



MIDDLE EAST

# Messenger

VOLUME XI

FOURTH QUARTER 1962

NUMBER 4

## Division Day In San Francisco

On the mission map the thirty lights of the Middle East Division flash on and off as the growth of our church through the decades is graphically displayed. Eighteen flags of the countries of the Middle East provide a colorful backdrop for the earnest faces of the division leaders on the platform.

The scene is the Civic Auditorium in San Francisco, Saturday night, July 28. The Middle East Division delegates, appropriately costumed, have filed onto the platform before an audience of nine thousand.

Departing from his formal report, R. A. Wilcox shared the spotlight with various members of the division staff. The Middle East Division, he said, which covers a million square miles in three continents, presents to the church the greatest challenge of its 2,000-year history. He paused while in Arabic the daily Moslem call to prayer sounded over the loud-speaker. Nine out of ten

*Continued on page two*

## Cairo Church Recognized

The Cairo Center, headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cairo, has been registered according to the laws of the United Arab Republic and given full recognition as a church, it was announced in July by the Ministry of Interior. The recognition was granted by a Presidential Declaration, number 2304/62, signed by the President of the Republic, Gamal Abd an-Nasser.

The announcement came by telephone to the church just after the regular Sabbath Services ended July 14, and was received with thanksgiving. The application for recognition had been eagerly prayed for over a period of several months.

## DIVISION OFFICERS ELECTED

Elder R. A. Wilcox and Elder V. A. Fenn were re-elected president and treasurer respectively of the Middle East Division at the General Conference quadrennial session July 26 to August 4 in San Francisco. Elder W. R. Leshar was elected secretary. Elder Leshar had formerly been principal of the Nile Union Academy near Cairo, Egypt.

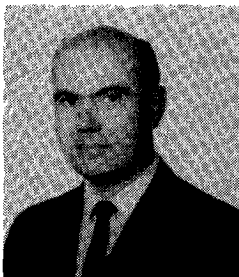
The elections also provided for the various departmental secretaries of the division. Elders Anees Haddad and Wayne Olson were re-elected as secretary of the Temperance and Young People's departments, and secretary of the Ministerial department respectively. Elder Brauer was elected secretary of the Radio,

Home Missionary and Sabbath School departments. Elder D. L. Chappell was elected Publishing Department secretary. Elder Brauer was formerly president of the Nile Union, and Elder Chappell was publishing department secretary of Kentucky-Tennessee Conference in the United States. Elder Robert Darnell was elected secretary of Public Relations and Public Affairs.

Elder Leshar was also elected secretary of the Department of Education, and Elder Darnell continues to head the Religious Research Project.



R. A. Wilcox



W. R. Leshar



V. A. Fenn

## Chappells Welcome

Elder and Mrs. Derwood Chappell and their son Milton from the state of Tennessee are making plans to come to Beirut in mid-October. The Middle East Division will welcome these newcomers as Elder Chappell takes up his responsibilities as Division publishing secretary.

Elder Chappell has both experience and a burden for the publishing work and is eagerly planning for this line of evangelism in our field.

As a student in Washington Missionary College he canvassed, and established a record of earning a scholarship in a very short period. This experience was to be of value to him as a conference publishing secretary after graduation.

The mission field of West Africa.

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## DIVISION DAY

*Continued from page one*

persons in his field, he tells us, listens to this call from the miners.

Another speaker illustrated the statistics by saying, "If all the people of the world were placed in automobiles, five to a car, practically every car would hold one Moslem."

The significance of the problem is also illustrated by the fact that only 630 new members were added to our church in this field during the last four years. The wall of indifference has indeed only a few small cracks. And yet the courage of our workers is good. Listen.

R. A. Wilcox: The president of the Jordan Mission, Pastor Naim Mashni, was born within a few miles of Jerusalem and was baptized in the Jordan River. Today he lives in Amman where we have our mission headquarters. Elder Mashni is with us to give a word of greeting.

