

MIDDLE EAST

Messenger

VOLUME XIV

JULY-AUGUST 1965

NUMBER 4

Sign Contract For New Hospital Building

Treasurers' Council Meets in Beirut

Treasurers, business administrators, and auditors from the Sections and institutions of the Middle East Division met in Beirut, June 9 and 10, for the first Middle East Division treasurers' council. Werber Johnson, associate auditor of the General Conference, assisted with counsel during the meetings.

A number of recommendations were proposed by the council which were later adopted into the policies of the division. A major achievement was the production of a handbook, the first of its kind in the division, for treasurers, bringing into one volume valuable information for the daily work of the treasury department.

The council was prepared and directed by the division treasurer, V. A. Fenn.

Evangelistic Report

By Elder Hilal Dose

«Gleaning After the Reapers»

This last effort was by all means the most blessed. Our hearts were greatly enriched with the great and thrilling experiences of some of the candidates for baptism.

A lady candidate, Fadia Farag, who joined the church on the 17th of April this year was so touched by the Spirit of the Lord,—so filled with the truth—that she won her sister to the truth before she herself was baptized. Her conversion has awakened a tremendous interest among her relatives and kindled a fire that will lead many into the way of God.

Another thrilling experience is that

Continued on page two

The long-awaited new hospital building for the Benghazi Adventist Hospital moved a step closer to reality with the signing in Beirut, July 26, of a contract for the construction of the building. The contracts calls for completion of the building within 500 days.

Designed by Whiting Associates International, Inc., of Rome, Italy, the hospital plans call for the construction of a 60-bed general hospital at the cost of approximately \$750,000, all of which is being provided in gifts from oil companies operating in Libya.

The hospital is being constructed on spacious park lands planted with eucalyptus and olive trees in a choice district of Benghazi. Planned for later construction in the building complex are residence buildings, school facilities, and a chapel. The land was purchased by the Middle East Division.

The Benghazi Adventist Hospital was established ten years ago in an old war-damaged hotel building on Benghazi's main avenue and has continued to operate since under the disability of lack of space and difficult arrangement. The new building is designed around the most modern principles of efficient patient care and departmental organization. Provision has been made for obstetrical, pediatric, orthopedic, medical and surgical services.

The contract for the building was awarded to the Construction and Trading Company of Beirut. The officers of the Middle East Division, with Dr. H. C. Lamp, the division medical secretary, met with officials of the Construction and Trading Company in their office, to sign the contract. W. H. Ahrens, representing the architects and engineers, was also present for the signing. (See picture)



Elder Fenn signs the hospital construction contract while representatives of the contractors, engineers, and the division look on.

At the Cairo Center Church

«Gleaning After the Reapers»

Continued from the first page

of Brother Fakhry Guirguis, who works in the Ministry of Health. God's providence led him to the church in a strange way. Four Muslims were chatting together in the room of an undertaker, discussing in a very critical manner the Christian religion. As Brother Fakhry came in he heard one of them say, "But not all the churches are alike. If you want to find Christians with real religion go to the Adventist Church." He gave them the address of the Cairo Center Church, at the same time saying, "I went there a few times and I heard what thrilled my heart."

Brother Fakhry heard this testimony and determined in his heart to go to this church and see for himself. This was a beginning that by God's grace will continue until Jesus comes. The following meeting he again attended, this time with all his family, and ever since they have not missed a meeting. When he related to us this experience, he said, "I am thankful to the Lord and to the unknown soldier whose testimony led me to the remnant church."

But the most thrilling experience that made all our churches and ministers all over the country greatly rejoice was the baptism of Mr. and Mrs. Zaher Elia. He is well known among Christians in Cairo as an outstanding, zealous, and sincere believer. Brother Zaher Elia learned the truth of the Sabbath many years ago, but through the years he never fully decided to keep it.

