baptised very recently who first learned of the truth at the Dar Es Salaam Hospital in Iraq a few years ago.

* The visit of Elder W. E. Murray and Elder O. A. Blake to the Middle East at the time of the division and union committee meetings near the end of the year was much appreciated. The experienced counsel was refreshing and helpful.

* The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow on March 25, 1961 is for three projects in the Middle East Division:

1. The new church building in Jerusalem, Jordan.
2. Improving and enlarging the Matiah Adventist Mercy Home (Orphanage).
3. Installing a new industry at Middle East College to provide more labor for worthy students.

* The new plan throughout the division is to promote the daily study of the Sabbath school lesson, asking the class "How many of you are trying to follow the daily study plan?" The hands are counted quickly and the total number marked on the class record

card. No longer are individuals asked, separately, how many times they studied this week.

* Brother Agnatus Yacoub joined the division office family at the beginning of the summer. His willingness and helpful spirit are much appreciated.

* On November 12 Elder G. J. Appel wrote: "Kindly give our greetings to all the delegates attending the session. We hope and pray that 1961 may prove to be the best year the Middle East has ever had in baptisms. Our prayers are with you."

* On November 7 Dr. T. S. Geraty wrote: "As you convene the annual division meeting our thoughts and prayers will be with you brethren. The future of the Middle East Division is as bright as the promises of God, and we are confident that with His blessings and the cooperation of all our workers the work—His work—will soon finish in a blaze of glory to the honor of His name. As you have opportunity, please convey our Christian greetings to the members and delegates. What an exalted privilege we have to be co-laborers together with Him. May God bless us one and all as we follow His instruction and plans."

* On February 3, 1961 all churches throughout the division will promote the first Annual Bible Evangelism Crusade or Campaign, which will include the following dates:

Rally Sabbath	Feb. 18
Revival Week	Feb. 18-25
Consecration Service	Feb. 25
Soul-Winning Training Course Week	Feb. 25-Mar. 4
Bible Evangelism Campaign	Mar. 4-May 13
Decision Meetings	May 13

* A very attractive gift has been provided for those who contribute a Birthday-Thank Offering in the Sabbath school in 1961. The picture of Jesus is artistically printed, apparently superimposed upon the complete Gospel of John. It is suggested that everyone plan to give a generous Birthday-Thank Offering.

EAST MEDITERRANEAN UNION

* A new and attractive sign is being prepared for the Beirut Physiotherapy unit, and it will be placed outside the building to remind the public of this available service.

* Pastor Chafic Srour has returned from Ireland, where he has been assisting with evangelistic efforts conducted by Pastor Walter Schubert. Pastor Srour will take up his responsibilities at the Evangelistic Center.

* The third biennial session of the East Mediterranean Union was held at Middle East College November 23, 24, with delegates present from every section of the union. In addition to conducting the regular business of the session, three ministers were ordained, and the meetings closed with celebrating the ordinances of the Lord's house.

CYPRUS

* A baby daughter, named after her grandmother Antaram, was born November 14. Pastor and Mrs. Aram Aghassian are the happy parents of this little one.

* Pastors P. G. Christakos and Aram Aghassian recently made a tour of Limassol, Paphos, and other villages, distributing literature and Bible correspondence course enrollment cards in large quantities.

* Sisters Cleanthis Leontides and Alice Elmadjian, Brother Nicolas Ioannou, and other members of the Nicosia church distributed some 3,000 pamphlets and VOP enrollment cards to people entering and leaving the Cyprus Fair in Nicosia.

* Brother A. N. Barlas, leader of the Famagusta district, while caring for Greek and Armenian interests in his area, has found a Greek office worker who has decided to arrange for Sabbath privileges. This individual needs prayer for help in overcoming difficulties at home.

JORDAN

* Brethren Naim Meshni and Najeeb Azar were ordained to the gospel ministry November 24, during the East Mediterranean Union biennial session.

* Pastor Naim Meshni was elected president of the Jordan field for the next two years, and Brother Salim Hasbany was re-elected as secretary-treasurer.



A group of fourteen baptised in Heliopolis by Pastor A. G. Zytoskee on October 29, 1960.

* Seventeen baptisms were conducted in Jordan during the first ten months of 1960.

* During 1960 the first combined or mixed MV Summer Camp was held in the Jordan Section.

* During the summer season Vacation Bible Schools were held in Amman, Husn, and Kerak.

* Three mission schools opened in September as follows: Amman with nine teachers and 136 pupils enrolled, Husn with three teachers and forty-five pupils, and Kerak with one teacher and thirty pupils.

* During the past few months thirty children have been dedicated to the Lord.

* Pastor Najeeb Azar's little daughter Katy was buried October 22 by Pastor R. R. Aussner. Their other daughter Viola was also very sick, but God saw fit to spare her life.