Naim Mashni: Our faithful members in the Promised Land send their warmest greetings to their brethren and sisters gathered here in conference. Our courage in Jordan is good and considerable advancement has been made in the past four years. Evangelism has been the watchword in our field. Men and women are eager to hear this third angel's message. Our baptisms this year in Jordan are the highest they have ever been.

R. A. Wilcox: Among some of our early persecutors was the young man, Maurice Katrib, who stoned the ministers unmercifully. But at 14 he was led by curiosity to listen to a sermon on the unpardonable sin. This touched his heart and he turned like Paul of old from persecutor to preacher. He graduated from Middle East College in 1952 and has since been a missionary to his own people in Arab lands. Tonight Maurice Katrib stands before you, a modern Paul, president of our Syrian Mission, with headquarters in Old Damascus.

Maurice Katrib: Greetings from all of our brothers and sisters throughout historic Syria. The clear rivers of Damascus, the street called Straight, the old city wall from which Paul escaped in a basket, and the home of Hananiah are all tourist attractions in the city of Damascus, oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. But we are not men who live in the past. We are men with a vision for the future.

In Syria, we have no churches, no hospitals, no schools, and no physical facilities to aid us in spreading this message. Yet each year members are added to our church. This is owing to the work of faithful laymen who in their quiet way are able to accomplish a work for God in spite of obstacles. Our immediate future has never been brighter.

R. A. Wilcox: We move on to Asia Minor where the missionary Paul was able to raise up so many churches. God has miraculously opened up the doors and has permitted us to build the only Christian church that has been constructed in Turkey for the past 40 years.

For many years Adventist work was confined to Istanbul, the capital city, but during the past year four new groups have been organized in various sections of the country. Miss Gomig, daughter of our first Turkish convert,

has spent her life-time as a Bible worker. Miss Gomig, would you like to bring us greetings tonight from our members in Istanbul?

Miss Gomig: From the land of the seven churches I bring you greetings from the members of the Laodicean church. We are not lukewarm, but are on fire for God, and the work is progressing in our field.

R. A. Wilcox: Across our division we go now to the land of Medes and Persians, modern Iran. Soul-winning opportunities have never been better than they are today. Large-scale efforts are being held throughout the field, cottage meetings are packed. Recently in this northern country Evangelist Hovik conducted evangelistic meetings. To our amazement, 450 people tried to crowd into our church, which had just half the seating capacity. In some cities the police come in to help us usher,

*Continued on Page eight*

## MISSIONARY BOHANNON ORDAINED

Jack Bohannon, pastor of the Cleveland, Tennessee, church, joined the ranks of the Seventh-day Adventist ministry as a credentialed minister at an ordination ceremony on the last day of the Georgia-Cumberland campmeeting, June 23.

Elder Bohannon and his family are under appointment for missionary service in Iran. They sailed from New York in August and are due to arrive in Iran the end of September.

Presenting Elder Bohannon for ordination was Elder H. E. Metcalf, director, Southern Union Conference School of Bible Prophecy, under whom

Elder Bohannon began his ministry in Columbus, Georgia.

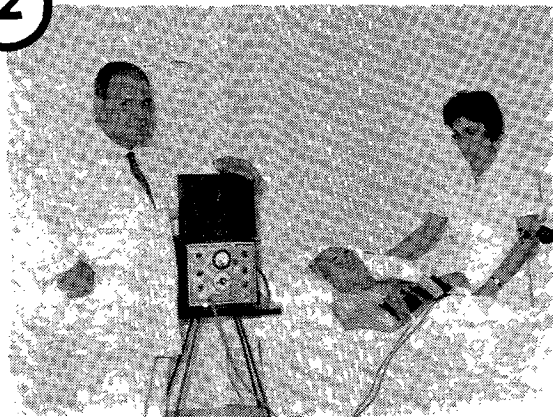
Elder R. H. Hartwell, at that time secretary of the Middle East Division, welcomed him into the ministry during the ceremony.