Once, while in the Fagala Protestant church, whose minister is the head of the Presbyterian community, he heard a speaker giving a talk on the law of God. The speaker urged that they should be particular in observing Sunday as strictly as it ought to be observed. Then Brother Zaher stood up, took the floor, and declared the truth of the Sabbath. He referred to a good number of texts that prove that the Sabbath is the Lord's day and not Sunday. Greatly shocked and astonished to hear the truth of the Sabbath, the audience was completely silent. Then the minister stood up and expressed his deep regret that Brother Zaher had taken advantage of an open discussion to preach something contrary to the church's rule



Elder Dose and workers with new members of the Cairo Center Church.

of faith. Then Brother Zaher stood up and declared, "The Bible is our only rule of faith." Ever since then, Brother Zaher discovered, there is no place for him in that church.

When Brother Zaher and his family attended the last effort and decided to follow the Lord in baptism, the devil began to work against him. The first maneuver was to arrange his promotion to the office of director of a big government commercial establishment. As is usual in the nationalized companies, the weekly holiday is given workers on Friday. However Brother Zaher had been keeping the Sabbath before his promotion. But now it became very difficult to absent himself on Sabbath. The general director, who is appointed by the government to be in charge of a group of companies, became upset and refused to grant him the Sabbath. So Brother Zaher requested to be put back in his previous position. "Are you mad?" the director asked him.

The general director was still further embarrassed over the question when a Jewish employee, having heard of Zaher's request, also asked for Sabbath privileges. The director became the more furious and told Zaher, "You see how your attitude weakens the administration and creates problems?" Then he called in the Jew and asked him in front of Brother Zaher, "Suppose we

cannot grant you your wish, what will you do?" He answered promptly, "What shall I do? I will have to work on Sabbath." He turned to Brother Zaher, "What about you?" He told him, "No I will not come on Sabbath." Angrily he looked at Zaher. "Do you mean to say that you care for the Sabbath more than the Jews themselves." He answered, "I don't care whether the Jews keep Sabbath or not. As for me, I want to obey God's commandment."

The general director then tried to bargain with Zaher as Pharaoh had with Moses. He told him, "You know that I am in charge of ten other big firms. As the director of one, your absence will obligate me to take your place, but I have no time. All I request is that you come for a few minutes sometime during the day. The workers will expect your coming, but not knowing the exact time, they will carry on their work normally." But Brother Zaher refused to bargain. This made the general director feel helpless before such determination.

Many other experiences of Brother Zaher could be related, were there room to tell them. We solicit your prayers for Brother Zaher, so that the Lord might always help him to see the way of escape along with the temptation.



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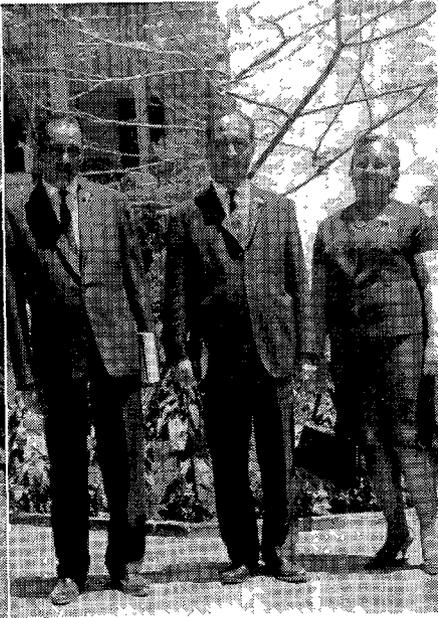
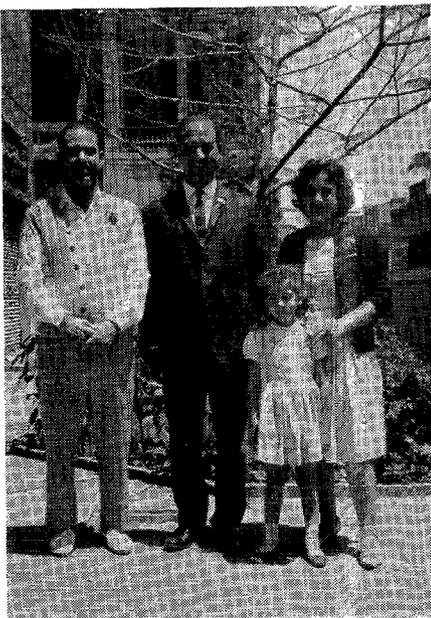
1. Makram Raghib in the baptistry with Elder Dose.
2. Ten persons baptised May 1.
3. Fakhry Guirguis and his daughter who joined the church May 1.
4. Makram Raghib, a wireless engineer and his sister Wadia.
5. Zaher Elia and his wife, baptized April 17.
6. Fadia and her sister, also bapized April 17.