* A teachers' institute was held before the schools opened in September. It was under the leadership of Pastor G. A. Keough and Brother Naim Meshni. Sisters Izella Stiuvenga and Hana Jubran gave experienced assistance. That week end six candidates were baptised. Three of these were from El Husn and three from El Kerak.

* At the Jordan teachers' institute Pastor G. A. Keough asked the teachers to write a statement on the objectives of our schools. Miss Hana N. Jubran wrote: "The main purpose of opening Adventist schools in Jordan is to bring the students to Jesus and plant in them the love of God. Also to train them to serve God and work for Him, so that they and we will inherit the kingdom of God and be with Him forevermore, because it is His will."

IRAQ

* The Baghdad church has had a successful Ingathering campaign. They used thousands of pieces of literature. Their Week of Sacrifice offering is also an evidence of their love for the truth.

* Pastor Behnam Arshat passed through Beirut December 9 returning to Baghdad, from Ireland after an absence of some three and a half months. During this time he was associated with Pastor Walter Schubert's evangelistic efforts.

* While in Beirut Brother Salam Aboujawdi had his tonsils removed.

* Ralph Adams, radiological physicist of the White Memorial Hospital, is on a year's leave of absence from the College of Medical Evangelists, and has accepted a one year assignment with the International Atomic Energy Agency of the United Nations as consultant to the government of Iraq on the medical applications of radioisotopes. He is located at the Radioisotope Department, Republic Hospital, Baghdad. His wife,

Ruth, and daughters, Shirley and Marilyn, have accompanied him to Iraq.



* Mr. Tawfic Shoha is a very good friend to many of the Adventists and to their message. He raised ID. 63,500 for Ingathering in 1960, including his own gift of ID. 20,000. The Baghdad church raised ID. 150,000 up to December 14, but Mr. Tawfic Shoha raised more than any other individual.

LEBANON

* Brother Shehada Halaby has been chosen to serve as secretary of the home missionary, publishing, and temperance departments for the Lebanon Section; Brother George Khoury as secretary of the Sabbath school department; and Pastor Manoug Nazirian as secretary of the MV department.

* Mrs. William Samuel is assisting part time in the Bible work in Beirut.

* Brother Elias Jeha is principal of the Aramoun School, and Pastor Ziki Hannawi is caring for the religious needs of the company in Aramoun on the week ends.

* Brother George Esber and Miss Samira Shahin have been assigned this year to teach in the Bishmazzine School.

* Brother Yacoub Greige, Brother Fawzi Deeb, Mrs. Renee Katrib, Mrs. Sarah Srou, and Miss Alma Deeb, have joined the teaching staff at the Beirut Junior Academy in Mousaitbe.

* Mrs. Mary Bitar, Miss Evelyn Dikran, and Miss Anahid Barsoumian, are connected with the Beirut Armenian School this year as teachers.

* Evangelistic meetings have been in progress in Bishmazzine conducted by Pastor George Raffoul, and in the Armenian church in Beirut conducted by Pastor Manoug Nazirian. In both places the school teachers assist in the holding the meetings.

* Brother George Khoury has just returned from Belfast, Ireland, where he has assisted Pastor Walter Schubert in a series of evangelistic meetings for nearly four months. In his absence

Pastor Salim Noujaim took charge of the Beirut Arabic church in Mousaitbe with the assistance of Pastor Anees Haddad, and the church elder Ibrahim Swaidan, and other speakers.

* A very fine property has been purchased in the Sin el-Fil area of Beirut where it is planned to relocate the Beirut Armenian church and school.

SYRIA

* Surely the Lord is watching over and blessing the brethren and sisters in Syria as they faithfully live for Him, and long to hasten His return.

TURKEY

* Miss Ybraxe Gomig has been attending the school of evangelism conducted by Pastor Walter Schubert in Ireland.

* The temperance organization in Turkey has welcomed the arrival of L. C. Miller, who represents the International Temperance Association. He and B. J. Mondics have been invited to participate in the temperance activities in various places, including the privilege of helping to establish local temperance organizations in several places.

* Mrs. L. C. Miller and Mrs. Manuk Benzatyan are leading out in the lively kindergarten department of the Istanbul Sabbath school.

NILE UNION



* Brother and Sister Harold Johnson, formerly of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference arrived at Port Sudan December 3, 1960 and proceeded to Khartoum where Pastor A. G. Zytoskee helped them locate and begin studying Arabic language.

* The Nile Union biennial session was held at the union headquarters in Heliopolis November 25-29. The session voted to set up a Supreme Council to act as the legal body of the national denomination in Egypt. A separate administration was elected for the Egypt Section. Pastor Hilal Dose was elected president of the section, and Habib Ghali secretary-treasurer.