Elder R. H. Pierson, Southern African Division president, presented the ordination charge and Elder William B. Ochs, North American Division vice president, presented the ordination sermon. Elder A. C. McKee, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president, led all ordained ministers in welcoming Elder Bohannon following the ceremony.



*Elder Bohannon and his wife with officiating ministers*

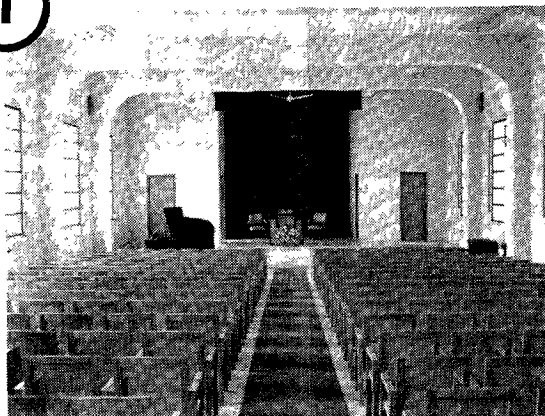
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## BEIRUT CULTURAL CENTER

1. The Evangelistic Center auditorium on the main floor.

2. Brother Azar and Sister Abdel Malik give a treatment in the second floor clinic.

3. The Voice of Prophecy staff in their offices on the third floor.

Exterior view of the Cultural Center located on a main street of Beirut.



## Vacation Bible School In Turkey

By Pastor L. C. Miller

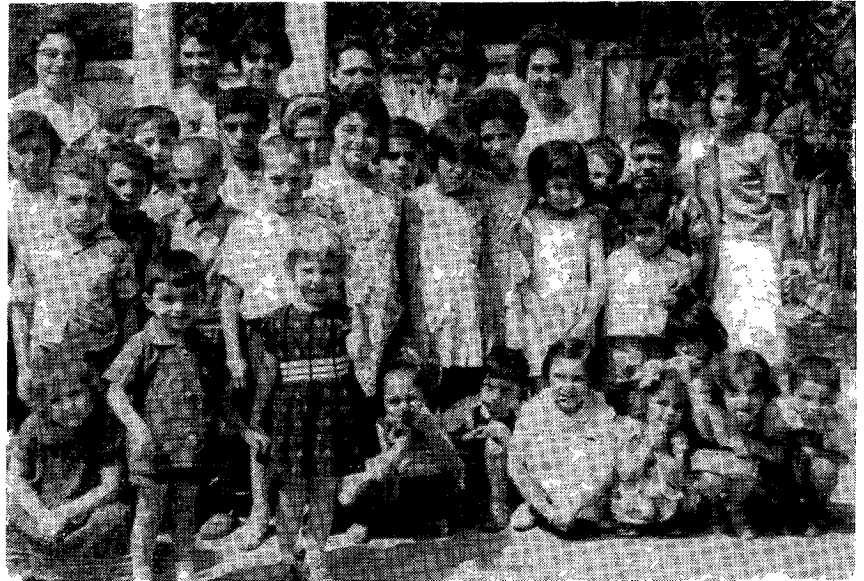
Pastor Manuk Benzatian looked at Pastor L. C. Miller and groaned, "What are we going to do? For the past three days we have been squeezing 15 children in your car, and today three more want to come. Where can we possibly put them?"

Pastor Miller glanced into the already crowded car of laughing, eager children. What could be done? Already the muffler of the car had been torn loose by the heavy load of children and the rocky, bumpy back streets of Istanbul's poorer district. "Was it possible to crowd three more in?" he wondered. He shook his head slowly, "Sorry, but there just is no more room." Then he watched as tears welled up in six little eyes. "Please, my children have been begging me to let them go to your Bible School. Can't you find room for them somehow?" pleaded their mother.

Pastor Miller's thoughts went back to a few weeks before when his wife first broached the idea of having a Vacation Bible School. "It's not practical", he said, "It has never been done in Turkey, we don't have the time or materials for it this summer, and besides, no one will come." At this Anahid Benzatian chimed in, "Oh, yes, I can think of fifteen children that we could have for our Vacation Bible School", and she began to count them off on her fingers.