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Students Enlist For Literature Work

With the completion of the Egypt Section student literature evangelist training institute, the third in a series around the division, fifty-two students were enlisted for the summer literature work. Sixteen students and five full-time literature evangelists attended the three-day institute conducted by Fouad Guirguis, Egypt Section publishing department secretary, June 28 to 30, at the Theology Institute.

Two of the students at work this summer, Zaher Berbawi and Hilmy Zakher, were baptized during the institute in the school's pool.

Training institutes to prepare the student group for the summer work were held in Lebanon, Iran, and Egypt. Division Publishing Secretary D. L. Chappell has assisted the local department leaders in giving instruction. Especially popular have been the "Like a Mighty Army" filmstrips on Christian salesmanship.

Joining the Section department leaders in promoting the summer literature work are student trainers Youssif Samuel, Bishara Taweel, and Daniel Minassian in Egypt, Lebanon, and Iran respectively.

Hope Magazine Readers Led to Church

Two Lebanese readers of the *Hope Magazine* have been brought to the church. Already baptized is George Kabbas and taking regular Bible studies is Gabriel Elhoub.

George Kabbas was contacted in 1964 when Nathan Dawood, a member of the College Park Church literature band, was distributing copies of the *Hope Magazine*. When George accepted his invitation to attend church, Nathan then invited him for lunch at the college and studied the Bible in the afternoon. Regular studies by Elder George Khoury prepared him for baptism, June 19, at the Museitbeh church. He is now working as a literature evangelist preparing to attend Middle East College.

More recently, Gabriel Elhoub wrote the editor of the *Hope Magazine*. "Dear Sir, I wish to draw nearer to God. . . . It is my desire to study your truth. . . . Please contact me by telephone to arrange for the day and time of our study together." A worker from the Lebanon Section has responded to this request.



Galal Tadros and Farag Abdul-Messih pose with their wives. See Story.



Colporteur Allowance

Credentialed literature evangelists will now receive medical allowances on the same basis as other denominational workers in the Middle East Division according to an amendment added to the publishing department policy at the Division mid-year meeting.

Correction

A report in the March-April MESSANGER, stating that before the recent baptism at Kuwait there had been only one other baptism off Arabia by Adventists, overlooked the rebaptism of a sister at Qatar, April, 1963, by C. V. Brauer.

Church Elder Accepts Truth; 61 Years Old

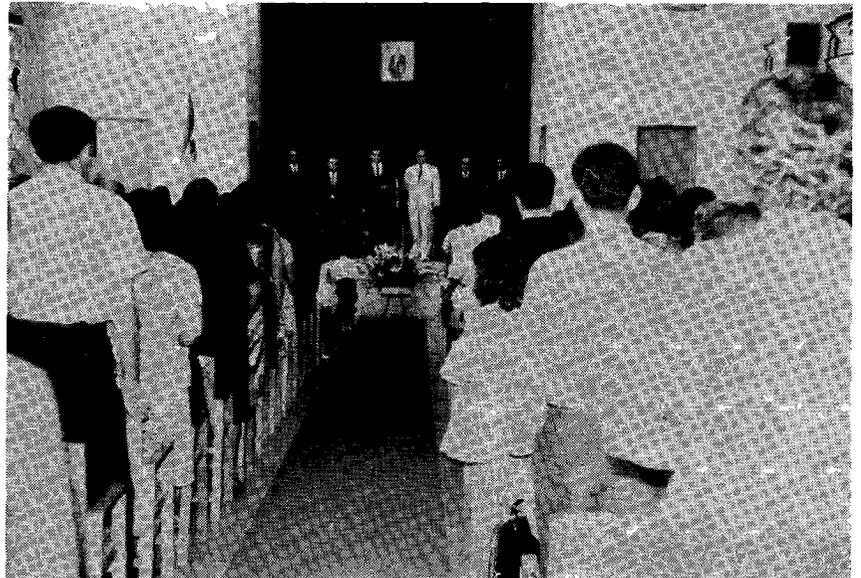
The 61-year old elder of a church in Abu Korkas, Upper Egypt, has accepted the Sabbath truth and is seeking now to win his son, his daughter-in-law, and his brother. The brother is also an active church leader.