* Visiting leaders present at the Nile Union biennial session were: W. E. Murray, vice-president of the General Conference; and from the Middle East Division: R. A. Wilcox, president; R. H. Hartwell, secretary; V. A. Fenn, treasurer; and Dr. William Wagner, medical secretary.

* The Nile Union Academy has a new name now that it is recognized by the Ministry of Education as a Seminary. Henceforth it will be known as the Adventist Theological Institute.

* The fall Week of Prayer was held in the Adventist Theological Institute at Gabal Asfar December 2-10. E. L. Gammon, president of Middle East College, was the speaker. His inspirational messages during the week were a blessing both to the students and the faculty.

* Two Sabbaths every month the students and faculty of the Adventist Theological Institute are carrying out a program of literature distribution. Other activities include two branch Sabbath schools. One of these is led by Samir Aziz in Gabel Asfar, and the other by Fawzy Abdel Malah in Matariah.

* The Ministerial Seminar of ATI, under the leadership of the Bible teacher Samaan Fangary, frequently provides student participants in the Sabbath school of the Cairo Center church.

EGYPT

* Baptisms in the Egypt Section during 1960, to October, number seventy-six. It is anticipated that by the end of 1960 the baptisms will surpass the total of the eighty-four baptisms during 1959. Workers reporting baptisms thus far in 1960 are as follows:

Abadir A. Messih, Sohag district	13
Fakhry Naguib, Minia district	4
Fikry Mikhail, Assuit district	18
Hilal Dose and C. V. Brauer, Cairo	8
Leon Magressy, Luxor	3
Leshar, W. R., ATI	2
Naguib Mossad, Beni Suef district	4
Nashed Yacoub, Fayoum district	2
Nassif Boutros, Mansoura	3
William Gayed, Delta district	4
Wilmot, R. W., and Wadie Farag, Heliopolis	15

* The biennial session of the Egypt Section was held in Heliopolis, November 29 and 30. The union session delegates attended together with many representatives of the local churches. Strong plans were laid for a greater evangelistic impetus in the next biennium.

IRAN

* Pastor J. Lyndon De Witt, Mrs. De Witt, and their three children arrived in Iran shortly after Christmas, and are now studying the Farsee language.

* Pastor R. A. Wilcox, acting president of the Iran Mission recently spent

three weeks in that field planning the 1961 activities. Pastor V. A. Fenn also joined him for a few days just after the turn of the year.

* Pastor Kenneth Harding and family will soon arrive in Iran. Pastor Harding has been chosen to serve as the president of the Iran Section. Brother Vigain Marcarian has been elected as secretary-treasurer for Iran.

* Brother Hovik Sarrafian has returned from Ireland, and will serve as evangelist for the Iran Section.

MIDDLE EAST PRESS

* Pastor Maurice Katrib has accepted a call to the Nile Union where he will serve as director of the Bible Correspondence School and pastor of the Heliopolis church.

* There has been a reorganization in the Middle East Press editorial department. Pastor R. C. Darnell has taken up his duties as editor-in-chief. Brother Naim Awais is Arabic editor and Brother A. E. Ashod continues to care for the Armenian editorial work. Brother Boutros Ghazal is assigned to outside contact work for the press as well as to many necessary duties in the press itself. This will enable Brother Anderson to give more time to many details that need his personal attention.

BENGHAZI HOSPITAL

* On August 10 most of the hospital staff were at the airport to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Reiner, Bobby, Donny, and Kathy. This is Dr. Reiner's first overseas post.

* August 13 was a very important date. The first Seventh-day Adventist church in Libya was organized on that date in the city of Benghazi, Elder Zytkoskee officiating. The membership of the church is 17. Dr. William Wagner, who was ordained in Beirut November 24, is the church pastor.

* Dr. Randolph, who had been carrying on the work of the hospital since the middle of May, left August 21 for a trip into Central Africa and then on home to the U. S. A.

* On September 12, Dr. and Mrs. Wagner arrived with Jeannie, Bill Jr., and Ruthie. Dr. and Mrs. Wagner were in Benghazi before at the time of

Dr. Cornell's illness. The hospital staff members are very happy to have Dr. Wagner and Dr. Reiner with them. The hospital has been very busy the last few months.

MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE

* The college chapel has been given an entirely new appearance, and new comfortable seats have been installed. The new lighting arrangement does much to add to the worshipful atmosphere of the religious services.

* The English church service is held in the chapel at 9:00 A.M. on Sabbath mornings. Sabbath school is held for English speaking seniors in the mens' dormitory parlor, and for the Arab speaking seniors in the college chapel at 10:00 A.M. The Arabic church service follows the Sabbath school in the college chapel. Other divisions of the Sabbath school meet as before in various locations.

* Kenneth Oster is the pastor of the College Park church.

* Miss Aida Ghazal is the dean of women. Brother E. W. Waring, who continues his work as dean of men, has moved into the dean's apartment at the dormitory.