Where there really fifteen children who would come? If so, we must have a Vacation Bible School at all costs, and the Millers and Benzatians began to lay plans for a Vacation Bible School to begin July 9. When that day arrived they wondered, "Will the children come? Will their parents let them?" For the children who had promised to come, and who lived far from the church a car was sent to gather them to the church. It was an old car, with many rattles, and worn tires. On opening day eight children were picked up in the car, and over thirty children came to the church that day. And only fifteen had been planned for! More supplies were purchased, and plans revamped. By now everyone in the church was surprised and enthusiastic.

Each day found new children waiting at the specified places where the car would pick them up. And now, on the fourth day, there were eighteen. Just how many could you put into a



*Sisters Benzatian and Miller (upper left) with children*

1953 Chevrolet sedan that was the only vehicle available? Pastor Miller looked again at the tearful faces of the three children still outside the car, and he thought of the picture of Christ blessing the children that he had promised to give to each child who came regularly to the Vacation Bible School. "What had Christ said when He found the disciples hindering the mothers who wanted to send their children to the Master? 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not...'. How could these little ones be refused? Turning to those already packed in the car he said, "Everyone make himself as small as possible, as we have to put three more in." And somehow they all found a place. But on the way to the church the frame of the car dragged over stones, and upon arrival at the church the two pastors examined the under structure of the car and found three broken leaf springs. It was definite that other transportation must be found, and that day a taxi was hired to help bring the children to the Vacation Bible School that now averaged close to forty in daily attendance.

Was it worth the effort? Does the Istanbul Seventh-day Adventist Church believe that Vacation Bible Schools pay? They surely do. Already attendance in the Children's division has tripled in the little Sabbath School conducted by Anahid Benzatian and Phyllis Miller. A Pathfinder Club is being organized, along with plans to mimeograph weekly in Turkish a combination of the "Little Friend" and "Primary Treasure" called the "Little Treasure.

## Hartwell Voted Appreciation



Completing nearly 13 years of service to the cause of God in the Middle East, Elder and Mrs. R. H. Hartwell are accepting, due to health reasons, an appointment in the United States.

As an expression of the feelings of the churches and workers of this division, the executive committee of the division met and placed on record a vote of appreciation. Throughout the field the church members have treasured the counsel of Elder Hartwell and the warmth of his friendly visits to their homes.

Mrs. Hartwell will be missed not only for her music contributions as a performer and a teacher, but for her readiness to make her home to so many a second home where they were certain to find meals, lodging and welcome.

## FROM HERE AND THERE

### MIDDLE EAST DIVISION

Miss Ruby Williams, Bible Instructor in the Beirut area, was welcomed home after a short furlough of four months, and of the delegates to the General Conference Session was the first to return. Her homeland visit was shadowed by the death of her twin sister. Our sympathy is extended to her.

The E. W. Waring family were warmly received by workers, friends and students as they arrived by boat after their year's furlough. To their family a little daughter, Becky, has been added. Mr. Waring resumes his work as dean of men at Middle East College.

Misses Izella Stuvenga and Violet Wentland have also arrived, ready to take up another period of service after their furlough. Miss Stuvenga returns to her work directing the English Elementary School in Beirut and Miss Wentland rejoins the staff of Middle East College.

Miss Yebraksie Gomig, Bible Instructor in Turkey, and one of the delegates to the Session, not only travelled and visited in the States, but extended her trip to visit relatives in Argentina.

Miss Emilie Levidis, Bible Instructor, returns to Egypt after a visit in Beirut.

### MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE

Under the direction of K. S. Oster, the Middle East College summer school, with an enrollment of 35, terminated with graduation exercises on August 12. The four B.A. graduates were Chafic Srour, Ahed Samaan, Ihsan Al-Id, and Samuel Nassimian. Graduation weekend speakers were: Consecration Chafic Srour; Baccalaureate, K. S. Oster; Commencement, H. E. Robinson.