He is Farag Abdul-Messih, who when he first met Adventists argued strongly for the observance of Sunday. Now he stands steadfast before the persecutions of his relatives as they seek to prevent him from observing the Sabbath. When called upon by the pastor of his church and urged to remain faithful to the doctrines of his "mother church," he announced that he had found the Bible truth and that he would stick by it.

Brother Galal Tadros, leader of the Adventist work in the area, reports that in the early discussions the elder relied upon heated arguments he had supposed for years to be Biblical. But as he studied the verses in the Bible, he was convinced that the Sabbath was the Lord's day since creation. A firm believer in the Bible, he soon adopted the truth. He is joined in the keeping of the Sabbath by his wife and a married daughter.

He has also adopted the other Biblical truths taught by the Seventh-day Adventists, such as the doctrines of baptism and tithe-paying.

Division and local leaders stand as the national anthem is played to open the graduation exercises at Beirut's Museitbeh School, June 23. In the four Lebanese Adventist schools, 23 graduates passed the government examinations.



Middle East College is Spiritual, Intellectual, Social Center, Former Student Writes

Especially for youth planning their future education, the MESSENGER draws attention to the following testimony written about a year ago by Alfred Akar, at the time a student at Middle East College, and submitted to the MESSENGER by Elder Keough, then president of the college.

I am glad to see MEC advancing in large paces toward perfection in spiritual, intellectual, physical and social phases.

In the spiritual field MEC has a Christ-centered education which is based on the Bible, the Word of God. No student can graduate from MEC without having a full knowledge of God. Bible classes, morning and evening worships, weeks of prayer, baptismal classes, Sabbath school and church services, the Missionary Volunteer Society and other missionary activities, led by converted and devoted teachers, and conducted by students "willing to subscribe to the Christian philosophy of education and way of life, are true witnesses for the high standards of the spiritual education that makes MEC unique in all the Middle Eastern countries.

The intellectual challenge is not by any means less emphatic than the spiritual. For MEC today is completely different from what it was in the past. It has a curriculum which adheres to the high scholastic standards of the world. Our students are doing the same governmental baccalaureate examinations and prove to be successful even more than many other well-known schools in Lebanon. Practical arts are being improved. We have a good chemical, physical and biological laboratory, with many other visual aids, projectors, film strips and recordings. Also sending three teachers during a period of two years in order to get a university education reveals a splendid future. We are proud of MEC, the president, faculty, students, and curriculum.

While MEC is preparing its students spiritually and mentally, it also believes that one phase of education is the physical health and the development of the body. Hence it provides a work program and many opportunities

for physical exercise. Physical labor provides an income for covering some of the school fees and at the same time refreshes the mind and the body. Other activities include hiking, football, baseball, volleyball, basketball, ping pong and other outdoor and indoor games which are excellent invigorating exercises.

MEC is especially unique for its beneficial and wholesome social pro-

gram. Questionable social activities are excluded and only uplifting character building activities are allowed. There is a social activities committee to plan programs which meet the social needs of the student body. Included among the programs are evenings of indoor and outdoor games, music, or movies. Other social activities of MEC offer a means of self development and group leadership by constructive team work. Among these are the activities fostered by the student association, TCS Club, Men of Might club, Ministerial Seminar and other extra curricular organizations.