* Pastor J. S. Russell, in addition to his teaching load, is also in charge of the maintenance department.

* Pastor R. C. Darnell was the speaker during the fall Week of Prayer. The Holy Spirit led many a young person to respond to the heart appeals made during that week.

* The college choir sang in the chapel Sabbath, December 17, "What If It Were Today." The twenty-eight voices blended nicely. Pastor R. A. Wilcox spoke on the subject of "Affliction and Its Benefits."

* Brother Ibrahim Hana is manager of the college store in addition to his other responsibilities. Brother Hana Matouk is now in charge of the kitchen again.

* Brother Agnatus Yacoub is teaching a class in business law at Middle East College. The division office has loaned him for this purpose, but he is caring for his regular duties at the same time.

* Miss Indra Ashod is connected with the college on a full time teaching basis.

MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER

R. H. Hartwell Editor

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THE ORDINATION SERVICE FOR PASTORS WILLIAM WAGNER, NAIM MESHNI AND NAJEEB AZAR

November 24, 1960 at the Middle East College Chapel in Beirut, Lebanon

Pastor R. C. Darnell gave the introductory remarks.

Presentation of the candidates was made:

a. William Wagner by R.H. Hartwell

b. Naim Meshni by A. A. Haddad

c. Najeeb Azar by R. C. Darnell

Pastor W. E. Murray preached the ordination sermon.

Pastor Salim Nougaim offered the ordination prayer.

Pastor R. A. Wilcox gave the ordination charge.

Pastor O. A. Blake extended the welcome to the gospel ministry, and presented the candidates with their certificates and credentials.

Pastor Naim Meshni offered the closing prayer.



Left to right: Najeeb Azar, Mrs. Najeeb Azar, Dr. William Wagner, Mrs. Naim Meshni, Naim Meshni.

INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE

R. C. DARNELL, Secretary
Publishing and Radio Departments
Middle East Division

Each day brings the world closer to its end. As we near the climax, great and rapid changes are taking place; changes with which the church must keep pace. One of these is the increase in knowledge.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the Middle East. New schools have multiplied at a rate once believed impossible. In the span of a few years, whole nations have become literate. The sign of all this increase in knowledge is the vast production of books. Now everybody owns and reads books for his own advancement in learning.

The most significant increase in knowledge is in the knowledge of the Scriptures and their application to our lives and times. Religion and prophecy, studies once the duty of ministers and church leaders, are now the subjects upon which every Christian must be fully informed. This means that books, once written for and circulated among the ministry, must be available to the whole church.

The new year, 1961, marks the church's recognition of the great changes which are taking place, and for this reason has been designated Spirit of Prophecy Year. The vast literary treasures of the Spirit of Prophecy containing great stores of valuable gems of religious knowledge are to be opened to the whole church, regardless of tongue or circumstance. Translators are working hour after hour and day after day to put this knowledge into Arabic and Armenian. God has led in making wise plans and now everywhere

new emphasis is being given to owning and studying the messages of the Spirit of Prophecy.

Every church and every church member will feel this emphasis during 1961 because the pastors and church officers have organized their churches for the study of *Counsels for the Church*, the first major book of Sister White to be published in Arabic. These studies should be followed faithfully every week and continue all the year.

Before the year ends new and larger books will be published. The first of these is *Patriarchs and Prophets* in Arabic and *The Desire of Ages* in Armenian. These books will be widely circulated. We don't think any Seventh-day Adventist will neglect purchasing them for himself, and many will want to give them as gifts to friends. These books are so valuable that many outside of the church will want them and God will impress some of us to leave our present work and take up His service as literature evangelists, selling these books to the multitudes who hunger and thirst after the knowledge of truth.

Around the Middle East there is a great increase in knowledge and in respect for knowledge. Knowledge is the vanguard of progress, both in the world and in the church. The church must command the attention of the world, because it knows God, His truth, and the meaning of the times. During the Spirit of Prophecy Year, 1961, let every member of the church increase in knowledge.

CHURCH CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

Jan.	7	Home Visitation
Jan.	21	Religious Liberty
Jan.	28-Feb.4	"HOPE" Campaign
Feb.	4	Bible Evangelism Crusade Promotion
Feb.	11	Christian Home and Family Altar
Feb.	25	Temperance Commitment Day
Mar.	4	Bible Evangelism Crusade
Mar.	11	Sabbath School Rally Day
Mar.	18-25	MV Week of Prayer
Apr.	1	Thirteenth Sabbath
Apr.	8	Home Visitation and VOP Day

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Jan.	7	Church Missionary
Jan.	21	Religious Liberty
Feb.	4	"HOPE" Subscriptions
Feb.	11	Middle East College
Mar.	4	Church Missionary
Mar.	11	Missions Advance
Apr.	8	Church Missionary

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