President Keough, accompanied by Mrs. Keough, represented Middle East College at the General Conference Session. In his absence J. S. Russell has been acting president of the College.

During the summer months the College has lost four teachers: Miss Lucy Leondides, Pastor and Mrs. Ziki Hannawi and family, Pastor and Mrs. K. S. Oster and family, and Mr. Zaki Narouz.

Mrs. Latifa Jabbour has accepted the call of Middle East College to be dean

of women to replace Mrs. Yacoub who will be teaching full time.

With the recent success in the discovery of a good well on the terraces of Middle East College, work is busily in progress piping this supply of water up to a new reservoir made near the faculty homes. When completed, this project will greatly increase the water supply of the College.

Mr. Shenouda Abdel-Malak and Miss Aida Nehme were united in marriage June 26 in the College chapel. Pastors Shukry Nowfel and Chafic Srour performed the ceremony.

Students and faculty of the College summer school enjoyed a pleasant picnic visiting Jeita Caves, followed by games and a picnic supper on a nearby mountain top. The students who spent the summer working on the campus enjoyed a separate picnic visiting Beit Eddin and Barouk.

Middle East College opened its doors for the school year 1962-63 with a Faculty Colloquium beginning September 19, and registration on September 24.

### CYPRUS

Brother Kevork Terzibashian, was able to work with Brother A. N. Barlas for around one month. They sold not only books and magazines, but distributed many "Signs of the Times" of the May issue.

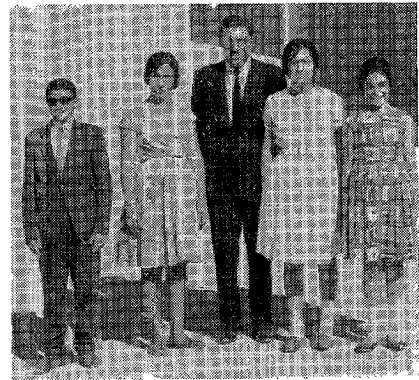
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## Jordan Teachers Meet In Amman

Teachers of the Jordan Section met for a two-day institute August 19-20 at the Amman School under the tutorship of Harold S. Johnson of the Education Department of Middle East College. The theme of the studies was "The Things That Matter Most". Stressing the importance and value of the Bible and education and what it can do for the pupils, Brother Johnson reminded the teachers to strive to be like the Master Teacher.

He quoted such counsels as "The teacher must be what he desires his pupils to become." F. E. 58. He told them that teachers in all "their dealings with students" should "show the love of Christ." C.P.T. 269.

Officers of the Section described the institute as being of great importance, because many of the new teachers have not had the advantage of this instruction in their school backgrounds.



*Elder Mousa Azar and recent converts*



*Teachers of the Jordan Section schools attend Amman Institute*

## Education Minister Visits Amman School

The 21st of June, 1962, was a special day for the Adventist School in Amman. That afternoon twenty-two young ladies graduated from "High School" after the hard work of study for twelve years. The program was an excellent one. Everything was in order and well organized under the leadership of Miss Hana J. Nasr. The honorable guest, his excellency the Minister of Education, gave out the certificates and the charge to the graduates. Pastor Mousa Azar gave the introductory talk in which he included the history of the school and its aims. Brother Fahid Fanik, the registrar of the school, was the sponsor.

One of the graduates gave a lecture in the Arabic language while another gave one in the English language. Both expressed their feelings about the good things they studied in school and that they were very sad to leave it. After the graduation program was over all the guests were invited for some refreshments in the court of the school, and everybody enjoyed the afternoon very much.

We ask God to continue to bless the school and the staff of the school. We hope more graduates will go out into the world to serve God, country and humanity.

*The Minister of Education*



*With the graduates of 1962*



*With the Amman School staff*

## Keough - Geraty Nuptials in California

The wedding of Gillian Keough to Lawrence Geraty, August 5, at St. Helena, California, brought Mrs. Keough, to the United States to accompany her husband, Elder G. A. Keough, president of Middle East College, to the General Conference Session where he was a delegate. The groom is the son of a former Middle East College President, Dr. T. S. Geraty.