Most important than all is the activities of Christian service maintained by the Missionary Volunteer Society and the Ministerial Seminar with a large number of students cooperating to fulfill their Master's biddings.

In conclusion I can say that Middle East College is doing a great work in the Middle East on which God may look and be satisfied.

FROM HERE AND THERE

MIDDLE EAST DIVISION

Sabah Esber, a 1965 graduate of Middle East College, has been appointed Section 1 cashier and accountant.

Elias Jeha is spending the summer assisting with public relations and transportation work for the division.

MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE

Recently added to the college staff are: Miss Ellen Ghazal, joining the Music and Religion departments; Nicola Esber, appointed manager of the store; and Mrs. Sara Srour, to teach in the elementary school.

MIDDLE EAST PRESS

New additions to the press staff include: Haroutiun Marashlian, an intertype operator for the Armenian language publications, and Mrs. Elias Asmar (nee Susan Morcos), who will serve as receptionist and secretary to the manager and treasurer.

Recent books completed and ready for distribution include: a new edition of *Your Baby* in Arabic, *Bedtime Stories* in Arabic, *Your Baby* in Armenian, and *Your Way to Health and Happiness* in Farsee. A new Farsee edition of *Our Children* is being completed in Tehran.

CYPRUS

J. Sherwood Jones and his family moved to Cyprus in June to direct the work. Also recently moved to the island

is Miss Stella Sacaly who is joining the Cyprus Section as a Bible worker.

EGYPT

Youssif Samuel, a full-time literature worker, was impressed by the conduct of a young lady at a home where he canvassed. She asked for Bible studies, and after several months she and her sister were baptized. Now she is Mrs. Youssif Samuel and a literature worker herself.

IRAQ

The Iraq Section has added the following workers this summer: Nathan Aziz Daoud, a ministerial intern; Basam Fargo, publishing department secretary and book and periodical house manager; and George and Wardia Schlemmons, teachers.

JORDAN

Born to Zaki and Suha Saliba at Amman on July 15 was a daughter, Lena. She is their first child.

LEBANON

Faiza Aboujawdeh and Jeanette Issa have for the second summer conducted the Vacation Bible Schools. Thirty-one attended in Aramoun and a new school has been held in the Aley and Souk-el-Gharb district.

George Raffoul and Shahada Halabi have been showing temperance films in Aley and Souk-el-Gharb preparatory to

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DESERT STARS

A poet has lamented the desert blossom which after a winter shower blooms and fades all unseen by human eye. His lament is just because something from the treasure of beauty, even though small, has been lost to mankind. I lament that when the light of truth is ignited in some heart it should be hidden under a bushel. In these day of tragic darkness the world needs even the tiniest, faintest rays of light.

In the desert night a light can be seen for a long way. Undimmed by competition, unobstructed by town or forest, the beam of a solitary lamp may guide a nomad to his home. Perhaps you have relaxed in the cool darkness of the night and watched over many long miles the track of light made by a lone car in the desert. Or perhaps you have looked up into the stars and experienced the thrill known only to those who have travelled the wilderness or sea,—the spectacle of brilliance made by myriads of tiny star points. Then you know something about light in a desert night.

Not by dust storms, searing sun, or hot, dry winds, are we in the Middle East reminded that we live in a desert, but by the loneliness of the spiritually empty places. Were the people of the Middle East lined up along a road, we would walk past 50,000 persons on an average before meeting a fellow believer in the three angels' messages. This is a spiritual desert. Contrast the world average of one Seventh-day Adventist for every 2,000 persons. In one division the average is one to 350; in another one to 250.

There is more to consider than the number of persons. How far must we walk? Except for the Nile Valley and a few towns, the population density of the Middle East is less than 20 persons per square kilometer. In some places it is much less. If the population of a square kilometer lined up along a kilometer of road, we would walk 2,500 kilometers before meeting our fellow-believer. Contrast this with the only 20-kilometer walk needed in the rest of the world. We live in a vast wilderness of spiritual emptiness. It is indeed a desert.