The lovely Sanitarium church, simply and tastefully decorated, was well-filled with interested relatives and friends of the young people and their parents. Among those present were a number of Middle East folk and Division personnel.

The guests received programs, listing the order of service and naming the participants.

After the mothers of the bride and groom entered the church the attractive bride was escorted to the altar and given away by her father who then shared in the wedding ceremony with the groom's father.

The guests joined in the music—a lovely English custom—and Mr. Bon-

ney, aunt of the bride, sang two numbers.

The newly-married couple, with the parents and wedding party, received congratulations at the church entrance after the service.

Larry and Gillian plan to go to Andrews University where he will continue his work in Theology. Wishes for lifelong happiness follow them as they establish their home.

—Mrs. V. A. Fenn

—Philip Sroui



*Voice of Prophecy Graduation in Beirut Center*

## V.O.P. School Interest

On Thursday, Monday and Tuesday some of our workers went with Samir Shahin from Lebanon Mission to South Lebanon. They distributed diplomas and visited homes of VOP students and others. They brought many new names and many names of students who stopped studying for some reasons. Most of the people were very anxious to see and hear the VOP workers.

They visited a house and the father was very happy and invited them in. He asked them to visit his son in Beirut who was in the Army. He was good but now he is lost in the world. The father is very anxious that his son goes to our church, hears the gospel and learns of our beliefs.

They went into a barber shop and showed the *Hope* magazine. They asked the barber and the clients if they like to have this magazine. They all said yes, but they don't have money. They took their names to send them the VOP lessons and promised them to have the magazine if they continue studying. They were very happy. We hope to have a good Christian worker to follow-up the VOP interests, as the harvest is ripe and needs only to be gathered in. He would also secure more enrollments in our School.

A girl student wrote us saying that she got married and is introducing her husband to us as a friend and student. She wanted us to pray for her new home.

We received a nice letter from Kuwait in which the writer tells us about his readiness to study religious books or magazines. They are fifteen friends holding prayer meetings.

## FROM HERE AND THERE

According to "United Evangelism Plan" the Nicosia church organized the members for regular distribution of the "Signs of the Times" magazine. The first issue of May, a thousand copies were mailed or handed personally in the homes, shops, and office. Among the people receiving the "Signs" are doctors, governors, government officials and top personalities. We especially thank our believers in the United States for the generous contributions they have made to provide us these magazines.

From August 2-6, Elder W. Olson, the Ministerial Association secretary of the division, visited our field and helped to secure permits of employment for workers who were denied permission to work in the field. He used every minute of his stay to encourage members and visit interested people.

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### EGYPT

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Dr. Salim Farag, the son of Brother Farag Assad, has been appointed assistant director of the Division of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at the Loma Linda University. He is also chairman of the Committee on Graduate Studies. His friends in the Middle East wish him success in his new position.

Samaan Fangari, pastor of the Academy Church reports that as a result of the baptismal classes held throughout the 1960-61 school year, eight students were baptized. Pastor Hilal Dose, the president of Egypt Section officiated at the baptism.

Nine lady colporteurs were among the 45 students and regular colporteurs attending the annual Colporteur Institute held the beginning of the summer at the Adventist Theology Institute. The Institute was directed by Brother Fouad Guirguis, in charge of the Publishing department for the Egypt Section. He was assisted by Antar Yacoub, the Book and Periodical House manager, and Elder Wayne Olson, secretary of the Middle Division Publishing department.

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### LEBANON

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The Summer Junior Camp was held August 23 to September 2, in a beautiful grove of Pine trees near Dhour

El Chouer. Pastor Manouk Nazirian was director of the camp, which was composed of 48 juniors.

Pastor George Raffoul conducted a three-week evangelistic campaign in the small village of Afesdik during July and August. Brother George Esber assisted in the meetings, along with other church members.

A large apartment was rented recently in Tripoli and renovated into a meeting hall. The hall is located just off one of the main streets, and within walking distance from the center of the city. The Lebanon Section has requested Elder W. E. Olson to conduct a major evangelistic campaign there this fall, with the help of Pastor Towfic Issa, our worker stationed in Tripoli.

A three-week Arabic effort is planned for the Beirut Evangelistic Center this fall. The speaker will be Elder H. E. Robinson, the director of the Center, and the meetings will be held nightly October 14 to November 4.

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### IRAN

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Thirty seven persons were baptized in the Iran Section for the first two quarters. Eighteen of these were from the Iran Training School, nine were baptized at the conclusion of Hovik Sarrafian's evangelistic effort at Reza-yeh, Brother H. K. Salakian baptized nine the last Sabbath of camp meeting, and Elder Lyndon DeWitt baptized one in Shiraz.

Brother Hovik Sarrafian and Johnny Minassian have recently held a series of meetings in the city of Arak. The meetings have been well attended. Special meetings were held for the children at 5:30, and the regular evangelistic meeting followed.

On the last Sabbath of camp meeting, a special appeal was made for the General Conference one million dollar offering, and the total of almost 75,000 rials was raised in cash and pledges for this offering.

Special emphasis was given to the Spirit of Prophecy at the camp meeting this year. Hovik Sarrafian presented a series of studies on the Spirit of Prophecy at the time of the morning worship, and Mrs. Lyndon DeWitt gave a series of illustrated talks in the afternoon on the life and experiences of Sister White.

Brother Johnny Minassian, assisted

by Elder Lyndon DeWitt, directed the summer camp program for junior youth on the campus of the Iran Training School. Between forty and fifty children were in attendance for the week of camping. The counsellors for the boys were David Melikian, Daniel Minassian, and Jozi Habibi. The counsellors for the girls were Anoosh Keshishzade, and Mahrookh Pakazema.

Two Vacation Bible Schools have been held during the summer; one in Tabriz, and one in Tehran. In Tabriz 115 children attended the school co-directed by Hranoosh Avedissian and Mrs. Gasparian. The theme of the lessons for both of the Vacation Bible schools was the creation of God's Wonderful World. In Tehran, where Anoosh Keshishzade was director, 52 children attended. Associated with her were Mrs. Ivan Peacock, Leah Keshishzade, and Raya Abadir.

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### LIBYA

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Brother and Sister Adil Mousa joined the staff of the Benghazi Hospital August 15, he as Credit Manager of the hospital, and she in charge of the hospital food service.

Final plans for the proposed new fifty bed hospital for Benghazi have been prepared and formalities for securing permission to purchase land in the name of the General Conference are nearing completion. Soon the fund-raising campaign will begin.

Dr. Don Reiner left recently accompanying a patient to London. Admitted to the hospital for a severe head injury, the man was taken to London to have a special plate placed in his skull.

A patient, admitted to the hospital after a severe heart attack, make such a good recovery when the hospital group remembered him in their weekly prayer meetings that the gentleman, Mr. Hill, took his first opportunity to attend the prayer meeting himself.

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### TURKEY

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The members of the Istanbul Church were saddened by the return of Elder B. J. Mondics and family to the States. Elder Mondics and his family have spent parts of two terms in Turkey, and will be greatly missed by our people here. Our prayers go with them, that Elder Mondics will speedily recover his health.

Pastors L. C. Miller and Manuk Ben-zatian recently completed a three-week

*Continued on Page eight*

FROM HERE AND THERE

(Continued)

campaign to visit every member of the Istanbul Church. The members were found to be enthusiastic about the work and longing for the soon return of Christ. To support this hope the approximately sixty members of the church made a sacrifice of 1000 Turkish Lira for the Million Dollar Offering given the General Conference Session.

At the present time several are preparing for baptism in the near future. Pastor Benzatian has one young lady who has given her decision for Christ, and is studying with several others. Pastor Miller is working with two Branch Sabbath Schools; one in Ankara, and one in Yalova. He is present in each of these places once a month, and two are preparing for baptism in the branch at Ankara. Also one member was added to the Istanbul Church this past month on Profession of Faith.