Then how brightly our lights must shine! It is a long road before the next light, and we must cover the way between. What if one of us has his light under a bushel?

We can measure our light. What is the strength of the impression for the truth and righteousness we make on the lives of those with whom we come in contact? How extensive is the reach of our lives? The answers to these questions tell us much about our personal spiritual vitality. A growing Christian is a growing light.

Let us set for ourselves a new goal. By the grace of God we are going to multiply our contacts with others so that we may be a light to them. We will connect so closely with Christ that we will be strong lights. Then between us, we will light the long stretches. Let us shine as the stars,—as the stars in a desert sky.

—Robert Darnell

Middle East Messenger

Robert Darnell Editor

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



Susan Elias Morcos and Elias Asmar were married June 20 in the Middle East College Chapel. Elders Shukri Nowfel and George Khoury officiated. Both are employed at Middle East Press.

Vermont Newspaper Praises Benghazi hospital

The Rutland *Daily Herald*, a newspaper published in Vermont in the northeastern United States, told how a stay at the Benghazi Adventist Hospital by a six-year-old girl led to a \$100 Ingathering gift.

The girl is the daughter of A. Luke Crispe, a Vermont lawyer. Traveling last August with his wife and daughter in North Africa, Mr. Crispe learned at Benghazi that his daughter, whom he had taken to the hospital, had ruptured an appendix a day and a half earlier. Much concerned over the daughter's safety, the Crispes were impressed by the skill and dedication of Dr. D. C. Ludington, and thankful for her recovery.

Back in the United States the Crispes were contacted during the annual Ingathering campaign. Mrs. Crispe gave \$100. An alert church officer, the press secretary, wrote her to find out what had prompted the gift and was told, "We only wish that more people knew how much good your Seventh-day Adventist medical missions are doing." The experience was then related to the newspaper.

A Letter From Oman

The following are excerpts from a letter received from T. A. Kandaswami, a faithful Adventist working in the medical department of the Petroleum Company in Oman. Another church member, T. A. Sengodan, works with him.

"Myself and my brother T. A. Sengodan are working together in the same Petroleum Development Medical Department in Oman. We are thankful to you and to the Middle East Division for the quarterlies and mission readings which you send regularly. We are also happy to receive the *Signs of the Times* which we enjoy, and can pass on to all our Indian friends. At present, Brother Sengodan and I, are having worship and Sabbath School lessons. We too invite our friends to join with us for Sabbath School.

"Regarding soul-winning, we are not allowed to preach to the public as the Sultan has very strict measures against Christianity, even literature distribution among the Arabs will put us into lot of difficulty. We are trying to tell our Christian friends what Adventist believe and do. We honestly request you to remember me and Brother Sengodan in your prayers."

—C. V. Brauer

Here and There

Continued from page five

meetings planned there by the division evangelist, Chafic Srour. Four persons in Souk-el-Gharb announced their decision to stop smoking.

LIBYA

Miss Lucilla Deles has been appointed acting food service director at the hospital until a full-time dietician can be found.

TURKEY

The fourth annual Vacation Bible School at Istanbul attracted fifty regular students this summer. Last year a mother of one of the first students was baptized and currently a family is preparing for baptism whose first contact with Adventists was made by the son when he attended VBS two years ago.

A series of meetings closed in the Istanbul church with six decisions for the faith. The meetings, directed by Elder Miller, ran three nights a week for two months, and included health lectures by Mrs. Tulgar. Some are seeking victory over the use of alcohol and tobacco.

BOOK REVIEW

By Faith Alone by Dr. Norval F. Pease of Andrews University is a study of the doctrine of righteousness by faith, especially as related to Seventh-day Adventists from their beginnings to the present. Though written by a scholar on a deeply doctrinal subject, the book is interesting and readable.

This manuscript was first prepared by Doctor Pease as a thesis at the S.D.A. Theological Seminary. It was circulated from the Seminary library to pastors and administrators all around the world who sought the pri-

vilige of reading it. Many consider this to be the most important thesis written in the history of our Seminary.