Two branch Sabbath School groups planned a small campmeeting by a beautiful lake in central Turkey, for the first weekend of September. Seventeen members of the two groups had indicated that they would be present for this spiritual retreat.

In July two fine families, the Ara Kahraman's, and Timothy Areos' emigrated to Toronto, Canada, where the husbands will be employed by the new Branson Memorial Hospital. We regret the loss of these faithful members, but pray God's blessing on them in their new home. We ask that God will grant us new members to take their places here in Istanbul.

Chappells

Continued from page one

where the Chappells served for a number of years, soon claimed his devotion, untiring zeal and enthusiasm. It was here where their son Milton was born. On their return to the United States Elder Chappell again took up work in the conference publishing departments of various local fields.

Mrs. Jean Chappell, a real missionary wife and mother, has not hesitated to answer the call to mission service once more. Milton is in the sixth grade and is preparing for his move to Beirut by learning all he can about the Middle East.

We are sure the entire Division field will be happy for the arrival of these new workers.

—Mrs. V. A. Fenn

Division Day

(Continued from page two)

and then stay to enjoy the truth of the third angel's message. Tonight Vigain Marcarian, the secretary-treasurer of this field, has a word for us.

Vigain Marcarian: Greetings from your Persian brethren in the eight churches and companies scattered throughout Iran. We are thankful that today religious freedom exists in our land. Our membership gain is the best this past quadrennium that it has been for years. We have opened an elementary school in Teheran, and in the next few years we hope to open two more.

June of this year saw the official opening of our physiotherapy clinic in Iran, under the able supervision of Ivan Peacock. There is still a great need for medical work among the 45,000 villages of Iran. In the next quadrennium we would like to establish mobile clinic work among these people who need not only proper medical care but the gospel of Jesus Christ. Forty-five thousand villages still in darkness! What a tremendous challenge for our field!

R. A. Wilcox: Now coming to the desk is a young man born on the banks of the Tigris River in Mosul, Iraq, the center of the Assyrian kingdom. As a boy he played on the ruins of old Nineveh and as a young man he accepted the Jonah message. Although he has not been called as was Daniel to serve as prime minister of his country, I present to you the prime minister of our church in the land of Jonah, Abraham, and Daniel—Elder Behnam Arshat.

Behnam Arshat: In 1959 a group of us, after much prayer and careful thought, approached the prime minister, General Kassem, and the new regime. Our request that we be recognized as a national church in Iraq was granted. Thus Iraq became the first country in the Middle East to give our church full national recognition.

—From Merwin R. Thurber's "A Running Story of the Conference" - Review & Herald, July 30, 1962.

Editorial note: Space did not permit Elder Thurber to mention all the reports given and this is only a portion of Elder Thurber's story.

CHURCH CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

January	5	New Year Opportunities (Home Missionary Day)
January	12	Religious Liberty
January	26	Hope Campaign Begins
February	2	Hope Campaign Closes
February	9	Middle East College
February	16	Christian Home and Family Altar Day
February	23	Temperance Commitment Day
March	2	Bible Evangelism Crusade
March	9	Sabbath School Rally Day
March	16	Missionary Volunteer Day
March	16-23	MV Week of Prayer
March	30	13th Sabbath

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

January	5	Home Missionary
January	12	Religious Liberty
February	2	Hope Offering for Subs.
February	9	Middle East College
March	2	Church Missionary
March	9	Missions Advance

DIVISION DIRECTORY

President	R. A. Wilcox
Secretary	W. R. Leshner
Treasurer and Auditor	V. A. Fenn
Cashier and Assistant Auditor	R. W. Wilmot
Section I Cashier and Accountant	G. B. Yared

DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORY

Education	W. R. Leshner
Home Missionary, Radio & Sabbath School	C. V. Brauer
Medical	Wm. Wagner, M.D.
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