Rewritten in popular form it is now published in a paper-covered book at the low price of \$1.50. We believe our pastors, teachers, and other leaders around the world who read the English language will each want a personal copy of this book. It will make them stronger, more firmly grounded Seventh-day Adventist leaders, with a new appreciation of the way God has led the Advent movement.

—Book Department, Pacific Press



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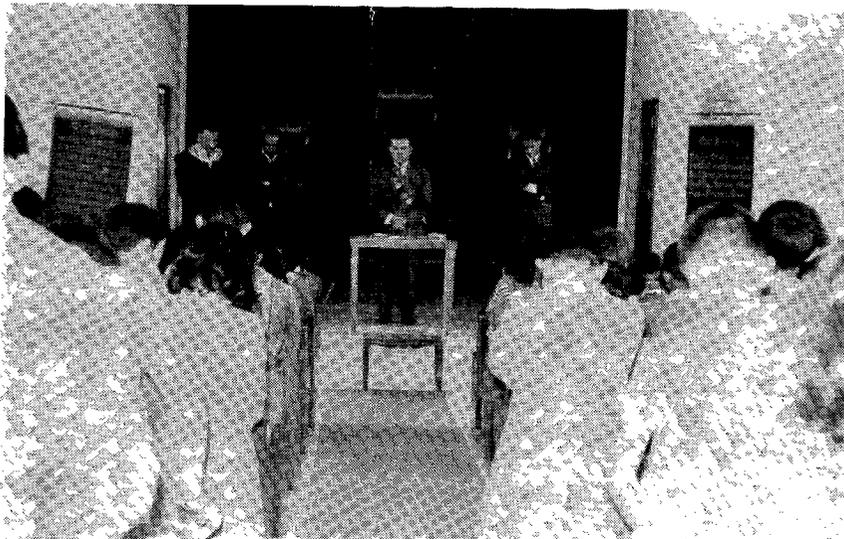
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MIDDLE EAST PRESS



Elder G. Arthur Keough cuts the ribbon to officially open the new library at Middle East College named in his honor. Abed Semaan, the librarian, assists. The new library has a capacity of 20,000 books.



Investiture programs, in which many students received MV class awards, were held in the four schools of the Lebanon Section. Pictured is the investiture conducted by Elder Nazarian at Museitbeh. Elder Khouury offers the closing prayer.



Elder E. L. Minchin of the General Conference, who recently toured the Division to hold revival meetings, is seen preaching. Elder Anees Haddad translates.

75 Branch Sabbath Schools in Division

The number of branch Sabbath schools in the Middle East Division has jumped in the last quarter from 43 to 75, reports D. L. Chappell, the division S. S. department secretary. This exceeds the number of regular schools by seven. Reporting from Lebanon, George Khouury, the Section president, says that members and workers in that Section conduct eleven branch schools weekly.

Evangelist Rally Day Materials Ready

D. L. Chappell, the Division publishing department secretary, announces that sermon materials will be sent pastors in time to prepare their Literature Evangelist Rally Day talks, September 4. Church members are urgently needed as literature evangelists.

Church Calendar

SPECIAL DAYS

- Sept. 4 Literature Evangelism
- Sept. 11 Missions Extension
- Sept. 18 Community Relations
- Oct. 2 Neighborhood Evangelism
- Oct. 9 Hope Campaign Begins
- Oct. 16 Pathfinder Day
- Oct. 23 Temperance Day
- Oct. 30 Sabbath School Visitors

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- Sept. 4 Church Missionary
- Sept. 11 Missions Extension
- Sept. 25 Thirteenth Sabbath
- Oct. 2 Church Missionary
- Oct. 9 Voice of Prophecy
- Oct. 23 Temperance Work

Division Directory

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 Secretary Robert Darnell
 Treasurer and Auditor V. A. Fenn
 Section I Cashier and Accountant
 Sabah Esber
 Cashier and Assistant Auditor
 R. W. Wilmot

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 Associate Medical ... Jabbour Semaan
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